CS Q&A_012213

Conservation Strategies Q&A

Q 1: Why don't the conservation strategies include numeric targets, strategic priorities, effectiveness measures, development of coalitions/support and communication?

A 1: Ongoing efforts are underway for each of these needs (see NFHAP objectives 1, 2-5 and Board Work Plan for 2013). We recognized the conservation strategies are interrelated with the numerous ongoing activities related to other NFHAP objectives, so an effort was made to complement and provide consistency with these efforts while avoiding overlap and redundancy. For example, a scheduled FHP Excellence Workshop will address strategic prioritization and tracking progress. Likewise, evaluation measures are best developed through integration of the conservation strategies into ongoing efforts for other NFHAP objectives, vs. stand alone measures outside the context of FHP strategic plans and project prioritization.

Q 2: How do these broad conservation strategies unite us?

A 2: The conservation strategies provide common national focus by tying them to the common factors identified by the Science and Data Committee's work (NFHAP, Appendix 5). Additionally, these broad conservation strategies have a better chance of providing unification than will a wide array of detailed, more specific strategies. Example actions are listed to portray some of the diverse approaches available for addressing the broader conservation strategies. All of the FHP's should be able to incorporate one or more of the conservation strategies into their planning and strategic priorities.

Q 3: How are these conservation strategies distinguished from other efforts directed at similar habitat factors?

A 3: The conservation strategies are intended to assist in providing a national focus on the main factors responsible for the fish habitat problems occurring today. While knowledge of these factors and strategies are widespread, only NFHP offers the ability to generate coordinated national attention to these needs. In addition, linkages to these conservation strategies can assist coordination with federal Interior, Agriculture and Commerce agencies to implement the NFHAP.

Q 4: Is my FHP expected to address all the conservation strategies and implement all of the example actions?

A 4: No, the great differences and unique characteristics among the 18 FHP's are recognized. The conservation strategies address a NFHP Board role to provide national leadership to conserve fish habitats while supporting FHP's and fostering new efforts. We expect, however, that each FHP will find identity with one or more of the conservation strategies and example actions. While not exhaustive or prescriptive, the example actions give a flavor for the types of actions that address the broad strategy statements. These examples will also stimulate development of additional actions meaningful for individual FHP's.

Q 5: Aren't the conservation strategies so broad that almost any type of fish habitat conservation project fits within one of them?

A 5: No, many types of projects that might be portrayed under the umbrella of fish habitat conservation do not fit. For example, structures designed to simply attract fish do not qualify. Projects proposed primarily for other purposes that seek to capture fisheries community support but fail to address these strategies do not qualify.