National Fish Habitat Board
Congressional and Legislative Topics of Interest

There are three topic areas related to NFHP congressional and legislative affairs that are on the agenda for Board discussions during its October 2012 Meeting, they are:

1. Next steps on NFHCA following anticipated November passage of the Sportsmen's Bill;

2. Improving coordination on congressional outreach (per Gary Kania's input at the July 2012 Board Meeting); and,

3. Building an overall congressional and administration outreach strategy.

With regards to NFHCA, the Board should decide:

- If Sportsmen's Bill passes the Senate, the appropriate way to thank Senator Tester and the Senators who vote to pass the bill.

- What needs to be done to get the House to move on its bill and how the Board can affect the conference committee working to reconcile the House and Senate bills.

- If the conference committee cannot come up with a compromise, or if either chamber cannot pass a conference bill, what's the strategy for the next Congress? What messages need to be delivered by the legislative team?

On coordination issues related to Congressional outreach:

- Is there a need to increase communications between the legislative team and the board?

- How do we approach having the NFHP reflected in related legislation/reports?

- How can we use the NFHP Partners Coalition to support overall legislative efforts?

With regards to a comprehensive congressional and administration outreach strategy:

- Knowing we need to be sensitive to constraints the Board's federal agency members' face, how should a comprehensive effort to educate Congress and the administration about NFHP be handled?

- What would be the goals of a comprehensive outreach strategy?

- What is the appropriate way (internally) to handle this undertaking?