Title: Joint Session with the State Fisheries Administrators

Desired outcome(s):
1) Increased understanding of state fish habitat activities.
2) Shared understanding of how NFHP supports state needs.
3) Shared understanding of NFHP strengthens and concerns (state perspective).
4) Strengthen relationships between state programs and NFHP.

Background:
State fisheries agencies have primary responsibility for management of resident fisheries programs. Strong commitment and support for fish habitat is integral to their fisheries programs. Numerous states have major fish habitat programs, and they contribute personnel and resources to work in partnership with a wide array of entities, including Fish Habitat Partnerships.

State agency personnel have been active in formation and implementation of Fish Habitat Partnerships. State fisheries program administrators wish to encourage timely discussions and exchanges of information on issues that impact fishery management programs and fishery users. Participants will inform the board on state fish habitat efforts, discuss strengths and concerns, and will engage the board in strengthening relationships between state programs and NFHP. This is the first Board meeting with the state fisheries administrators.

Discussion will include presentations from Jeff Boxrucker from the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership and Tim Birdsong, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Staff Recommendation/Proposal:
- The Board should look for and discuss opportunities to align priorities and identify ways in which the Board could take action to address challenges in partnership with the state fisheries administrators.
- Consider discussing NFHP's possible contributions to the fish component of 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan revisions

Reference material:
N/A