Title: Habitat Conservation Committee

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the Habitat Conservation Committee's 2012 work plan outcomes and Board concurrence for the Habitat Conservation Committee's proposed priority issues it will address in 2013.

Background: At its April 2012 Meeting, the Board established a Habitat Conservation Committee to address the following priority issue during 2012:

1. Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the Fish Habitat Partnerships (Action Plan Objective 2).

2012 Work Plan Outcomes:

- A Habitat Conservation Committee (HCC) has been formed with a diverse array of members that includes strong representation from the Fish Habitat Partnerships. Background material was provided to facilitate initial committee work on this new assignment.
- A time frame and approach were developed and reviewed by the committee. The HCC will continue to develop and refine conservation strategies through the end of the year. It will then assess progress, coordination with Fish Habitat Partnerships and any additional needs. A written progress report will be provided to the National Fish Habitat Board at year's end. Completion of this work plan objective is anticipated by early 2013.
- An initial brainstorming exercise was completed by the committee to share ideas and begin development of conservation strategies.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2013:

- Complete remaining work needed to develop consensus national conservation strategies by early 2013.
- Address additional work plan priorities the National Fish Habitat Board may develop for the HCC. Potential budget need: pending additional work plan priorities.