Updated **Survey of Fish Habitat Partnerships on relationships with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**

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In February 2012 a questionnaire was sent to the 18 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs), asking questions about their working relationships with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). The purpose was to gather information that will help to encourage collaboration among FHPs and LCCs. Fourteen FHPs returned the completed questionnaire. A report was included in the briefing book for the National Fish Habitat Board meeting of April 17-18, 2012.

On January 7, 2013, each FHP was asked to update the information from the 2012 survey. Thirteen responses were received, including three FHPs that had not responded in 2012. Results are shown in the table below. New or updated information is shown in red text.

Generally communication and collaboration increased between 2011 and 2012, but decreases were noted in a few cases. More FHP partners are represented on LCC steering committees and subcommittees. Several FHPs responded to the question "What are the most effective ways for FHPs to engage with LCCs?" These responses, lightly edited, are included after the table.

	Formal communication?	**Official representation on LCC bodies?**	**Joint projects with LCCs?**	**Communicated FHP science needs to LCCs?**	**Update January 2013**
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	• North Atlantic LCC • South Atlantic LCC • Peninsular Florida LCC	• South Atlantic LCC partnership committee • North Atlantic LCC technical committees • Peninsular Florida LCC – offered seat on steering committee to FHP	• North Atlantic LCC • South Atlantic LCC Helped develop 2012 science needs, and engaged through project endorsements and implementation	• North Atlantic LCC • South Atlantic LCC Helped develop 2012 science needs • Appalachian LCC • Gulf Coastal Plain/Ozarks LCC No communication in 2012	Involvement decreased with the Appalachian LCC and Gulf Coastal Plain/Ozarks LCC in 2012. Peninsular Florida LCC coordinator presented at FHP meeting
California Fish Passage Forum	• North Pacific LCC • California LCC	No. Considering nominating a member of the California LCC steering committee	None	No	

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Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	• Desert LCC • Southern Rockies LCC	None	None	• Southern Rockies LCC FWS Regional meeting	Wrote letters and gave presentations to LCCs that overlap DFHP geography. LCCs were informed of science tools available to DFHP as well as science and data needs, e.g. spring & ciénega habitat assessment & monitoring protocol, spatial database for assessment information, detailed spatial data on hydrological alteration, such as stream dewatering or change in timing of peak runoff or low flows to help DFHP prioritize projects to benefit natural hydrologic process and native fish habitat.
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	None	None	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC $130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC • Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big River LCC Science needs communicated through the Midwest Regional NFHP Coordinator	Looking forward to working with the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big River LCC as they continue to develop

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Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	• Appalachian LCC • North Atlantic LCC	• Appalachian LCC steering committee, science & data workshop organization	• Appalachian LCC and Eastern Brook Trout JV launch new community web portals • New Project to develop web-based tool for riparian restoration in eastern U.S. streams	• Appalachian LCC via the science needs workshop • North Atlantic LCC via submitting funding proposal, discussion at LCC-NFHAP meeting, and submitting a list of science needs	Worked with Appalachian LCC to redesign EBTJV website, which now serves for internal and external communication and contains much information that was previously unavailable.
Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC $115K project to develop a standardized, incremental, & sustainable monitoring strategy for habitat restoration in the UMR Basin $130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC Indirect communication through Midwest Science Advisory Network.	When a science team leader is in place, will communicate science needs to the LCCs
Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	• Upper Midwest-Great Lakes LCC	• Upper Midwest-Great Lakes LCC FHP co-chairs have a seat on the steering committee.	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC $130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC Indirect communication through Midwest Science Advisory Network	

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Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership	• Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC	• Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC technical team Midwest NFHP coordinator is on Plains & Prairie Pothole LCC steering committee	• Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC $150K plus $130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	• Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC Participation on technical team	
Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	• Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative	None	None	• Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative Informal meetings to discuss climate change and restoration planning held between PICCC and FWS habitat programs	
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership	None	None	None	• Northwest Interior Forest LCC Conversations with interim coordinator regarding data and science needs	
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	• Northwest Interior Forest LCC	• Northwest Interior Forest LCC science committee, alternate for steering committee	None to date. Will seek to partner with Northwest Interior Forest LCC on development of its science plan	None to date. Will provide input to the Northwest Interior Forest LCC's science needs assessment	
Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	• Upper Midwest-Great Lakes LCC	• Plains & Prairie Pothole LCC • Eastern Tall Grass Prairie – Big Rivers LCC Steering committees	$130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	No	

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Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	Indirect communication through Midwest Science Advisory Network	None	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC $130K project with Midwest FHPs to use monitoring data to drive conservation decisions	• Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC Indirect communication through Midwest Science Advisory Network	
Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership	• North Pacific LCC • California LCC	• North Pacific LCC Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge Subcommittee and GIS Subcommittee	None	Some dialogue, not comprehensive	
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership	• Gulf Coast Prairie LCC	• Gulf Coast Prairie LCC steering committee & science committee	None	• Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Science forum held in February 2012	Considering resigning from Gulf Coast Prairie LCC steering committee. Not a good use of time. SHC not applicable to reservoir research prioritization.
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	• South Atlantic LCC • Gulf Coast Prairie LCC • Gulf Coastal Plain and Ozarks LCC • Appalachian LCC	• South Atlantic LCC partnership committee and communications committee • Appalachian LCC steering committee • Gulf Coast Prairie LCC steering committee • Gulf Coastal Plain and Ozarks LCC partnership committee and communications committee	• South Atlantic LCC • Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Through LCC and Multistate Conservation Grant funding, developing hydrologic information for the South Atlantic	• South Atlantic LCC • Gulf Coast Prairie LCC • Gulf Coastal Plain and Ozarks LCC • Appalachian LCC Science forums, steering committee meetings, partnership committee meetings.	

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Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	• Western Alaska LCC	Alaska DF&G representative sits on both LCC and FHP steering committees	None	• Western Alaska LCC	

What are the most effective ways for FHPs to engage with LCCs?

Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership & California Fish Passage Forum

Taking an initial first step to do a crosswalk with their strategic goals and priorities as well as the goals and priorities of each FHP will identify areas of synergy – that is a fairly straightforward process. A key next step might be an MOU or some other type of document that represents a commitment and willingness of both organizations to work together to achieve mutual goals and communicate consistently and productively. Describing how all organizations in a geographic area can convene to articulate a key set of priorities is a significant challenge at the landscape scale, but it's necessary given finite resources.

Alaska FHPs

At the next all-Alaska FHP meeting in February 2013, coordination with LCCs has been identified as an agenda topic. A representative from the Northwest Interior Forest LCC will attend. The Mat-Su Partnership and Kenai Peninsula FHP will be updating their strategic action plans, including the section on climate change. This effort may lead to more specific actions with respect to coordination with LCCs and identification of science needs.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

The most effective way to engage with the LCC's would be to have representation on the Technical Team of the LCC, or to participate in some way with the ongoing functioning of the LCC's.

Midwest Glacial Lakes has overlap with three LCC's; the Plains and Prairie Potholes, Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers, and Upper Midwest-Great Lakes LCC's. It is important to maintain communication between the FHP's and the LCC's since both are federally/affiliated partnership efforts. It is important to cross-foster information and to work collaboratively on issues of interest to both.

Driftless Area Restoration Effort

Participation on technical teams, face to face communication, invites to FHP tours, symposiums, meetings, etc.

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

Sharing of our comprehensive coastwise expertise and research on fish habitat, its protection and restoration. ACFHP has a great deal to contribute to the LCCs that cover our area. Few state, federal and local groups are aware of ACFHP and what we have done and are doing that can contribute to their efforts. We are the specialists in our area of expertise and can probably act as a consultant to these groups.

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership

Standardized spring and ciénega habitat assessment and monitoring protocol, and comprehensive spatial database to store the assessment information, detailed spatial data on hydrological alteration, such as stream dewatering or changing in timing of peak runoff or low summer flows, can help DFHP prioritize areas where habitat and streamflow restoration projects would benefit natural hydrologic process and native fish habitat. Together these information sources will help DFHP and our cooperative partners prioritize habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement projects to benefit desert fishes in the future and allow DFHP to more effectively meet its goals by working strategically at the landscape scale. Hopefully the LCCs can help to fill DFHP's science and data gaps.