National Fish Habitat Board
February 26-27, 2013
Tab 5

Allocation of funds for projects under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Summary
In FY 2013 the Fish and Wildlife Service is considering adoption of a formula-based approach to allocate funds for projects that address priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships. The formula would be phased in from 2013 to 2015, and would result in significant changes in funds for some FHPs.

Background
In 2006, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan was approved, and the FWS Fisheries Program received its first appropriation of $1 million for NFHAP. The appropriation grew to $7.1 million in FY 2012. The 2013 appropriation is expected to be similar to 2012.

Fiscal Year	President's Request ($ millions)	Appropriated ($ millions)
2006	--	0.985
2007	2.985	2.985
2008	5.235	5.153
2009	5.153	5.153
2010	7.153	7.153
2011	7.153	7.153
2012	7.153	7.142
2013	7.142	--

Since 2007, the Service has focused its funds to meet national, regional, and local needs.

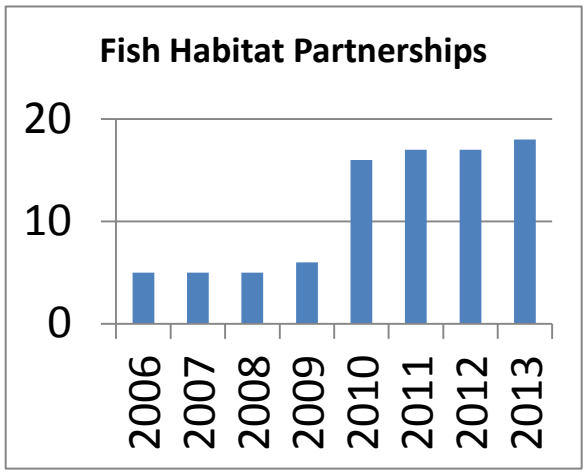
- National needs include FWS Headquarters staff and support for activities of the National Fish Habitat Board.
- Regional needs include FWS Regional and field office staff and support for activities of Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Local needs include habitat restoration and assessment projects that address priorities of FHPs.

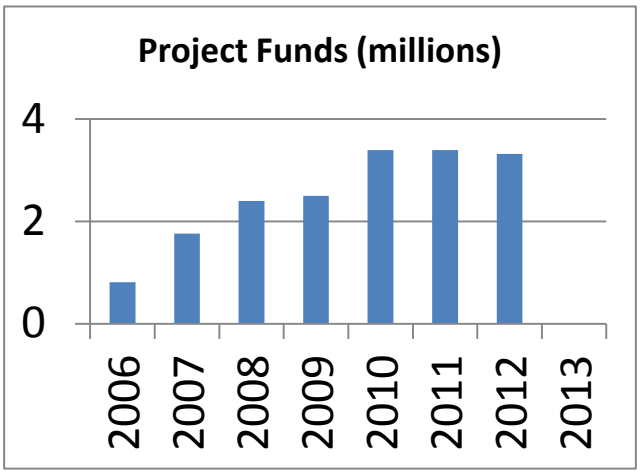
Funds for national staff and regional needs are in the **base** budgets of the Headquarters and Regional offices, to provide year-to-year consistency and capacity. In FY 2012 the base funds totaled $3,351,314. Funds for Board activities and local projects are **flexible**, and can be re-allocated to meet changing needs of Fish Habitat Partnerships and the Board. In FY 2012 the flexible funds totaled $3,617,309, of which $300,000 was allocated to Board activities.

In 2009 the Service approved a policy to guide how NFHAP funds are used, accessible at (http://www.fws.gov/policy/717fw1.html). The policy calls for the Director to allocate available project funds each year in October. Traditionally the Director's decision is based on a consensus recommendation from the Fisheries Management Team (FMT, Fisheries Assistant Regional Directors and Headquarters program leaders).

The FMT has struggled to achieve consensus on a recommendation to the Director for several reasons.

- The FHPs vary widely in size and strategic focus.
- FWS Regions and their partners took divergent approaches in the development of FHPs.
- The options for allocating funds are diverse, including variations of formula, competition, GIS-based, and arbitrary methods.
- The number of FHPs approved by the National Fish Habitat Board has grown faster than the funds available for projects (see charts below).





<u>Pending decision</u>

In FY 2013 the Fish and Wildlife Service is considering adoption of a formula-based approach to allocate funds for projects that address priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships. The formula would be phased in from 2013 to 2015, and would result in significant changes in funds for some FHPs. A minimum of $90,000 would be allocated to each FHP.

The formula is a modification of that used by the Service's Sport Fish Restoration program for allocating funds to States. The "modified Sport Fish Restoration" method uses human population and land & water area as input variables. The formula accounts for the geographic overlap of FHPs within FWS Regions, favoring FHPs that do not overlap. A full description of the computations can be provided on request.

FWS has also decided not to provide project funds for FHPs approved by the Board after December 2012, until such time as additional funds become available under NFHP.

The table on the next page shows the actual allocation of funds to FHPs since 2006 and the projected allocation for 2013-2015 if the formula-based approach is adopted. The projections for 2013-2015 assume total available funds of $3.3 million. Actual funds may be different. At the

time of this writing, Congress has not appropriated a full year budget for government agencies, and may enact across-the-board budget cuts that would affect NFHP project funds.

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Allocation of project funds to Fish Habitat Partnerships

	2006 actual	2007 actual	2008 actual	2009 actual	2010 actual	2011 actual	2012 actual	2013 projected	2014 projected	2015 projected
Demonstration projects - Candidate FHPs			600,000							
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	221,625	440,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	556,800	541,497	547,097	552,697
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	197,000	440,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	556,800	408,959	276,904	144,849
Western Native Trout Initiative	197,000	440,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	556,800	520,100	503,477	486,854
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	98,500	220,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	278,400	210,191	150,095	90,000
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	98,500	220,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	278,400	210,191	150,095	90,000
SW Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership				100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	125,689	156,229	186,770
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	157,978	232,054	306,130
Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	105,339	124,745	144,151
Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	161,282	238,790	316,298
Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,657	91,314
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Great Lakes Basin FHP					90,000	90,000	90,000	92,837	99,258	105,678
Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	131,917	178,927	225,936
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership					90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
California Fish Passage Forum						41,300	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Fishers & Farmers Partnership						41,300	90,000	94,021	101,672	109,323
Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership								90,000	90,000	90,000
TOTAL	$812,625	$1.760 M	$3.246 M	$2.746 M	$3.556 M	$3.638 M	$3.317 M	$3.3 M	$3.3 M	$3.3 M