



National Fish Habitat Action Plan Revision

Gary E. Whelan
NFHP Board SDC Science and Data
Committee Co-Chair
NFHP Board Meeting

March 2019





Action Plan Revision

- A clear Board responsibility
- Action Plan is a living document
- Board has reviewed and revised Action Plan every 6 years
 - 2006
 - 2012
- It is time for another look, particularly with the large Board membership turnover



2006 Plan – Set Mission and Goals

- **Mission**

- The mission of the National Fish Habitat Partnership is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

- **Goals**

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.



2006 Plan

- **Objectives – May have been attainable with expected funding**
 - Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
 - Identify priority fish habitats and establish FHPs targeting these habitats by 2010.
 - Establish 12 or more FHPs throughout the United States by 2010.
 - Prepare a “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.
 - Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.
 - Improve the condition of 90% of priority habitats and species targeted by FHPs by 2020.
- **Defined key strategies for Science and Data and Communications**
- **Governance and operations**
- **FHP Case Histories**
- **Supporting documents**



2012 Plan

- **Mission and Goals unchanged**
- **Case for action**
- **Objectives**
 - Measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships
 - Set of national conservation strategies
 - Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation
 - Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database
 - Communicate the FHP conservation outcomes



2012 Plan

- **Focus areas of recreational and commercial fisheries and habitat**
- **NFHP Focus Areas**
 - Support FHPs and ensure their effectiveness
 - Mobilize and focus national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals
 - Measure and communicate the status and needs of aquatic habitats
 - Provide national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats



2012 Plan

- **Governance and operations**
 - Roles
- **NFHP Identity and Benefits**
- **Roles of Science and Data and Communications**
- **FHP Case Histories and FHP Map**
- **Supporting documents**



Plan Revision Options

1. Keep existing plan with updates to out-of-date statistics

- No change to mission, goals or objectives
- Update supporting language and FHP vignettes

2. Revise selected sections and update out-of-date statistics. Focus on the following sections:

- Mission
- Goals
- Objectives
- Roles of the Board, FHPs, Science and Data, and Communications
- Update supporting language and FHP vignettes

3. Revise all sections of the document

- Review and revise all 2016 Plan sections
- Update supporting language and FHP vignettes



Revision Schedule

- June 2019 - Staff develop revision facilitation plan
- Plan completion – Depending on extent of revision selected
 - Option 1 – Oct 2019
 - Option 2 – March 2020
 - Option 3 – June 2020



Science and Data Committee Update

Gary E. Whelan
NFHP Board SDC Science and Data
Committee Co-Chair
NFHP Board Meeting

March 2019





2019 Priorities

- Ensure the functions of the Board's Science and Data Committee and provide outreach on Board work (Priority L)
- Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work (Priority N)
- National Project Tracking Database Development (Priority O)
- Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System (Priority P)



SDC Functioning and Outreach (L)

- Daniel Wieferich (USGS) new SDC Co-Chair
- Ensured SDC was informed on Board and FHP work through email.
 - Upcoming April conference call
- Working to update SDC Membership
- Provided outreach presentations at AFWA(2), AFS (2), and USEPA staff
- Providing support for the NE Coastal Assessment
- Provided support for outreach booth at NAWNRC
- AFS Book Chapter in final review on National Assessment Strategy and will be out in Fall 2019
- FHP assessment reviews



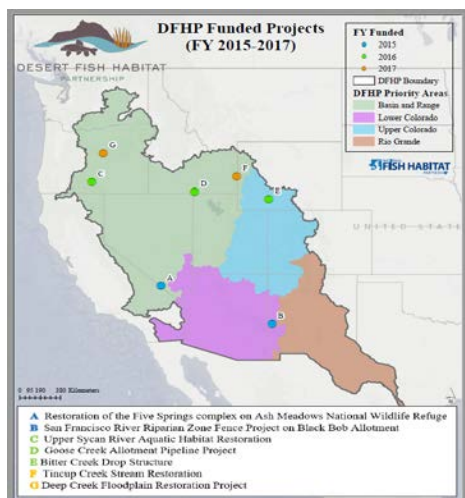
Future Assessment Work (N)

- Board approved Assessment Direction in June 2017
 - Inland – Update with current layers and add connectivity and hydrology
 - No progress as funding was not available.
 - USGS published hydrology modeling for Lower 48 states (Miller et al. 2018) – MSCG Option
 - Great Lakes – Spatial system, habitat classification and fish response to habitat analysis.
 - Progress continues on the GLAHF to include permanent operation
 - Coastal – No changes to 2015 Assessment, regional assessments based on EFH constructs.
 - NE – Progress continues in all areas - MAFMC
 - West Coast – Progress continues in all areas
 - NOAA continues to support efforts



NFHP Project Tracking Database- PSMFC (O)

- Data exchange between Board, FHPs, and all partners
- Data system planning and development
 - Focus on standard and custom reporting
 - Autogenerated reports for FHPs to meet USFWS and Board needs on questions 2-6 and project location maps with 13 of 20 FHPs receiving reports



Project Title	FHP Priority Species	FHP Priority Area	Brief project description (max. 250 characters)
Nash Stream Restoration & Columbia Road Culverts, Odell, Coos County, NH	Brook Trout		This Project restored the habitat for native fish in the Nash Stream watershed using well-established process-based restoration principles.
Upper Shavers Fork Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration, WV	Brook Trout		Enhancement of aquatic habitat connectivity and genetic exchange within the Upper Shavers Fork fluvial metapopulation of wild Brook Trout.
Sparta Glen Brook Restoration, NJ	Brook Trout		This project restores critical instream habitat within Sparta Glen Brook, including natural pool regimes and spawning areas, restores toe of slope protection, and further stabilizes upland fringe areas, as well as the riparian corridor along a 0.68 mile s
Great Pond Tributary Culvert Replacement, Little Cards Brook, Franklin, ME	Brook Trout		This project will replace the existing multiple round culvert with an open bottom arch culvert, with span that exceeds 1.2 times the bank full width requirements.
Watershed Connectivity Project, Beebe River Watershed, Campton and Sandwich, NH	Brook Trout		This project removes and replaces five stream crossings in the Beebe River Watershed on a 5,435 acre parcel recently acquired by The Conservation Fund. These crossings are on five separate tributary streams that flow into the Beebe River.
Restoring a Brook Trout Metapopulation within the Little Cataloochee Creek & Anthony Creek Watersheds, Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Brook Trout		The purpose of this Project is to restore Brook Trout into 2.64 km of Little Cataloochee Creek and 2.8 km of Anthony Creek within its native range in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) as identified in the GRSM Fishery Management Plan.
East Branch Passumpsic River Dam Removal, VT	Brook Trout		This Project removes a deteriorating dam, which will improve natural flow regimes, free-flowing river conditions, water quality and temperature, sediment release and transport, and connectivity resulting in the restoration of Aquatic Organism Passage.
Enhancing and Connecting Wild Brook Trout populations in the West Mountain Wildlife Management Area, VT	Brook Trout		This Project replaces one impassable culvert with a bridge, removes one culvert, and improves 1.25 miles of Brook Trout spawning and juvenile rearing habitat.



NFHP Project Tracking Database

Kate Sherman, PSMFC

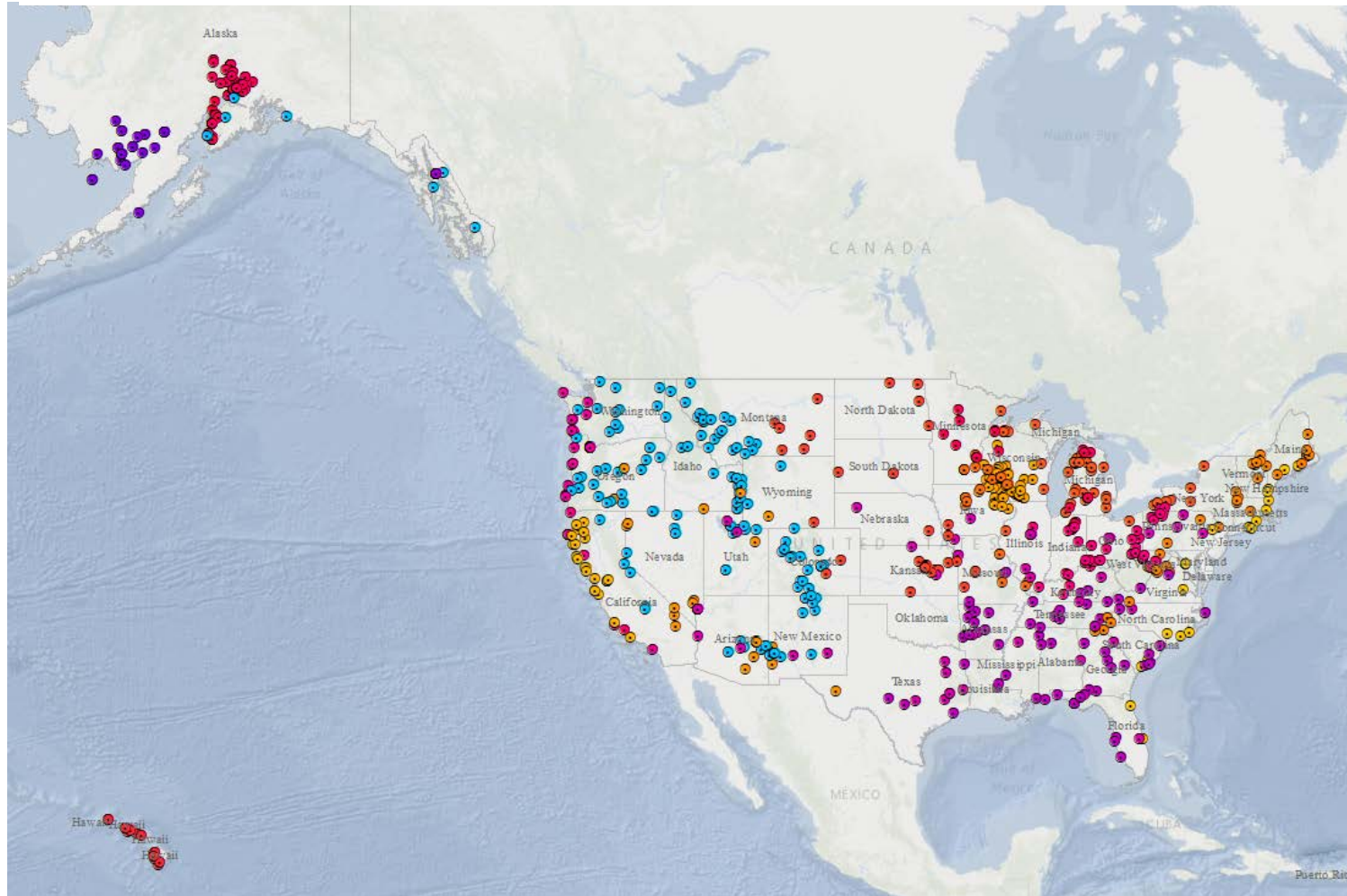
- Assisted with FHP data management plans
- National project map is available
- Improved web map service
- Data system allows direct inputs by FHPs with use of downloading USFWS datasets
- Funding
 - FY2018 – NOAA
 - FY2019 - MSCG



NFHP Project Tracking Database- PSMFC

- Database Summary (2006-2018)
 - Total Projects – 852
 - Total NFHP Funding - \$28,019,328
 - Total Matching Funding - \$143,994,105
 - Total Funding - \$172,013,433
 - Match Ratio – 5.1 to 1

NFHP Project Tracking Database

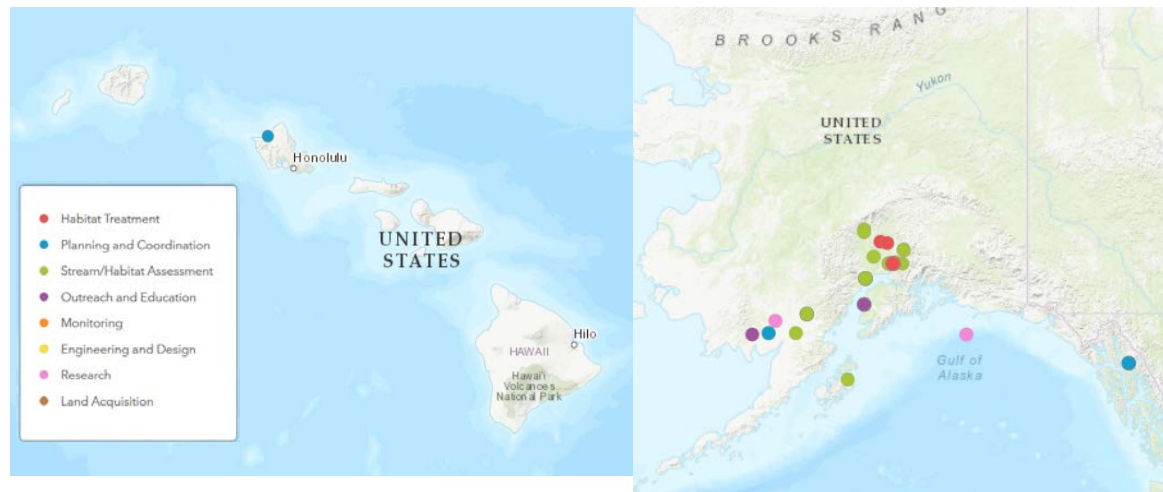


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- FHP
- ACFHP
- CFPF
- DARE
- DFHP
- EBTJV
- FEP
- GLBFHP
- GPFHP
- HFHP
- KPFHP
- MGLP
- MatSu
- NFPP
- ORBFHP
- PLP
- PMEP
- RFHP
- SARP
- SEAKFHP
- SWAK
- WNTI

Summary (2014-2016)

Project Type	Count
Habitat Treatment	137
Planning and Coordination	51
Stream/Habitat Assessment	38
Monitoring	20
Outreach and Education	19
Unknown	14
Research	8
Engineering and Design	7
Legal Protection	1
Land Acquisition	1





Maintaining and Improving NFHP Data System

Daniel Wieferich, USGS

- National Biogeographic Data System integration
- System maintenance and hosting
- Resolved some 2015 data issues for SEAK and severe disturbances
- Dynamic querying for FHP and state level



Thank You!

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Visit www.fishhabitat.org
for more information





2019 Priorities

- 1 - Continue work on National Project Tracking Database Development – Fully funded
- 1 - Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work
 - Budget need - \$160K Inland and Continued NOAA Support Coastal
- 2- Science and Data Committee operations
 - Budget need - \$15K for SDC meeting and \$12K for Chair support
 - Continue outreach efforts on the Board Science and Data products
- 2- Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System
 - USGS in-kind support
- 3 - 4 - Develop evaluation standards for FHP projects
 - Budget need – SDC support