



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



Conference Call of the National Fish Habitat Board

Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board

June 28, 2017

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
(via conference call and webinar)
June 28, 2017 Draft Agenda and Board Book Tabs

Conference line: 800.768.2983 **Passcode:** 8383462

Web link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1s2iv2qetnzd&eom>

1:00-1:20	<u>Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board action to approve draft agenda and draft March meeting summary• Board awareness of October Board Meeting dates and location	Tab 1	Tom Champeau (Board Chair – FWCC)
1:20-1:30	<u>Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of ELT National Fish Habitat Board member decisions	Tab 2	Sam Rauch (Board Member -NMFS)
1:30 – 1:50	<u>Partnerships Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board approval of the revised Document of Interdependence	Tab 3	Stan Allen (Board Member - PSMFC) and Bryan Moore (Board Member - TU)
1:50-2:30	<u>Science and Data Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of further developed implementation options• Board awareness of additional information from Fish Habitat Partnerships and Councils• Board approval of a Habitat Assessment implementation option	Tab 4	Gary Whelan and Peter Ruhl (Board Science and Data Committee Co-Chairs)
2:30-2:45	<u>Legislative Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the National Fish Habitat Partnership legislation status• Board awareness of new outreach materials		Mike Leonard (Board Member – ASA)
2:45-3:00	<u>Budget and Finance Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of 2017 Multistate Conservation Grant process and timeline	Tab 5	Ryan Roberts (NFHP Staff, AWFA)
3:00 – 3:30	<u>Forest Service Fisheries Plan</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board approval of working group comments	Tab 6	Tom Champeau (Board Chair – FWCC)



3:20-3:50

Communications Committee Update

Desired outcome:

- **Board awareness of** Communications Committee activities and timelines
- **Demonstration of** NFHP story map

Tab 7

Ryan Roberts (*NFHP Staff -AFWA*)

3:50 – 4:00

Meeting wrap-up

Tom Champeau
(*Board Chair, FWCC*)

Additional Informational updates included in the Board Book:

- USFWS-NFHP FY17 Funding Allocations

Tab 8

Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: March 21, 2017

Members present:

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFA)	David Miko <i>for</i> Jim Kurth (USFWS)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Benita Best-Wong (EPA)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Doug Boyd (SBPC)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Ron Regan (AFWA)
Rob Harper (USFS)	Ed Schriever (WAFWA)
Mike Leonard (ASA)	David Sikorski (CCA) <i>for</i> Sean Stone
Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)	

Members absent:

Mike Andrews (TNC), Doug Beard (USGS), Jim Leach (MAFWA)

Approved by consensus:

- January Board WebEx summary was approved with one revision to include Peter Aarrestad as present.

Approved by motion:

- March Board meeting agenda; motion by Chris Moore, seconded by Bryan Moore.
- New administration transition document [*A Vision for Habitat Conservation for the Future of our Fisheries*]; motion by Bryan Moore, seconded by Chris Moore. Federal members exclude themselves from the vote.
- NFHP Assessment revised Vision: A comprehensive, comparable, and connected assessment of the nation's fish habitats that include the freshwater systems and coastal waters; motion by Sam Rauch, seconded by Chris Moore.
- NFHP Assessment revised Purpose: To support the conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement of fish habitat by providing 1) the partnerships with national and regional data sets and analytical procedures that assess the nation's fish habitat using the best available data; and 2) the NFHP Board and stakeholders with communications products to highlight the condition and importance of the nation's fish habitat; motion by Chris Moore, seconded by Sam Rauch. Includes a friendly amendment to better match the Action Plan.

Updates and discussions:

- Welcome – Chris Wood, CEO of Trout Unlimited (TU), welcomed everyone and spoke about the work of the organization, its growth, and the role of partnerships.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – It was noted that Fred Matt will be serving in the Tribal seat through July of 2018, as approved by the Executive Leadership Team. Members whose terms are up for review in July of 2017 (noted in Tab 2a of the Board Book) were asked to send a note to Ron Regan and Emily Greene noting if they are interested in being considered for another 3-year term.
- Legislative Update – The legislative team is currently working to identify sponsors for the National Fish Habitat Legislation. A grassroots campaign involving Fish Habitat Partnerships writing letters to the Hill and a new fact sheet geared towards local farmers and ranchers was noted as an initiative that would be helpful to the legislative team. Other helpful actions noted included social media, pictures and videos of on-the-ground examples, and field visits. It was noted that revisions to the transition document had been made, and approval of the document from non-federal members of the Board was requested. It was noted that the document would be useful not only for the new administration but as part of the legislative team strategy.

- Science and Data Committee Update – A summary of the recent committee activities, with respect to the Board’s 2017 priorities was provided, including: 2015 Assessment outreach, refinements, and responding to requests; improving the NFHP Data System; and assessment planning. Follow-up discussion included the workload involved in responding to requests, the value of the webinars, the role of fish data in the assessment, data ownership, sea level rise, and the scale of the estuarine assessment. A summary of the results of Board, FHP, and SDC surveys and a draft vision and purpose document for future assessment work was presented to the Board. Major discussion centered around the utility of the assessment, primary and tertiary audiences, and national versus regional focus. The vision statement was revised to be more geographically inclusive, and the purpose statement was revised to reflect the dual purpose and key audiences of the assessment. A summary of four implementation options, varying in analytical approach in terms of geographic focus, Fish Habitat Partnership role, and estuarine assessment lead were presented. Major follow-up discussion included Science and Data Committee implementation option feedback and initial feedback from Board members, the need for more information from Fishery Management Councils and FHPs, and funding. The Science and Data Committee was charged with further developing implementation option 3, with the caveat that options 2 and 4 are not off the table.
- Communications Committee and Beyond the Pond Update – Discussion centered around the donation page that had recently been added to the Beyond the Pond website and efforts towards securing staff for Beyond the Pond.
- Partnerships Committee Update – A summary of the committee’s recent activities, with respect to the Board’s 2017 priorities was provided including: additions and revisions to the document of interdependence; review of the 2018 Multistate Grant NCN; review of USFWS FY17 FHP submissions and follow-up conversations; and initial discussion with the Budget and Finance Committee to find funding outside USFWS. Feedback on the document of interdependence is requested from the Partnerships Committee, states, FHPs, and others after the meeting. Approval from the Board will be sought in June.
- Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation –TU representative, Keith Curley, provided an overview of the work that the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, a Fish Habitat Partnership, has conducted including: project planning and contractor workshops; volunteer work days; development of decision support tools; and implementation of an annual symposium including riparian and watershed sessions. An increasing trend in miles restored and funding since 2005 was highlighted, as well as the economic impact. Follow-up discussion centered on where their work primarily occurs (ie. private versus public land), fishing access, and funding.
- US Forest Service –Dan Shively gave a history of the Services’ role in fisheries habitat management and research was provided and the current effort to update their Fisheries Strategy, which contains six goals and seeks to align with the Forest Service Strategic Plan. The Service is engaging with partners and is seeking feedback from the Board. Major follow-up discussion included the importance of coordination with states and the recreational fishing community.
- USFWS FY17 Funding Update – It was noted that this year’s process has gone smoothly and that coordinators have made their recommendations to the ARDs. The Service is under a continuing resolution until April 28, and a funding commitment cannot be made until this time.
- Budget and Finance Committee – It was noted that Board’s main unfunded needs are for the FHP workshop and the Project Tracking Database. On a separate but related note, a brief summary of the 2018 Multistate Conservation Grant process was provided, including initial interest from FHPs to apply collectively for funds. Staff was asked to work with the Partnerships Committee to determine the pros and cons of this approach [to consider in future year cycles].
- Secretarial MOU Update – It was noted that USFWS, NMFS, and USFS staff are reviewing the existing MOU and will make any needed refinements or updates, but will not be moving forward with agency clearances until political leadership is in place and staff can engage with the new leadership. The agencies will continue to operate under the spirit of the MOU in the interim.
- Blue Ribbon Panel Update – Sean Saville, of AFWA, provided an overview of recent Blue Ribbon Panel

activities, including webinars with stakeholder organizations to give feedback on the strategies and campaign moving forward.

Action items:

- Members whose terms are up for review in July of 2017 (noted in Tab 2a of the Board Book), should send a note to Ron Regan (rregan@fishwildlife.org) and Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov) noting if they are interested in being considered for another 3-year term.
- Communications Committee and Partnerships Committee should assist with implementing helpful actions noted by the Legislative Team.
- The Science and Data Committee should further developing implementation option 3, with the caveat that options 2 and 4 are not off the table. Additional information is needed from Councils and Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Feedback on the Document of Interdependence is requested from the Partnerships Committee, FHPs, states, and others.
- Staff will work with the Partnerships Committee to determine the pros and cons of the approach in which FHPs apply collectively for Multistate Grant Program funds on a three year timeframe.

Future Board meetings (2017):

- Summer Introductory Call for new members (Date TBD)
- June 28 WebEx
- October 18-19 (South Dakota)

Board approved documents:

- January Board Webex summary
- *A Vision for Habitat Conservation for the Future of our Fisheries* (offered by the non-Federal members of the National Fish Habitat Board)

Additional attendees:

Jeff Boxrucker (RFHP)
Stephanie Carman (BLM)
Chris Carlson (USFS)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Elsa Haubold (LCC Network)
Lisa Havel (ACFHP)
Julie Henning (USFWS)
Ian Kroll (USFWS)
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)
Chris Meaney (NOAA-NMFS)
Pat Montanio (NOAA-NMFS)
David Moe Nelson (NOAA-NOS)
John Netto (USFWS)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
John Rothlisberger (USFS)
Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)
John Schmerfeld (USFWS)
Dan Shively (USFS)
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)
By Phone: Joe Nohner (MGLP), Therese Thompson (WNTI), Doug Norton (EPA), Karen Eldridge (USFWS)

National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2017-2018

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2017	June 28 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 18 – 19 (Wed-Thurs)	Rapid City, South Dakota	Location: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks @ SD Outdoor Campus (West) Lodging: The Rushmore Hotel Field Trip: Pactola Reservoir, Rapid Creek
2018	January 17 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 6-7 (Tues-Wed)	Washington, DC Area	Reserve room at TNC HQ
	June 27 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 17-18 (Wed-Thurs)	Texas (tentative)	

Record of Past Board Meetings 2006-2016

Year	Date	Location	Facility
2006	September 22	Aspen, Colorado	Hotel
	November 16	Washington, DC	Hall of States
2007	January 16	Teleconference	
	March 1-2	Washington, DC	Environmental Protection Agency
	June 6-7	Washington, DC	Commerce Department
	October 2-3	Arlington, VA	Hotel
2008	February 20-21	St. Petersburg, FL	Tampa Bay Watch
	May 13-14	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2009	March 4-5	Harrisburg, PA	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
	June 25, 2009	Leesburg, VA	National Conference Center
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2010	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 3-4	Memphis, TN	Ducks Unlimited
	June 9-10	Silver Spring, MD	NOAA headquarters

	August 25	Teleconference	
	October 12-14	Portland, OR	Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission
2011	January 13	Teleconference	
	March 11	Teleconference	
	April 12-13	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 26-27	Madison, WI	Hotel
	October 19-20	Albuquerque, NM	FWS Regional Office
2012	January 12	Teleconference	
	March 1	Teleconference	
	April 17-18	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 10-11	Portland, ME	Hotel
	October 16-17	Ridgedale, MO	Big Cedar Lodge
2013	January 16	Teleconference	
	February 26-27	Arlington, VA	FWS headquarters
	April 15	Teleconference	
	June 25-26	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah State Capitol
	October 22-23	Charleston, SC	SC DNR
2014	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 9-10	Denver, CO	
	June 25	Tele/web conference	
	November 8-9	National Harbor, MD	Held in conjunction w/ RAE Summit
2015	January 14	Tele/web conference	
	March 3-4	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 24	Tele/web conference	
	September 22	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 20-21	Sacramento, CA	Hotel
2016	January 20	Tele/web conference	
	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 29	Tele/web conference	
	October 26-27	Panama City, FL	
2017	January 18	Tele/web conference	
	March 21	Rosslyn, VA	Trout Unlimited Offices

Total: 47 meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date

Title: Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Update

Desired outcome(s): Board understanding of ELT National Fish Habitat Board member decisions

Background:

Members of the Executive Leadership Team met via conference call on June 12, 2017 to discuss National Fish Habitat Board Membership. The following individuals were reappointed:

Doug Boyd (Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council)

Christy Plumer (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership)

Sean Stone (Coastal Conservation Association)

Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited)

An introductory conference call will be held later this summer for new Board members. This will include interested reappointed members and Board members who were newly appointed earlier in 2017.

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 2b Board Member List and Terms

NFHP Board Membership (June 2017)

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Representing	Next Review
Aarrestad	Peter	CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	State Agency - NEAFWA	July 2018
Allen	Stan	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	At large- Commercial fishing	June 2019
Andrews	Michael	The Nature Conservancy	At large - Conservation	June 2019
Beard	Doug	US Geological Survey	Federal Agency	July 2018
Best-Wong	Benita	US Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Agency	June 2019
Bigford	Tom	American Fisheries Society	American Fisheries Society	July 2018
Boyd	Douglass	Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council	At large- Sportfishing	July 2020
Champeau	Tom	FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State Agency	July 2018
Harper	Rob	USDA Forest Service	Federal Agency	July 2018
Leach	Jim	MN Department of Natural Resources	State Agency - MAFWA	July 2018
Leonard	Mike	American Sportfishing Association	At large-Sportfishing	June 2019
Matt	Fred	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Tribal	July 2018
Melinchuk	Ross	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	State Agency - SEAFWA	July 2018
Moore	Chris	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council	At large- Commercial fishing	October 2019
Plumer	Christy	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	At large- Sportfishing	July 2020
Schriever	Ed	Idaho Department of Fish and Game	State Agency - WAFWA	July 2018
Stone	Sean	Coastal Conservation Association	At large - Sportfishing	July 2020
Wood	Chris	Trout Unlimited	At large - Conservation	July 2020
NA		National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	July 2015
Board members serving by virtue of their offices				
Kurth	Jim	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Acting Director)	Federal Agency	
Rauch	Sam	NOAA Fisheries Service (Acting Assistant Administrator)	Federal Agency	
Regan	Ron	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	AFWA – Executive Director	

Title: Partnerships Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board approval** of the revised Document of Interdependence.

Background:

The Partnerships Committee serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships and is made-up of FHP and Board members.

The National Fish Habitat Partnership's 2017 Priority I is to complete the Document of Interdependence. At the October 2016 Board meeting a draft Document of Interdependence was presented to the Board. Revisions were suggested at that time, which were subsequently made by the Partnerships Committee.

The Document of Interdependence is an informational document that was developed by the Partnerships Committee at the request of the FHPs. The purpose of the document is to acknowledge the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP. It is a non-obligatory, non-official document intended for an internal audience. This document should be used as supplemental material to assist with implementation of official documents such as the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. However, it in no way supersedes official documents such as the Policies and Guidance for FHPs. It describes and clarifies the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships among the major components of the NFHP. The document is intended to reflect current relationships; it does not articulate desired or anticipated roles, responsibilities, or relationships. It is a living document that will be updated when official documents are updated, as appropriate.

Update:

In March of 2017 the draft document was made available for review by FHPs, State and Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Feedback was provided by the USFWS, NEAFA, and a member of the Board's Science and Data Committee. Some suggestions were editorial in nature, while other suggestions were more substantial. Examples of more substantial suggestions included, clarifying the commitments of Federal agencies, the relationship between this document and existing guidance documents, and the distinction between Themes 7, 8, and 9 and the roles of NFHP entities pertaining to these themes. Many of these revisions were incorporated into the document.

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 3b Document of Interdependence

NFHP Document of Interdependence

Introduction

The [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (NFHP) consists of four distinct components: the National Fish Habitat Board, the (20) individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, the National Fish Habitat Fund (NFHP's official non-profit partner) and the NFHP partners which includes federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, academia, non-governmental organizations, and public and private entities and individuals (including business), who contribute to implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. While each of these distinct components has the freedom to act independently of one another, the actions of one affects the actions of another. In this way the success of any one of these components is dependent upon the success of the other three – they are in fact -- interdependent. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of these relationships.

Purpose

This informational document was developed at the request of the FHPs with the purpose of acknowledging the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP. It is a non-obligatory, non-official document intended for an internal audience. This document should be used as supplemental material to assist with implementation of official documents such as the [National Fish Habitat Action Plan](#). However, it in no way supersedes official documents such as the [Policies and Guidance for FHPs](#). It describes and clarifies the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships among the major components of the NFHP. The document is intended to reflect current relationships; it does not articulate desired or anticipated roles, responsibilities, or relationships. It is a living document that will be updated when official documents are updated, as appropriate.

Definitions

National Fish Habitat Board –Also referred to as the "Board", is the governing body established to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the [National Fish Habitat Action Plan](#). A list of committees that support the Board can be found in the appendix.

Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) -- National Fish Habitat Board approved groups of state, federal, local, nonprofit, Native American Tribes, private individuals, or entities that coordinate to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. They are self-identified, self-organized, and self-directed communities of interest formed around geographic areas, keystone species, or system types (e.g. rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and marine). Fish habitat conservation projects proposed by many of these FHPs are eligible for funding as NFHP projects through a competitive proposal process. FHPs have governance structures that reflect the range of all partners and promote joint strategic planning and decision-making by the partnership.

Partner -- An individual or entity that engages with the NFHP or a FHP to promote its mission (e.g. Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, academia, non-government organizations, and public and private entities and individuals (including business). Examples of ways to engage include but are not limited to: provision of funding, participation in a project, participation on a committee or working group, etc.

Federal agency -- Department, bureau, service, division, representative, or other component of the Federal Government that has direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation. The results of effective conservation contribute to the health and social and economic well-being of the American public that they serve.

State agency -- The fish and wildlife agency of a State; any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

Non-Government Organization -- A non-profit, tax-exempt entity established under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NGOs commonly serve as catalysts to bring together projects, funding for projects and partnerships, and advocate for the legislation and administrative policies which help Partnerships.

Beyond the Pond (also referred to as “the National Fish Habitat Fund” or “the Fund”) -- a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that was created to support the mission and goals of the NFHP.

Conservation action -- Activities that protect, sustain, and, where appropriate, restore, and enhance populations of fish, wildlife, or plant life or habitat required to sustain fish, wildlife, or plant life or its productivity. Common examples include stream, lake, reservoir, and riparian restoration projects.

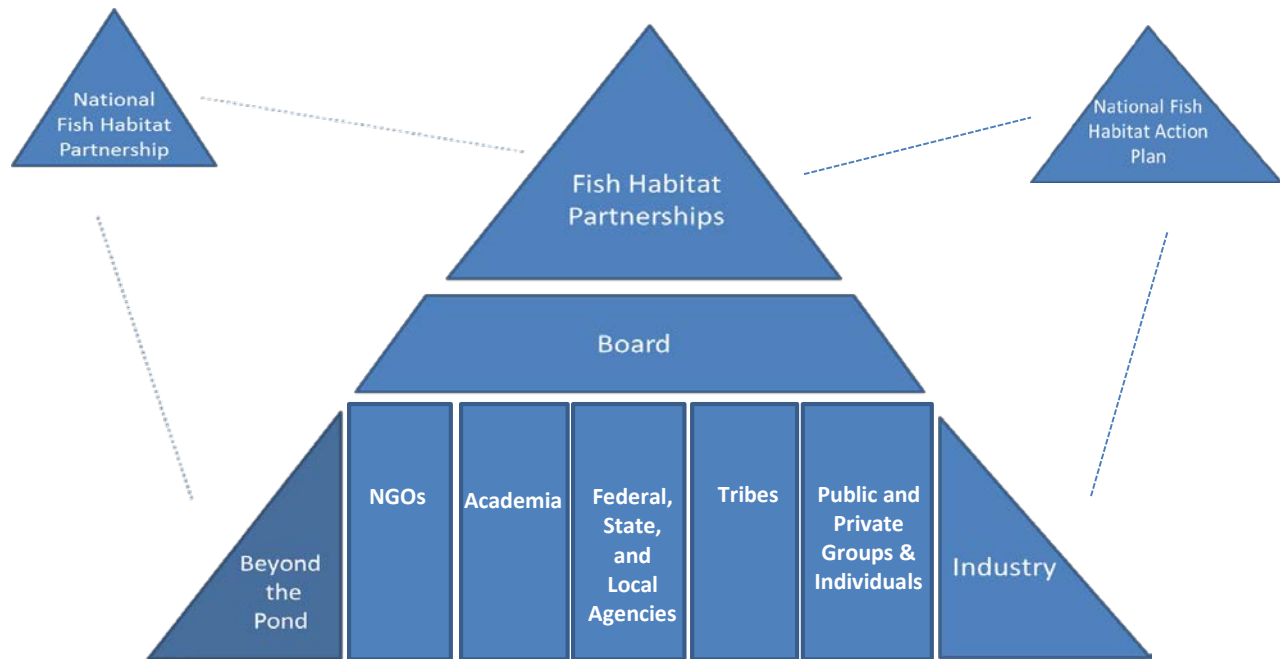


Figure 1. NFHP is made up of several different components (i.e. partners) that collectively form a solid foundation supporting the FHPs. Therefore, each component (i.e. partner) has an important role in supporting and facilitating implementation of the Action Plan.

Commitments

1 Habitat Assessments

1.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- The Board shall solicit information from the Science and Data Committee and incorporate that information, and other appropriate information, into the strategies and goals developed by the Board.
- The Board will support the Science and Data Team by providing necessary staff, funding, data and other resources needed to complete the national assessments and reports called for in the Plan.

1.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures.

- Coordinate and compile scientific assessment information on fish habitats within their partnership areas to help determine and monitor the FHP's conservation goals and objectives.
- Provide this scientific assessment information to the national Science and Data Committee to support national assessments of fish habitats.

1.3 Federal Agency¹

- Collect, manage, analyze and share data and contribute information technology expertise to build or integrate databases to assess aquatic communities, habitat conditions and outcomes of projects.
- Coordinate and contribute technical assistance, services or funds for the science and data initiatives of the National Fish Habitat Board.

1.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Participate in FHP Science Teams and the NFHP Science and Data Committee to contribute technical expertise and assistance in the design, review, and application (e.g., priority setting) of regional and national fish habitat assessments.
- Share state-based survey and monitoring datasets with the relevant FHP Science Teams and NFHP Science and Data Committee to inform regional and national habitat assessments.
- Provide to FHPs, upon request, relevant state species management or conservation plans in which habitat limitations and/or priority conservation actions are identified.
- Review habitat assessment documents and any proposed restoration priorities/projects to ensure consistency with established agency objectives.

1.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the review of habitat assessment data and provide constructive input to the process. Where beneficial, an NGO may also provide additional externally collected and reviewed scientific habitat data for consideration for inclusion.

1.6 Beyond the Pond

- Raise outside funding from corporations, individuals, and foundations to supplement Fish Habitat Partnership and National Fish Habitat Board projects and priorities.

2 Communications and Outreach

2.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Communicate with the Fish Habitat Partnerships regarding all policies and decisions made by the Board.
- Where appropriate and when possible, the Board should utilize its network to communicate potential opportunities for advancement of national (NFHP) and FHP objectives to the FHPs so that the FHPs can take advantage of these opportunities.

¹ Each of the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments [Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce] with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection and restoration, shall as appropriate, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations:

2.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation.
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners.
- Develop regular newsletters, project overviews, and social media messaging including websites and e-news clips.

2.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat and the Action Plan.
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within own agency with news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.
- Communicate across programs within own agency and to other related federal agencies.
- Communicate with the Federal Caucus.

2.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat.
- Promote the contributions of NFHP and the FHPs in supporting aquatic habitat conservation in their respective states.
- Advocate locally for NFHP and recruit grassroots partners to contribute to implementation of the Action Plan (e.g., recruit and foster grassroots partners).
- Promote public awareness of habitat limitations, enhancement opportunities, or completed restoration projects through a variety of media and social media outlets; not necessarily tied to NFHP-related funding, but consistent with NFHP and FHP messaging.

2.5 Non-Government Organization

- Provide outreach, education and engagement opportunities to local communities
- Increase overall public knowledge and awareness regarding the role of the NFHP as related to resource protection and enhancement.

2.6 Beyond the Pond

- Provide a platform for promoting Fish Habitat Partnership conservation success stories and act as a resource for potential donors.

3 Coordination

3.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level
- Establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources to the Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of stakeholders and other interested parties, through its Partners Coalition, to increase involvement and support for coordinated fish habitat conservation at national and regional scales.

- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of Federal agencies through the Federal Caucus, a partnership of Federal agencies organized to coordinate Federal participation in the implementation of the Action Plan, and make every attempt to expand the Federal Caucus to include all Federal agencies involved with fish habitat.

3.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Seek and encourage involvement by State fish and wildlife agencies, Native American governments and federal agencies that manage fish resources within their partnership areas, non-government organizations and businesses, and document these efforts. Commitment may be demonstrated through endorsement by regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies or similar entities, memoranda of understanding among jurisdictions, letters of support from agency directors, or other written evidence.
- As members of the grassroots NFHP, FHPs should generally be present at Board meetings (in person or on the phone) and participate in discussions where appropriate.
- Work with other regional habitat conservation efforts to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats.
- Collaborate with FHPs Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and other large landscape-scale collaborations where appropriate to carry out responsibilities.

3.3 Federal Agency

- The Board shall include up to five federal agency representatives. These shall include the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who shall serve by virtue of their office
- Promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of Federal agencies with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection, and restoration, support efforts to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations and subject to the availability of funds.
- Ensure their actions, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations, are consistent with and support the priorities of the Action Plan. In so doing, the Departments can improve the efficiency of Federal Government organizations and ensure effective coordination with state, tribal, and local agencies, non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals. Participate as members of the Federal Caucus at policy and technical levels to coordinate Federal participation in implementation of the Action Plan in support of state agency-led efforts to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.
- Coordinate activities in support of the Action Plan with other interagency efforts, including but not limited to America's Great Outdoors, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Coral Reef Task Force, the National Action Plan for Freshwater Resources, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.¹

- Coordinate its activities with states, territories, tribes, and local governments to meet the goals of the Action Plan.¹
- Encourage and support affiliated efforts by non-Federal partners to implement the Action Plan, including fulfillment of the Federal trust responsibilities to Native American governments.¹

3.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Communicate relevant state agency objectives, management plans, and habitat enhancement priorities to FHPs.
- Where compatible with state agency objectives and resources, participate in FHP steering committees, science teams, and other working groups.
- Coordinate with the FHPs and partners on the planning, progress, and outcomes of NFHP-supported projects in their respective states.
- Coordinate with FHPs on state-supported fish habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection projects that contribute to implementation of the Action Plan (NOTE: many states are heavily engaged in fish habitat conservation efforts not directly supported by NFHP, but that contribute to the goals and objectives of the Action Plan).

3.5 Non-Government Organization

- Non-profit land and aquatic resource conservation organizations are appointed to the Board to ensure a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and a balance of freshwater and marine interests. Non-profit conservation organizations support and compliment the interests and direction of the Board through on-the-ground organizing and partnerships, and in some cases through actions the Board and governmental organizations may not undertake.
- Build support with other partners with an interest in a particular project.

3.6 Beyond the Pond

- Coordinate fundraising support with the National Fish Habitat Board and with the FHP. Fundraising support with the National Fish Habitat Board is coordinated through two primary avenues: one, a representative of the Board of Directors for Beyond the Pond provides regular reports to the National Fish Habitat Board, and two, through overlapping membership of the two Boards (they must share three members).
- Coordinate fundraising support to the FHPs through a chapter relationship defined in the Notice of Responsibility and Expectations of Chapters of the National Fish Habitat Fund. Generally, Beyond the Pond pursues high-level donors and the FHPs pursue local-level donors. Communication between FHPs and with Beyond the Pond regarding these efforts is encouraged.

4 Strategic Planning

4.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop and amend, as appropriate, specific national fish habitat conservation goals and objectives with the advice from the Science and Data Committee.

- The Board shall coordinate with the Federal agencies to develop and implement habitat protection and rehabilitation strategies at national and regional scales, to ensure that Federal agency policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.

4.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop collaboratively with regional stakeholders a strategic vision and achievable strategic or implementation plan that is scientifically sound.
- Establish strategic goals and objectives that define desired outcomes for fish species and habitats within their partnership areas.
- Identify priority places and/or issues to focus conservation action, and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects to meet goals and objectives.

4.3 Federal Agency¹

- Review policies, procedures, resources, capabilities and, where appropriate, make revisions during regularly scheduled reviews of the same, to further support of NFHP goals.
- Incorporate the goals of NFHP in its own plans for managing Federal lands and water resources, where appropriate, during regularly scheduled reviews of such plans.

4.4 State Agency

- Actively contribute to the development of relevant FHP strategic plans to ensure consistency with established state agency objectives and policies, as resources allow.

4.5 Non-Government Organization

- Identify areas of mutual interest in the strategic plan and work to build and enhance the established goals of the plan through their individual operating strategies.
- Evaluate strategic alignment with individual FHPs to collaborate on implementation of regional goals where feasible.

4.6 Beyond the Pond

- Has developed Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws as well as seated a Board of Directors and named officers of the Fund.
- Fundraise to support the strategic efforts of the National Fish Habitat Board and the FHPs.

5 Funding

5.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the FHPs and other efforts of the Plan.
- The Board will develop and implement strategies to increase public and private funding for fish habitat conservation by the FHPs, provided that the responsibility for implementation of such strategies by any Board member shall be limited by any legal or administrative restrictions that may apply to the activities of any such member.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver NFHP funds to the FHPs, where appropriate.

5.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.
- Assist Beyond the Pond in their high-level fundraising efforts by providing fundraising case studies, proposals, and other guidance to facilitate success.

5.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or appropriated federal funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and FHPs established under the Plan.
- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when awarding loans, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements, consistent with federal law and respective agency processes.
- Communicate with similar programs within own agency and other federal agencies to leverage funds.

5.4 State Agency

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or matching funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and FHPs established under the Plan, as resources allow.

5.5 Non-Government Organization

- Acquire funding from private or government agency sources to leverage funds provided by the Board to FHPs, resulting in larger scale projects providing a greater resource impact.

5.6 Beyond the Pond

- Support charitable, educational, and scientific purposes related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish and aquatic habitats in the United States through the NFHP by providing fundraising and fiscal services to the National Fish Habitat Board and FHP chapters recognized by Beyond the Pond.
- Support the NFHP by providing fundraising tools for the National Fish Habitat Board and FHP chapters such as training, online donation capabilities, or other opportunities.
- In all activities and respects, Beyond the Pond will advance the NFHP and the FHPs. In no manner may the funds raised by Beyond the Pond be used to support any organization that is not a member of the NFHP or a FHP approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

6 Reporting

6.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop and implement a strategy (including funding) to support development of a “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report to Congress, States, and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the NFHP Board. The Board’s Science and Data Committee completed 2010 and 2015 reports and future reports are anticipated on a periodic basis.

6.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Coordinate and compile information on outputs (conservation activities) and outcomes (changes in habitat condition) for reporting to the Board and stakeholders.

6.3 Federal Agency

- Communicate NFHP implementation and outcomes with other programs within the respective agency and externally with other partners..
- Report to the Federal Caucus on issues NFHP/FHPs are facing.

6.4 State Agency

- Provide input to project-specific reports and implementation of a NFHP-funded project where appropriate.

6.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the distribution of report information to other parties and organizations for educational and potential funding purposes.
- Use the report as a reference for discussion with elected officials as evidence of the value realized from public funding for water resources.

6.6 Beyond the Pond

- Provide an Annual Report of Activities to the National Fish Habitat Board and FHPs.
- Board of Directors ensures that Beyond the Pond stays in compliance with Federal laws.

7 Recognition and Development of FHPs

7.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing FHPs.
- Develop and amend, as appropriate, criteria for recognition of FHPs. The Board shall distribute the criteria, establish a process for parties to use in seeking recognition as a FHP, and maintain a publicly accessible registry of recognized FHPs. Such criteria shall include provisions to promote transparency and the highest standards of ethical conduct in the decision-making of the Board regarding recognition of FHPs.
- Develop and amend, as appropriate, a strategy to encourage the formation of FHPs. This strategy will be updated periodically to include new information on fish habitat status and the status of existing FHPs.
- .

7.2 State Agency

- Those state agencies within the scope of a proposed (new) FHP will provide feedback to the Board (upon request) regarding the need, expected benefits, and tradeoffs of establishing a new FHP.
-

8 Evaluating Performance

8.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for FHPs and facilitate Fish Habitat Partnership adaptation of these guidelines for their unique systems.
- The Board has responsibility to oversee and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan through the FHPs.
 - The Board will monitor the performance and needs of FHPs nationwide, and will update this Guidance as needed to address changing conditions.
 - Monitoring by the Board is intended to be supportive, not burdensome, to FHP operations, participation, and innovation.
 - Recognized FHPs will be re-evaluated by the Board, at an interval of every three years, to confirm that they continue to meet the criteria in this guidance.

8.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality.

8.3 Federal Agency

- Agencies will be informed about how FHPs perform in project completion and functionality by the NFHP Board.

8.4 State Agency

- Upon request, provide feedback to the Board on the performance, effectiveness, and communication of FHPs.

8.5 Non-Government Organization

- Participate by providing input to the evaluation process and the Action Plan. Assist in the re-evaluation process and work with individual FHPs as requested.

8.6 Beyond the Pond

- Periodic evaluation reporting for Beyond the Pond will be determined and set by the Board of Directors for Beyond the Pond in coordination with the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Beyond the Pond is also required to provide reporting to the IRS and is subject to independent audits.

9 Project Implementation

9.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Carry out such administrative, organizational, or procedural matters as are necessary or proper.

9.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Guide, facilitate, support, or implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

- Provide leadership that develops projects at regional and local levels
- Work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination and improve results
- Engage key audiences and the general public to build support for fish habitat conservation
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners
- Collaboratively develop a compelling strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound
- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships
- Use adaptive management principles including evaluation of project success and functionality
- Develop appropriate regional habitat evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures

9.3 Federal Agency¹

- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when issuing permits to states or private entities when such permits may influence aquatic habitat.
- May help with implementation: project oversight, permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

9.4 State Agency

- In concert with other partners, work to develop or support the development and implementation of projects selected for funding as resources allow.

9.5 Non-Government Organization

- The non-profit organizations, both directly and indirectly, work to develop, or support the development of projects selected and funded by the Board.

9.6 Beyond the Pond

- Ensure that any grants or projects implemented through Beyond the Pond remain in accordance with Partnership priorities.

10 Legislation

10.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Non-Federal members of the Board may educate or inform legislative process
- Non-Federal members provide support to the Legislative Team.

10.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Non-Federal members may educate or inform legislative process.

10.3 Federal Agency

- Works with Federal Caucus, and other partners, but does not lobby.

10.4 State Agency

- Within the scope of existing policies and as resources allow, work through state agency associations (AFWA, WAFWA) to develop or provide comment to the Board on proposed legislation to advance NFHP goals.

10.5 Non-Government Organization

- The Board, and governmental organization members, are significantly restricted in their ability to attempt to directly influence lawmakers or pending legislation that may be of vital interest. Non-profit organizations fill an important and necessary niche within the Board through their legally protected ability to more actively engage elected representatives regarding issues of interest, and to directly participate and influence legislative acts. These activities may occur at the national, state, or local levels.
- Non-profit organizations also have the opportunity in many cases to organize and mobilize grassroots support for issues of importance through guidance and training for actions such as writing letters, and contacting their elected officials to schedule a meeting to discuss a specific topic.

10.6 Beyond the Pond

- Incorporated as a 501(c)3, Beyond the Pond is not active in legislation efforts of the NFHP.

Source Material

- Articles of Incorporation of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc., May 27, 2014.
- Bylaws of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc.
- [Charter of the National Fish Habitat Board](#). Adopted by the National Fish Habitat Board on September 22, 2006. Revised April 19, 2007, and October 13, 2010.
- Draft language from National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. Specifically, S. 659 –Crapo Amendment #1. Dated January 19, 2016.
- [Evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership Performance](#). Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, January 14, 2015.
- Member Guide For the National Fish Habitat Board, 2017.
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the US Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce for Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Effective March 27, 2012 – March 27, 2017.
- [National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition](#). Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC. 40 pp. 2012.
- Notice of Responsibility and Expectations of Chapters of the National Fish Habitat Fund
- [Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships](#). Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, October 8, 2008.
- State of Beyond the Pond – 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization to benefit the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Appendix – National Fish Habitat Board Committees

Four standing committees operate under the Board’s purview. These committees accomplish specific tasks undertaken by the Board and report back to the Board as necessary.

Science & Data Committee

The Science and Data Committee’s purpose is to provide scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals and objectives of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) in a scientifically sound and strategic manner.

Duties and roles of the Committee’s co-chairs and members include:

- Provide advice to the Board on setting future science and data priorities.
- Develop strategies for executing and implementing Board science and data priorities by ensuring the direction, purpose, and needs for future national assessments are well-defined.
- Oversee, coordinate, and review the development of the national fish habitat assessment including, but not limited to, assisting the assessment teams with relevant contacts, data acquisition, and expertise as needed.
- Provide expert advice and support on habitat and data issues to the Board, National Assessment Teams, and Fish Habitat Partnerships to ensure scientific data conformity and coordination between FHPs, partner agencies, and the Science and Data Committee.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee’s role is to support the partnership by sustaining critical communications needs and initiatives. The Communications Committee plays an essential role in crafting the messages that raise awareness about the partnership and help build a community of support for fish habitat conservation.

Partnerships Committee

The Partnerships Committee serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Budget and Finance Committee

This committee works with and supports the Board in fiscal matters affecting the function of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, including the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships. The committee reports to the Board with recommendations for Board actions related to budgets, funding priorities, fiscal needs, and strategies to expand funding for Board functions and FHP projects and programs.

In addition to standing committees, the Board appoints ad hoc committees to address specific needs. As of July 2015, the following committees are active:

- *10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee*, created to help look for opportunities to promote and identify resources to celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (April 24, 2016). The Steering Committee developed a

communications strategy that includes events where the National Fish Habitat Partnership could be recognized beginning in 2016 and through April 2017.

- *Marketing Team*, charged with leading the creation of an educational and outreach campaign to raise awareness of the critically important aquatic habitat conservation work being implemented through the National Fish Habitat Partnership. This group also helped to form marketing guidance and principals for Beyond the Pond and communications and marketing efforts to connect the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond.
- *Legislative Team*, made-up of a coalition of non-Federal members of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, this team seeks the passage of National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation, which will codify and strengthen the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Versions of the National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation have been introduced in the previous four sessions of Congress.

Title: Budget and Finance Committee Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of Multistate Conservation Grant process and timeline

Background:

The FHPs of the National Fish Habitat Partnership through the Board have applied for Multistate Grant funding through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Similar FHP Applications have been funded in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. In 2015 the FHPs agreed to apply collectively through the Board for these funds for three years. The current 2018 application is the last year of the agreement.

2018 Multistate Timeline:

- April: Preparation of Letter of Intent (LOI) application and review by participating FHPs and Partnerships Committee/Board Staff.
- May: LOI submitted to National Grants Committee
- June/July: Response expected from National Grants Committee regarding recommendation to submit a full proposal.
- August: Full proposals are due August 4 (if invited to submit).
- September: Grant submissions are voted upon for funding by National Grants Committee at AFWA Annual Meeting, September 13.
- February – April 2018 allocations are typically received.

Next Steps:

- Evaluate approach for future Multistate Grant funding at fall 2017 Board meeting.

Board Book Material:

Tab 5b Letter of Intent 2018 NFHP Final



2018 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Announcement

****Submission Deadline: 5:00pm Eastern Time on May 5th, 2017**

THE LETTER OF INTENT

(Limit – 3 pages)

Applicant Information

1. **Full Legal Name of Organization:** National Fish Habitat Board. If awarded, the grant will be administered on behalf of the National Fish Habitat Board by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1100 First Street NE, Suite 825, Washington DC, 20002

1. **Organization Website URL:** <http://fishhabitat.org>
2. **Lead Applicant's Contact Information:**
Mr. Tom Champeau, Chief (Inland Fisheries), Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Chair, National Fish Habitat Board
c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Email: tom.champeau@myfwc.com
Phone Number: 850-556-7684

3. **Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigators(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable)**
Gary Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Ryan Roberts, National Fish Habitat Board Communications Coordinator

4. **Have you applied for MSCGP funding before? (Yes)**

5. **If yes, was/were your previous proposal(s) funded? (Yes)**

6. **Date(s) of Previous Applications(s) from the most recent 3 years (if applicable) 2017, 2016, 2015**

Program Eligibility

9. **Organization Information:**
 - a. **Applicant Classification:** Nongovernmental Organization
 - b. **Nongovernmental Organization Classification:** 501(c) 6
10. **State Benefit Requirement:** a. all 50 states
11. **States Benefitted**
 - a. States
 - b. USFWS Regions
 - c. Regional Associations
12. **Primary National Conservation Need (NCN) Addressed**

NCN #14: Broadening Conservation Partnerships through the National Fish Habitat Partnership
13. **Terms and Conditions.** *Use of MSCGP Grants - All applicants must ensure that their proposed project does not fund, in whole or in part, an activity that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or taking of sport fish. If you accept these terms, please state "I agree with the above terms and conditions."*

Project Information

14. **Project Title: Conservation Collaboration across the U.S. through the National Fish Habitat Partnership**
15. **Project Length: (1 year) (Final year of three year application)**
16. **Funding Source.** Funding Source: _____% WR 100% SFR
17. **Funding Requested.** (MSCGP Grants are funded only for 1 year): \$209,960.00
18. **Estimate of Partnership Funds/Existing Assets to be Leveraged (if applicable)**

\$1 Million
19. **Problem and Needs to be addressed (150 words):**

Waterways, healthy habitat, and thriving fish populations are vital to the well-being of American society, providing clean water, food, and recreation. Healthy waters sustain their ecological functions and resilience while meeting the economic and social needs of society. Unfortunately, in many places around the United States, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline. This is a particular concern to the 48 million recreational anglers who pursue fish and too many others who depend upon fish and shellfish for sustenance and commerce. Nearly 40 percent of the nation's freshwater fish species are considered at risk or vulnerable to extinction. Through the

efforts of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, established in 2006 our 20 partnerships established regionally are collaborating on efforts to stop and reverse declines and impairment of fish habitat through voluntary, non-regulatory efforts.

20. Summary of Proposed Solution (200 words):

The National Fish Habitat Partnership brings a focused and coordinated approach to conserving, rehabilitating, and enhancing the nation's aquatic habitats under the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This proposal strengthens that approach by linking the oversight responsibility of the Board and the operational responsibility of the FHPs to achieve national and regional science and data driven conservation goals established by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan 2nd Edition (2012). Through collaborative projects, partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Partnership are compounding their efforts in maximizing project potential, reach and ultimately successful conservation outcomes through this project.

In general, this project will support activities of the Fish Habitat Partnerships that will help to achieve four of the objectives in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition:

1. **Achieve measurable habitat conservation results** through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities.
2. **Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation** by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities.
3. **Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment**
4. **Communicate the conservation outcomes**

21. Implementation, Outreach and Communication of the results: (100 words)

The partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Partnership are experienced in collaborating on specific projects that meet common goals and have successfully received funding, disseminated results and promoted conservation outcomes to lawmakers, state and federal agencies and the National Fish Habitat Board in previous years. This proposal is an effort to continue this critical work through funding unmet needs of partnerships and fulfill their intent of maximizing the reach of federal funding in project collaboration. The partnerships involved in this proposal have established strong networks of communication and outreach to help spread the message of conservation success implemented through the MSCG program.

Budget

ATTACHMENT 1 – Sample Budget:

The Grants Committee is only considering funding for 2018 activities at this time.

*P.F: Partnership Funds – projects are not required to provide partnership funds for the multistate conservation grant program, however higher consideration is given to P.F when 2 or more projects score the same.

Budget Reflects indirect cost rate of 20%

	Fish Habitat Partnerships	MSCGP	P.F.*	Total
AFWA	Program Support	\$24,000.00		\$24,000.00
Eastern U.S.	Atlantic Coastal FHP, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	\$36,000.00		\$36,000.00
Western U.S.	Desert FHP Western Native Trout Initiative	\$18,000.00		\$18,000.00
Midwest U.S.	Driftless Area Restoration Effort	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Great Lakes	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	\$18,000.00		\$18,000.00
U.S.	Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
California	California Fish Passage Forum Western Native Trout Initiative	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Hawaii	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Pacific NW	Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership	\$12,800.00		\$12,800.00

Budget Breakdown

Total request = \$209,960.00

Travel	12,000.00
Supplies	12,000.00
Contract	152,800.00
Total	176,800.00
Indirect	33,160.00
Grand Total	209,960.00

Title: Communications Committee Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** Communications Committee activities and timelines
- **Demonstration of NFHP Story Map**

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Board approved the following priorities for the Communications Committee in March. The Priority Actions section represents how we are working towards objectives and priorities.

Priority A: NFHP website services.

Priority B: Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and improving connections to Beyond the Pond.

Priority C: Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

Priority D: Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Priority E: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

Priority F: Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

Priority G: Increase outreach of Waters to Watch Campaign for its Ten Year Anniversary.

Priority Actions and Progress:

Priority A: Since March we have developed a Partnerships Resources page on the website and updated content. The Waters to Watch Archive on the website is nearly complete. We have also added social media icons for Facebook, twitter and YouTube on the website.

Priority B: We have our online donation page up and running for Beyond the Pond. We are running an ad for Beyond the Pond and NFHP in the ICast edition of Angling Trade Magazine.

Priority C: Since March we have managed to keep our newsletter database level with sign-ups. We typically have more additions to our newsletter later in the year through promotions for NFHP at events such as AFS. We still maintain an average open rate of 25% and have improved our link clicks from 3% to 10% in our last 3 emails. The additional link clicks within the newsletter drive traffic to www.fishhabitat.org.

Priority D: Working on planning and details for Video highlighting 10-year Anniversary of NFHP. In terms of the limited budget, we will be allocating much of our efforts to shooting interviews with the Board and partners. We will use primarily conservation project video that we currently have for the project

Priority E: Working with the legislative team to assess progress towards the reintroduction of National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation in the 115th Congress. The Communications Committee developed a toolkit of resources and fact sheets for the NFHP program.

Priority F: The Communications Committee held a spring conference call, (April) and discussed development of a story map for NFHP. We also discussed the Waters to Watch campaign for 2017, which will be announced in July. The Communications strategy will be evaluated later this summer. If changes are suggested we will bring back to the Board for endorsement in October.



United States Department of the Interior

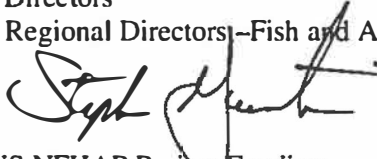
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20240



FWS/AFAC/FAC DCN 065707

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Assistant Regional Directors—Fish and Aquatic Conservation

From: Director 

Subject: FY17 FWS NFHAP Project Funding

Working with others to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and their habitats is an essential component of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) mission. To help achieve this, the FWS is committed to supporting the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP or Action Plan) and the Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) that implement it. The Action Plan is a science-based, voluntary effort to address fish and aquatic habitat issues across the US. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, the FWS is providing \$3,171,875 to support cost-shared, strategic fish and aquatic habitat projects that address the goals of the Action Plan.

Eighteen FHPs will receive \$75,000 each in stable operational support totaling \$1,350,000. The remaining \$1,821,875 of the project funds will be distributed based on each FHP's performance level (PL) score for FY17. Each FHP's PL score was determined by applying the FWS's NFHAP Allocation Methodology, adopted in December 2013 and revised in November 2015. The resulting PL scores and respective funding amounts for each FHP can be found in the attachment.

FWS funds will be used to support FHP operations, conduct aquatic habitat assessments, and implement on-the-ground conservation projects that address the goals of the Action Plan and align with the mission of the FWS. Specifically, the FHP's will use the funds to implement proposed projects identified in their Work Plan and Accomplishment Reports. In case of delays, funds may be carried over to FY18 and used as soon as possible. Additionally, all projects will be tracked and project accomplishments will be reported in the FWS's Fisheries Information System—Accomplishments Module.

The FWS looks forward to continuing its support of the Action Plan and partnering with the FHPs. If you have questions regarding FY17 Action Plan allocations, please contact David Hoskins, Assistant Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation, at 703-358-2250 or David_Hoskins@fws.gov.

Attachments

Table 1. Number of Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) at each performance level (Level) and respective project funding amount for FY17

Performance Levels	Number of FHPs at each Level	Project Funding at each Level
Level 1	3 FHPs	\$35,723
Level 2	11 FHPs	\$107,169
Level 3	3 FHPs	\$178,615

Table 2. FY17 performance levels and the corresponding funding amount for each FHP

Lead FWS Region	Fish Habitat Partnership Name	Performance Level ¹	Total FY17 FHP Funding ²
1	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	1	\$110,723
	Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
2	Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	1	\$110,723
3	Driftless Area Restoration Effort	2	\$182,169
	Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin	1	\$110,723
	Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	N/A	\$75,000
	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	2	\$182,169
	Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
4	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	2	\$182,169

¹ FHP performance levels are applicable to the 2017 federal fiscal year, only

² FHP funding amounts include \$75,000 of operational support for each Fish Habitat Partnership

Lead FWS Region	Fish Habitat Partnership Name	Performance Level ¹	Total FY17 FHP Funding ²
5	Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	3	\$253,615
6	Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
7	Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
	Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	3	\$253,615
	Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169
8	California Fish Passage Forum	2	\$182,169
	Western Native Trout Initiative	3	\$253,615
HQ	Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership	2	\$182,169

Total FY17 NFHAP Project Funding \$3,171,875