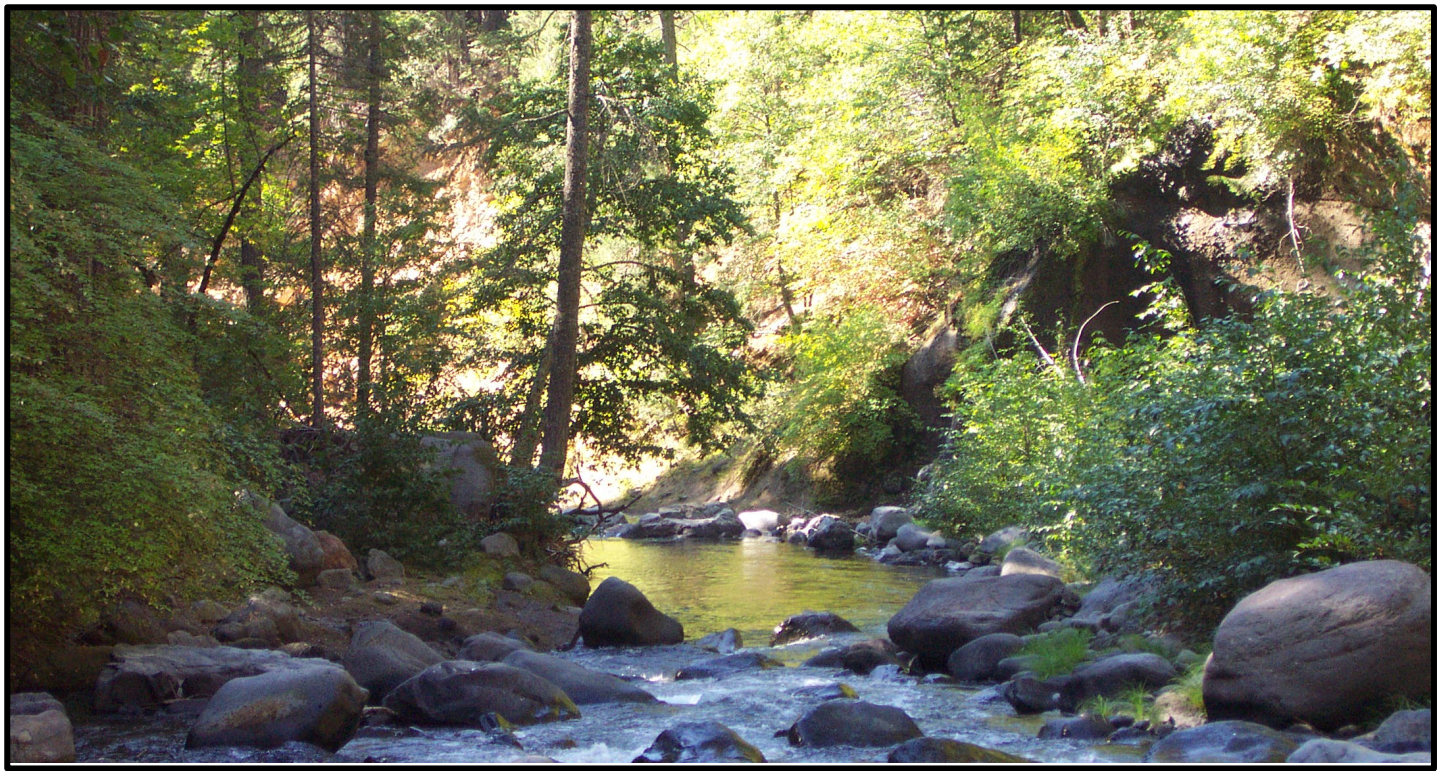
NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board
Hosted by:

TROUT UNLIMITED

Meeting Book for The National Fish Habitat Board

March 21, 2017

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
March 21, 2017 Draft Agenda
Trout Unlimited
1777 N. Kent Street, Suite 100
Arlington, Virginia
Conference line: 866-560-0760 **Passcode:** 2832957
Web link:
https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=meaae90c679bcfde3eec88d96f0494026

8:45 – 9:00	Coffee and Bagels		
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping *Desired outcomes:* • **Board action** to approve draft March agenda • **Board action** to approve draft January conference call summary • **Board review** of 2017 meeting schedule and member guide.	Tab 1	Tom Champeau (*Board Chair, FWCC)*
9:15 – 9:45	Trout Unlimited Initiatives *Desired outcomes:* • **Board awareness** of Trout Unlimited fish habitat initiatives nationally		Chris Wood (Board Member, *Trout Unlimited*)
9:45- 10:00	Executive Leadership Team Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of progress related to identifying a Tribal representative • **Board awareness** of members whose terms are slated for review in summer 2017	Tab 2	Ron Regan (*Board member, AWFA*)
10:00 – 10:15	Secretarial MOU Update *Desired outcome:* **Board awareness** of MOU Renewal Status.		Emily Greene (*Board Staff, ERT-NMFS*)
10:15 – 10:30	Break		
10:30 – 12:00	NFHP Science and Data Assessment *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of SDC activities post-October workshop and meeting • **Board action** on options and recommendation for the purpose and need of a national assessment	Tab 3	Gary Whelan (*SDC Co-Chair, MI DNR*)
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 – 1:20	Communications Committee Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of communications activities of NFHP, including 10-Year Anniversary developments	Tab 4	Ryan Roberts *(NFHP staff, AFWA)*

1:20 – 1:35	Beyond the Pond Update *Desired outcomes:* • **Board awareness** of Beyond the Pond progress	Tab 5	Tom Champeau (*NFHP Chair, FWCC*) and Ryan Roberts (*NFHP staff, AFWA*)
1:35 – 1:50	Partnerships Committee Update *Desired outcomes:* • **Board awareness** of the Committee's recent activities • **Board awareness** to of working interdependence document progress and purpose.	Tab 6	Stan Allen *(Board Member, PSMFC)* and Bryan Moore *(Board Member proxy TU)*
1:50 – 2:30	Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of the accomplishments and challenges facing the Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP).		Jeff Hastings *(Driftless Area Restoration Effort Coordinator)*
2:30 – 2:50	Forest Service National Fisheries Strategy (Draft) *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of the draft goals and objectives		Dan Shively *(Board member proxy, USFS)*
2:50 – 3:05	Break		
3:05- 3:15	USFWS FY17 Funding Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of USFWS FY17 allocation process and next steps		David Hoskins (*Board member proxy, USFWS*)
3:15 -3:45	Budget and Finance Committee Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of 2017 budget status • **Board awareness** of the 2018 MSCGP process and timeline	Tab 7	Tom Champeau (*Board Chair, FWCC)* and Ryan Roberts (*NFHP Staff AFWA*)
3:45 – 4:15	Legislative Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of the status of the Act • **Board awareness** of final transition doc and use	Tab 8	Mike Leonard (*Board Member, ASA*) and Christy Plumer (*Board Member, TRCP)*
4:15 - 4:50	Blue Ribbon Panel Progress Update *Desired outcome:* • **Board awareness** of the purpose of the panel and recent activities		Sean Saville *(Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)*
4:50 – 5:00	Meeting Wrap-Up		
5:00	Adjourn		
5:00-6:00	Informal Social Gathering at Trout Unlimited		

Draft National Fish Habitat Board Webinar Summary: January 18, 2017

Members present:

Stan Allen (PSMFC)
Doug Beard (USGS)
Benita Best-Wong (EPA)
Tom Bigford (AFS)
Doug Boyd (SBPC)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)
David Hoskins *for* Dan Ashe (USFWS)
Mike Leonard (ASA)
Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)
Bryan Moore for Chris Wood (TU)
Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)

Members absent:

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA), Mike Andrews (TNC), Jim Leach (MAFWA), Ron Regan (AFWA), Ed Schriever (WAFWA), Rob Harper (USFS), and Sean Stone (CCA).

Approved by consensus:

- January Webinar meeting agenda with the following changes: 1) moved up ELT and Legislative updates in the agenda; and 2) added USFWS FY17 Project Funding Method agenda item.
- October Board meeting summary with the following changes: 1) deleted the task "Federal Caucus should develop a charter or Terms of Reference for Board approval (including membership)."; and 2) added "One suggestion was made that the Federal Caucus should develop a charter or Terms of Reference for Board approval (including membership), but consensus was not reached on next steps." to Federal Caucus section.

Approved by motion:

- Motion to accept Budget and Priorities by Chris Moore, seconded by Doug Boyd.

Updates and discussions:

- Housekeeping – The Board was made aware of the dates (March 21-22) and location (Trout Unlimited) of the next meeting. It was noted that lodging information for this meeting would be sent out soon.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – Recent decisions of the ELT were made known to the Board, including: Benita Best-Wong as the new EPA representative; Christy Plumer as the new Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership representative; and Jim Leach as the new Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies representative. The Tribal representative resigned from the Board and a replacement was in the process of being identified. The Board was notified that by March, the NMFS will take the lead in bringing together USFWS and Forest Service staff to review and redraft the MOU recognizing that it will not be signed by March. NMFS will also reach out to EPA to determine if it would like to be added to the MOU.
- Legislation Update – The Board was notified that though the legislation was close to being passed, the National Fish Habitat legislation did not pass in the last Congress. They are now considering the best course of action to get it across the finish line and introspectively thinking about what was done well and what should be done differently. The Legislative Team was thanked for their efforts.
- Budget and Priorities – The Board reviewed the funding sources within the 2017 budget and major 2017 priorities, including unfunded items (ie. expenses outside the budget). It was noted that the USFWS was operating under a continuing resolution, and could only provide the amount shown as income in the USWFS column ($64K). It was noted that the dollar amount showing for future assessment work (Priority P) in the unfunded items section, was not a commitment from NOAA. It was clarified that the funds showing as income in the USGS column ($25k) have been provided.

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- National Fish Habitat Assessment – A survey on the National Assessment was provided to and completed by the Science and Data Committee (SDC) and that a similar survey will be provided to FHPs and the Board. It was noted that a draft vision, purpose, and scope document had been created based upon results from the SDC survey and staff review, as a discussion document. Two webinars to rollout the National Assessment to FHPs and other interested parties had been held with the first on January 6th focused on the inland component of the assessment and the second on January 13th, addressed the inland and coastal components of the assessment. At its height, the first webinar had an audience of over 70, and the second had over 50 in attendance at its height. These webinars opened the door to new opportunities for using the assessment that perhaps weren't being communicated to the FHPs and a number of FHPs have come forward to ask for further elaboration and guidance on use. Another webinar event focused on case histories is in planning and a ½ day session at the Annual American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting where users can bring habitat assessment analysis questions and the Assessment Team will try to provide insights on how to solve these questions using the information in the National Assessment. Additionally, they are working on getting a tool for unique queries up and running within the web report. It was noted that the committee is well on its way for meeting the Board request for an Assessment vision and purpose by March.

- Next Administration Checklist – An overview of the next administration document was provided to the Board. The document includes: language on Partnership efforts; recreational fishing as the fabric of the Nation; and an action item to pass legislation that would put NFHP on the map. Staff has spoken with the Legislative Team leader about getting the document to the right people in the new administration. Several Federal Board members present on the call asked that the document indicate that it was not prepared by any Federal members of the Board and to let the notes reflect that this was a vote of non-federal Board members. A second request was made that the last bullet should reflect previous work with legislators to introduce legislation. And a third request was made that language regarding commercial statistics be included. It was noted that it is unknown how this administration will perceive commerce versus budget. Board members may provide additional comments on the next administration transition document for the next week and half following the Board call.

- NFHP 10-Year Anniversary Update – It was noted that a 10-year NFHP Anniversary Communication Plan had been developed and that a lot of these items had been completed with very limited funding. They are currently working towards a potential funding request with a donor to create a video and podcast for the work of the FHPs as well as some radio slots. They have also discussed promoting the work of FHPs, such as banners in stores or a round-up to the next dollar campaign. They are also working with U.S. Forest Service to have an event that lines up with National Fishing Week. A Beyond the Pond update will be provided at the March Board meeting.

- USFWS FY17 Project Funding Method – There was discussion with regard to what input Board members should be providing and whether input should be provided by individual Board members or a single set of comments from the Board as a whole. It was determined that individual Board members and the Partnerships Committee could provide comments. To facilitate this effort, NFHP staff would send the Dropbox link containing FHP submissions, in addition to the USFWS evaluation criteria, to Board members and the Partnerships Committee. [Please note that it was later determined that to ensure a fair evaluation process, review should be provided by Board members only, and as such the link to FHP submissions would not be provided to the Partnerships Committee].

Action items:

- Staff and legislative team will revise next administration transition document to include: information on previous legislative work; a commercial fishing statistic; and a note that it was not prepared by Federal members of the Board.
- Staff will send a Dropbox link to FHP submissions and evaluation criteria to Board members after the call. Board members seeking to provide input on the FHP submissions for the USFWS FY17 Project Funding Process should do so by February 6th. Input should be sent to Julie Henning (julie_henning@fws.org)

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copying Cecilia Lewis (cecilia_lewis@fws.org) and Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov).
- If any Board member has thoughts on a Tribal representative for the Board, please send to staff (rroberts@fishwildlife.org).

Future Board meetings (2017):
- March 21-22 (Rosslyn, VA)
- Summer Introductory Call for new members (Date TBD)
- June 28 WebEx
- October 18-19 (South Dakota)

Board approved documents:
- October Board meeting summary with changes detailed in the "Approved by Consensus" section above.

Additional attendees:
Karin Eldridge (USFWS)
Jessica Graham (SARP)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Lisa Havel (ACFHP)
Julie Henning (USFWS)
Heidi Keuler (Fishers and Farmers FHP)
Mallory Martin (South Atlantic LCC)
Doug Norton (EPA)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Bill Rice (USFWS)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)
Therese Thompson (WNTI)
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)

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National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2017-2018

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2017	March 21 (Tues)	Rosslyn, VA	Trout Unlimited Offices
	June 28 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 18 – 19 (Wed-Thurs)	Rapid City, South Dakota	
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	

Total: 46 meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date

2017 Fish Habitat Partnership Conference Calls Bi-monthly, (6) calls total **2:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET**	
January 26, 2017 (5 weeks from March Board meeting)	Lead: EBTJV, GPFHP, MGLP
March 30, 2017	Lead: CFPF/PMEP, HFHP, PLFHP
May 25, 2017 (4 weeks from June Board call)	Lead: DFHP, SEAK, WNTI
July 27, 2017	Lead: FFP, GLFHP, KPFHP, MatSu
September 14, 2017 (5 weeks from October Board call)	Lead: DARE, ORBFHP, RFHP
November 16, 2017 (9 weeks from Jan Board call)	Lead: ACFHP, SARP, SWAK

Conference Call Information

Conference line: 866-560-0760
Passcode: 2832957

Direct any questions regarding the scheduled conference calls to Cecilia Lewis.

Cecilia Lewis
National Coordinator
Cecilia_Lewis@fws.gov
703-358-2102

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Member Guide

For the
National Fish
Habitat Board

2017

Board Member Guide Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your appointment to the National Fish Habitat Board. This manual provides background for you in your role as a Board member, including links to major NFHP products, policy and technical documents and the Board's charter in the appendix.

The 22-member Board was established to promote, oversee and coordinate the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Partnership) and implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Plan). You will serve alongside aquatic conservation leaders from across the United States. The Board includes members from federal, state and tribal governments as well as conservation organizations and industry and is supported by staff and committees.

This Board sets priorities in line with the Action Plan, makes decisions on budgets, approves and guides Fish Habitat Partnerships, develops national measures of success and evaluation criteria for partnerships, and reports to Congress, states, and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the Partnership. April 2016 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Partnership, and the start of an exciting year of activity which has included the adoption of a new Partnership website and 10-year anniversary logo, the roll-out of a web-based interactive National Fish Habitat Assessment, and retrospectives on the 10-Waters to Watch program.

Membership on the Board highlights you and your organization as a leader in fish habitat conservation, and gives you an opportunity to contribute to the Partnership's vision of "healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people, and healthy economies". Your work with the Board and the Partnership will have an impact on aquatic habitats in our country for generations to come.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Sincerely,

Tom Champeau

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Determined to reverse the declines of America's fish habitats, leaders from state and federal agencies, tribes, foundations, conservation and angling groups, businesses and industries joined together to create the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Plan). The approach is similar to the effort undertaken for waterfowl and their habitat in the 1980s through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Development of the Plan began in 2001 when an *ad hoc* group of fisheries interests, led by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, explored the concept of developing a partnership for fish habitat. The effort built momentum in 2003 when the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies issued an endorsement and agreed to take a leadership role. The Association appointed a diverse work group that drafted the Plan in 2005-06. The Plan was signed on April 24, 2006 by the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce and the President and Executive Director of the Association.

In September 2006, the National Fish Habitat Board held its inaugural meeting and approved its charter under the chairmanship of John Cooper (South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks). In subsequent meetings, the Board developed policies and guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships and formally recognized Partnerships that met the criteria; approved a framework for assessing the condition of the nation's fish habitats; and issued the report *Through a Fish's Eye: The Status of Fish Habitats in the United States* (first in 2010, and updated in 2015). The Board annually bestows National Fish Habitat Awards to honor individuals or entities that demonstrate extraordinary dedication, innovation or excellence in aquatic resource conservation and annually announces "Ten Waters to Watch", which represent a snapshot of key conservation efforts in progress. Tom Champeau (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) has chaired the Board since October 2015.

Under the leadership of the Board, the National Fish Habitat Partnership has grown to include thousands of organizations and individuals in all 50 states, and has met the objectives of the original Plan. In July 2012 the Board issued the 2nd Edition of the Plan, identifying new objectives to build upon past progress.

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan encompasses five important lessons that emerge from America's past efforts to protect and restore fish habitat:

- be strategic rather than merely opportunistic
- address the causes of and processes behind fish habitat decline, rather than the symptoms
- provide increased and sustained investment to allow for long-term success
- monitor and be accountable for scientifically sound and measurable results
- share information and knowledge at all levels from local communities to Congress

The Plan offers an unprecedented opportunity to meet the challenges of protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. The plan's vision of healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment and stewardship. This vision will result in local actions that yield measurable social, economic and ecological benefits — and more fish!

MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES
(from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition, July 2012)

Mission

The Mission of the National Fish Habitat Partnership is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. This mission will be achieved by:

- Supporting Fish Habitat Partnerships and ensuring their effectiveness.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of aquatic habitats
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats

Goals

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species

Objectives

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. Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2013.
3. Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities – especially young people – in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities
4. Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals.
5. Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation partners.

THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD

The Board consists of up to 22 members. Except those who serve by virtue of their office, members are appointed by the Board's Executive Leadership Team, consisting of the President and Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See the Board charter in Appendix B for details.

State Government Representatives

The Board includes **five state fish and wildlife agency representative** and the **Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**.

Federal Government Representatives

The Board includes up to **five federal agency representatives**. These include the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, who serve by virtue of their office.

Indian Tribal Representation

The Board includes **at least one representative from an Indian tribal or native Alaskan government**.

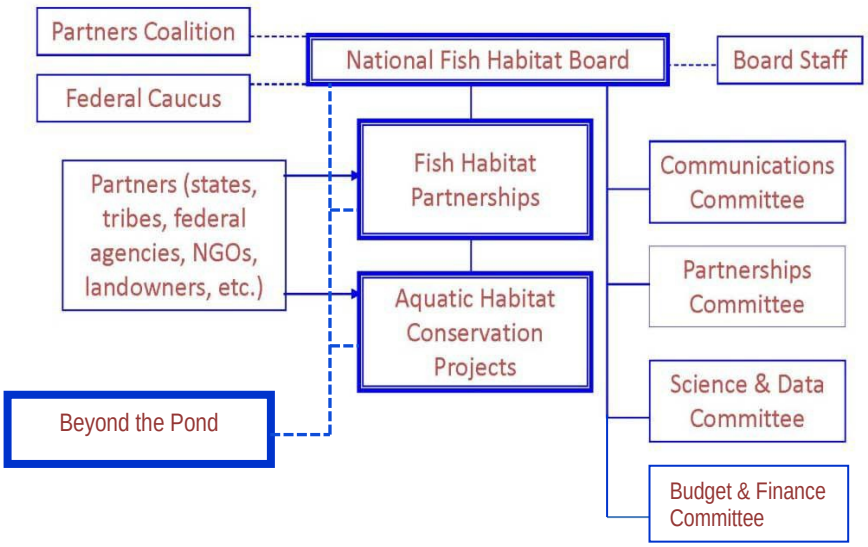
Non-Governmental Organizations

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** and the **American Fisheries Society** each nominate a representative for approval by the ELT.

Other Groups

The remaining **eight members are appointed from a range of interests** including: sportfishing, commercial fishing, sportfishing industry, academic, and land and aquatic resource conservation organizations. In addition, these members are appointed to ensure the Board includes a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations and a balance of freshwater and marine interests.

Figure 1. National Fish Habitat Partnership Structure



ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

General Board Position Description

Board members must be organized, proactive, analytical and creative thinkers, and should have excellent coalition building skills. Board members represent the views of their organization and sector, but must also be able to keep in mind the bigger picture, i.e. what's in it for all instead of what's in it for my group. They must be willing to invest time and energy in the Board and the Partnership, and participate in Board meetings to the best of their ability. We encourage all Board members to:

- advocate actively for the National Fish Habitat Partnership
- help the 20 board-approved Fish Habitat Partnerships leverage resources, and
- work to enhance collaboration among partners
- identify challenges facing fish habitats and resources to address the challenges.

Code of Conduct

Members appointed to the National Fish Habitat Board are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner using the highest principles, values, and standards, to guide their interactions and decisions as a Board member. Members should seek to guide the Partnership in a way that contributes to the welfare of its key stakeholders and respects the rights of all constituents affected by its operations.

Board Member Commitment

Members of the Board are expected to participate in three or more Board meetings per year (at least two in person and one conference call) plus related activities. While there are no specific time commitments, members should be willing to spend whatever time is necessary to become informed about agenda topics and engaged during the Board meeting discussions and decisions. Members should carefully review Board meeting briefing books, provided in advance of meetings.

Decision-Making Process

The Board strives to achieve consensus on all actions proposed. If consensus can't be achieved within the time frame allotted to the action on the agenda, it must be approved by the vote of two-thirds of all members present and voting, using Robert's Rules of Order. The Board may extend the discussion period for items on the agenda, or consider items not on the agenda for a meeting, provided that such changes to the agenda are approved by a vote at the time they are proposed. For more details, please see Appendix B.

Committees and Workgroups

Board members may be asked to serve on *ad hoc* committees or workgroups that are formed to accomplish specific tasks undertaken by the Board. Every Board member should expect to serve on one or more of these committees during his/her tenure as Board member.

Board Member Travel Expenses

The Board has travel assistance funding built-in to its budget annually for members to utilize if necessary for travel to and from Board meetings. Please contact Ryan Roberts to inquire about travel expenses.

Federal Agency Involvement on the Board

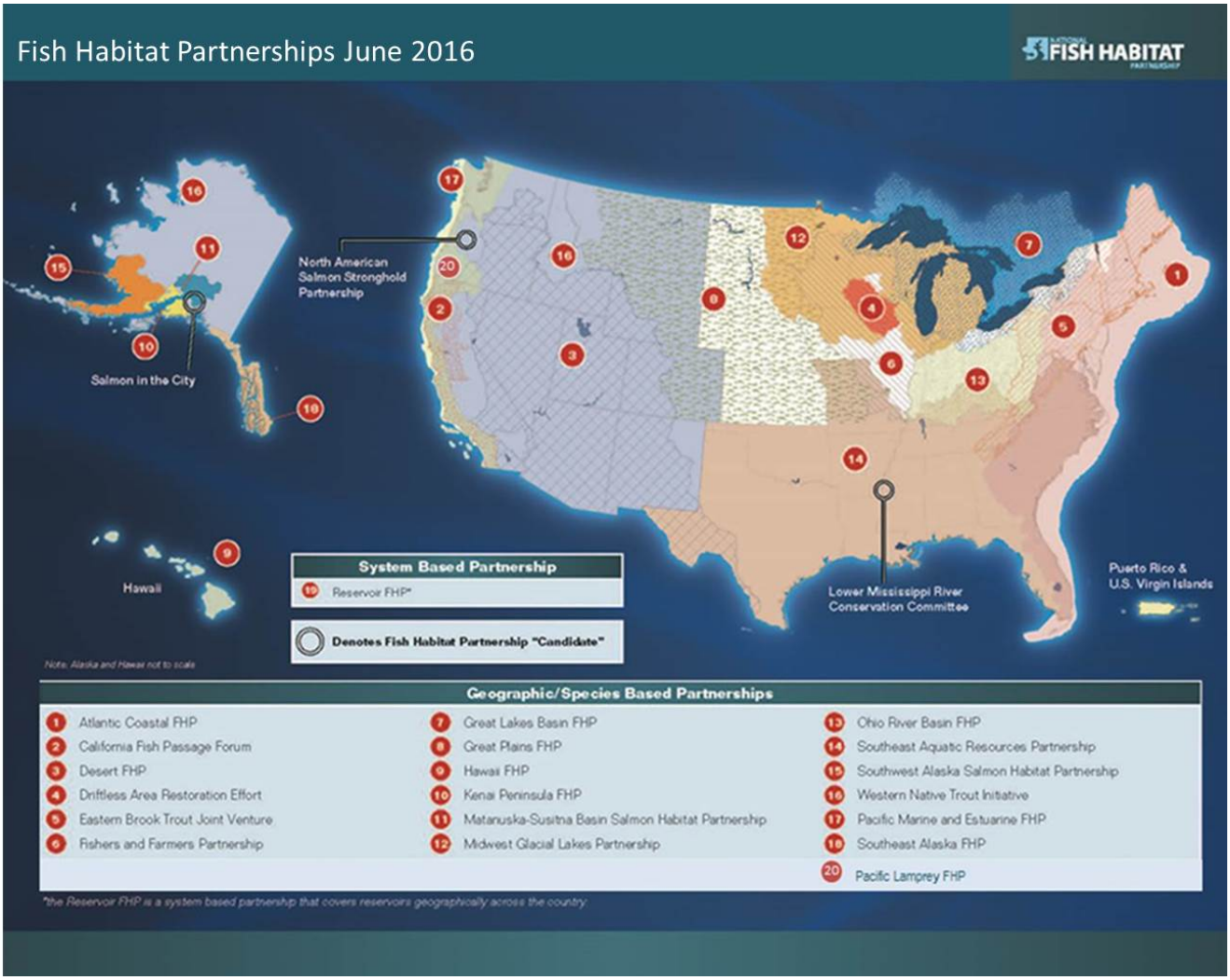
Federal employees serving as members of the Board may participate in discussions, offer proposed suggestions for Board actions, and advance the goal of further integrating agency programs with respect to fishery habitat conservation. This includes engaging in discussions of agency policy, advising other Board members about their own agency's goals and criteria in awarding funds, and commenting on proposed suggestions for program activities. In all cases, federal employees may offer to make recommendations to other officials within their own agencies regarding ideas and concepts discussed

during Board meetings and conferences.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provides an orderly procedure for federal agencies to seek advice and assistance from citizens and experts. Any time a federal agency intends to establish, control, or manage an advisory group that includes persons other than federal, state, tribal, or local government

employees operating in their official capacities, the agency must comply with FACA and implementation guidelines. The Board is not nominally or actually controlled by federal agencies; therefore, **the Board is not an "advisory committee" as defined by the Federal Advisory Committee Act**. State and private members maintain a leading, active role in the management and direction of the Board, and the Board is a collaborative undertaking, not predominately an advisory body to federal agencies.

Figure 2. The Fish Habitat Partnerships



FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS

Twenty Fish Habitat Partnerships are implementing aquatic habitat conservation projects across the nation based on their scientific assessments and strategic plans. Each Fish Habitat Partnership was recognized by the Board after demonstrating that it met the criteria established by the Board in the Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships. The 20 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships and three "Candidate" Fish Habitat Partnerships are shown in Figure 2.

PARTNERS COALITION

The Partner Coalition serves as an outlet for information-sharing on priorities, projects, and successes, while helping the Board to build a grassroots network of support for fish habitat conservation. The Coalition consists of individuals and organizations who sign up through the web site (fishhabitat.org).

FEDERAL CAUCUS

Several federal agencies contribute to the work of the Partnership, not just the agencies that are represented on the Board. The Federal Caucus was created in 2005 to facilitate interaction among federal agencies and with other partners by:

- providing communication links among federal agencies cooperating under the National Fish Habitat Partnership;
- providing a mechanism through which federal partners can jointly identify strategies and resources to support goals of the National Fish Habitat Partnership;
- ensuring that the National Fish Habitat Partnership helps agencies achieve their missions by enhancing partnerships and improving measurement of results and performance; and
- enhancing networking and collaboration among federal partners, the National Fish Habitat Board, and other partners implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The Federal Caucus meets as needed. In 2012, the Caucus was instrumental in achieving a Secretarial Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Partnership, signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior.

BUDGETING

Board Operations

The Board approves an annual budget that includes funding for staffing resources, the work of the science and data committee, communications products and programs, partnership coordination, and Board travel. The budget runs on a calendar year basis, and is approved each year in January.

The budget is recommended by Board staff, based on priorities of the Board. Board members guide the development of and approve Board priorities in line with the Action Plan objectives. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) serves as the fiduciary agent for the Board.

Revenues are received from federal sources, state agency contributions, Multistate Conservation Grants, and other grant sources. Typically, the USFWS provides funds to AFWA to support the Board's priorities, and also directly funds Board priorities for science and data needs and web site development after consultation with the Board. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) also directly fund Board priorities for science and data needs or offer inkind support. State agency funds are solicited on an *ad hoc* basis and are typically focused on key areas such as science and data support needs. Multistate Conservation Grants are dependent upon proposals making their way through a joint AFWA/USFWS process.

Fish Habitat Partnership Funding

Starting in FY 2014, the Service implemented a competitive, performance-based process to allocate project funds. Each year the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will distribute project funds to FHPs in two categories: 1) stable operational support and 2) competitive, performance-based funds to encourage strategic conservation delivery. All project funds in both categories must be accounted for in the Fisheries Information System annually.

Stable Operational Support
Stable operational support will be provided to FHPs at a level of $75,000/year. FHPs may use the funds for operations (coordination, outreach, travel, etc.) and/or for fish habitat conservation projects (habitat restoration, assessment, planning, etc.) to maximize conservation results, with no restrictions on how the funds are split between operations and projects. To receive stable operational support each year, a partnership must meet the criteria set by the National Fish Habitat Board for recognizing FHPs (see Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships) and must submit a Work Plan and Accomplishments Report.

Competitive, Performance-based Support
Competitive, performance-based funds consist of the remaining project funds spread across three performance levels. FHPs will be assigned a performance level based on their ability to meet an increasingly complex set of criteria. At each performance level, an FHP must meet *all* criteria in order to qualify for that performance level. The basis for assigning FHP performance levels will be 1) a work plan with a one-year planning horizon, detailing how the FHP and its partners propose to use FWS project funds and 2) an accomplishments report describing how the FHP has implemented projects in the previous three years.

BEYOND THE POND

Also known as the National Fish Habitat Fund, Beyond the Pond is 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 National Fish Habitat Partnership. It is governed by a Board of Directors and Bylaws separate from the National Fish Habitat Board, however at least three members of the Board of Directors of Beyond the Pond are selected from the non-federal membership of the National Fish Habitat Board. A Fish Habitat Partnership may seek chapter status with Beyond the Pond, at which point it may use the organization as a fiduciary agent. Visit the Beyond the Pond website for more information.

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.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD STAFF

The National Fish Habitat Board has a small staff that shares duties in support of Board efforts while also fulfilling specific roles. Shared duties are as follows:

- Prepare materials necessary for Board actions
- Provide strategic Planning recommendations to Board for Plan implementation, including staffing levels, restructuring of teams, adding new teams, or permanent staff support for teams.
- Support, and as appropriate, participate in Federal Caucus, Partners Coalition, and other stakeholder activities to insure consistency with Action Plan and implementation
- Provide assistance to sub-committees and work groups that are formed by the Board

The following individuals serve as staff to the Board:

- Cecilia Lewis, FWS, 703-358-2102, cecilia_lewis@fws.gov
- Emily Greene, NOAA Fisheries contractor, 301-427-8684, emily.greene@noaa.gov
- Gary Whelan, Michigan DNR, 517-373-6948, whelang@michigan.gov
- Peter Ruhl, USGS, 703-648-6841, pmruhl@usgs.gov
- Ryan Roberts, AFWA, 202-838-3466, rroberts@fishwildlife.org

Other individuals from partner agencies and organizations may also contribute to staffing the Board.

National Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinator – Cecilia Lewis, FWS

- Serve as the Board's liaison with Fish Habitat Partnerships and facilitate communication among the Partnerships
- Maintain and compile reports on accomplishments of Fish Habitat Partnerships
- Maintain database of contact and other information on recognized and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships
- Provide information and guidance to prospective Fish Habitat Partnerships
- Convene regular meetings of Federal agency personnel (the "Federal Caucus") to promote awareness, coordination, and Federal agency contributions to NFHAP activities
- Maintain database of Federal agency contact information and distribute information on activities of the Board and NFHAP partners
- Encourage Federal agencies to provide current contact information through the online Federal partners map

Board Coordination – Emily Greene, NOAA Fisheries contractor

- Coordinate communication with Board, Board staff, and among Board sub-committees.
- Work with Board staff, Board Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare materials and assist in running Board meeting s three times a year.
- Develop annual report to Board Chair each January summarizing Board activity during the past calendar year and highlighting any areas needing improvement

Science and Data Coordination – Gary Whelan, MI DNR and Peter Ruhl, USGS (Co-Chairs)

- Establish measurement criteria and reporting protocols
- Develop procedures and policies for reviewing science and data needs for NFHAP projects
- Work with and support Fish Habitat Partnerships in following NFHAP science and data policies and procedures
- Provide system classification and habitat assessment information
- Communication with and assistance to data systems manager for data bases, or links to other systems needed for system classification, habitat assessment, and existing priorities databases
- Produce and print Science and Data reports as directed by the Board
- Assist and coordinate with Science and Data Committee on issues relating to National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation

Program Manager – Ryan Roberts, AFWA/NFHP

- Receive and disseminate information to partners and stakeholders and among teams and the board as directed by the Board
- Produce information based materials for the public, partners and stakeholders as directed by the Board through core staff in support of other team functions
- Produce information for target audiences as directed by the Board
- Assist partners to communicate within organizations and agencies

- Coordinate communications for consistency and accuracy with Action Plan and Board directives with other partner and stakeholder communication leads
- Oversee development and maintain content of www.fishhabitat.org website and social media outlets
- Coordinate outreach materials for Action Plan Initiatives and Fish Habitat Partnerships as needed
- Tailor development functions to successfully implement and support Science/Data, Communication, Partnership, and Partner Outreach support and other Action Plan resource related needs to insure successful implementation consistent with Action Plan and Board direction
- Work with the legislative team on strategic planning for communications related materials to benefit the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act
- Actively coordinate with State fisheries coordinators on NFHAP communications materials relative to the States

MAJOR PRODUCTS, POLICY, AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

Information about the Board not covered in the above summary is included in the Board Charter which is included in this guide as Appendix B.

The following documents provide additional background and information on past guidance to the Fish Habitat Partnerships and serve as a record of major NFHP products and the Board's policy and technical positions. These will help provide new members with historical context and a foundation from which to work in order to advance the National Fish Habitat Partnership. For those documents which cannot be found on www.fishhabitat.org, please contact Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov) :

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2nd Ed.)
- Through a Fish's Eye: the Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2015 (November 2016)
- Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships (October 8, 2008)
- Recommended Strategic Plan Framework for Fish Habitat Partnerships (October 8, 2008)
- Process for Recognizing New Fish Habitat Partnerships (March 4, 2010)
- Guidance on the Use of the "National Fish Habitat Action Plan" Brand (October 7, 2009)
- A Framework for Assessing the Nation's Fish Habitats (October 2008)
- Final Interim Strategies and Targets for National Fish Habitat Action Plan (November 8, 2007)
- Through a Fish's Eye: the Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2010 (April 2011)
- Minimum Benchmark Set of Fish Habitat Project Prioritization Criteria (February 2013)
- Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation Form and Criteria (Approved January 2015)
- National Fish Habitat Conservation Strategies (February 2013)
- Budget and Finance Committee Charter (June 2016)

Appendix A

DEFINITIONS

National Fish Habitat Partnership
The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an organization established to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal funds with private funds to achieve the greatest impact on the landscape through priority conservation projects. The National Fish Habitat Partnership is aimed at growing a community of support concerned about fish habitat conservation and the future of our aquatic habitats.

Fish Habitat Partnership
A National Fish Habitat Board approved group of state, federal, local, nonprofit, tribal, Alaskan Native or private individuals or entities that coordinate to implement the Plan at a regional level. Fish habitat conservation projects proposed by these FHPs are eligible for funding as NFHAP projects.

Candidate Fish Habitat Partnership
A partnership that is working toward recognition by the Board to become a recognized Fish Habitat Partnership. Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships are eligible for coordination and technical assistance from the Board. Fish habitat conservation projects proposed by these Partnerships are eligible for funding as NFHAP projects.

Coalition Partner
A group that is not working toward recognition by the Board as a Fish Habitat Partnership, but that is working to achieve the goals of the Action Plan through the conservation of fish habitat. Coalition Partners will share in the coordination and technical assistance provided by the Board.

Fish Habitat Conservation Project
Fish Habitat Conservation Projects are:

1. approved actions taken for the conservation or management of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms;
2. the provision of technical assistance to states and local communities to facilitate development of strategies and priorities for aquatic habitat conservation;
3. the obtaining of a real property interest in lands or waters, including water rights, if the obtaining of such interest is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the fish dependent thereon. Real property interest means any ownership interest in lands or a building or an object that is permanently affixed to land.

Appendix B

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD CHARTER
(Adopted by the Board on September 22, 2006; revised April 19, 2007, and October 13, 2010)

I. BACKGROUND

The National Fish Habitat Board (hereafter "Board") is responsible for carrying out a cooperative nationwide program to conserve (protect, restore and enhance) the habitats of the Nation's marine and freshwater fish populations. The Board is a voluntary association of public and private sector entities that serves as the body overseeing the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan ("Plan").

II. . MISSION and GOALS

The purpose of the Board is to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the Plan.
The Board's mission is to conserve (protect, restore and enhance) the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.
This mission will be achieved by:

- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.
- Approving and supporting Fish Habitat Partnerships and fostering new efforts.
- Establishing interim and long-term national fish habitat conservation goals and supporting regional fish habitat conservation goals.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for fish habitat conservation.
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats.

The Board's goals are to:

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.
- Increase fish and therefore fishing opportunities.

In furtherance of the Plan's mission, the Board's role is to:

- Coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level.
- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver National Fish Habitat Action Plan funds to the partnerships.
- Develop criteria for funding and related resources.
- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the Fish Habitat Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
- Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for Fish Habitat Partnerships and facilitate Fish Habitat Partnership adaptation of these guidelines for their unique systems.
- Report to Congress, States and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- Carry out such administrative, organizational, or procedural matters as are necessary or proper.

III. BOARD BYLAWS

A. Appointment – The Board will be appointed by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The membership of the ELT shall consist of: the President and Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The ELT will have final responsibility for appointment and, if necessary, removal of all Board members, except those serving by virtue of their office.

B. Membership

1. Members--The Board shall consist of up to 22 members.
2. State Government Representatives--The Board shall include five state fish and wildlife agency representatives and the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Each of the four regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western) shall nominate a representative to the ELT for approval. The fifth state representative will be appointed by the ELT. These representatives shall be selected to create an appropriate balance between inland and coastal states. The Executive Director of the Association shall serve by the virtue of his or her office.
3. Federal Government Representatives.—The Board shall include up to five federal agency representatives. These shall include the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, who shall serve by virtue of their office.
4. Indian Tribal Representation—The Board shall include at least one representative from an Indian tribal or native Alaskan government.
5. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the American Fisheries Society each shall nominate a representative for approval by the ELT.
6. The remaining eight members shall be appointed to ensure the Board includes representation from the following range of interests: sportfishing, commercial fishing, sportfishing industry, academic, and land and aquatic resource conservation organizations. In addition, these members shall be appointed to ensure the Board includes a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations and a balance of freshwater and marine interests.

C. Terms of Service

1. Normal Term—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Subsection, the term of office of a member of the Board is three years.
2. Members whose terms have expired shall serve until replaced.
3. Initial Appointment—The initial appointment of the charter Board shall be for a term of three years.
4. Transitional Re-appointment – Except for the members appointed under paragraphs (2), (4) and (5) of Section III.B., four shall be re-appointed initially for a term of one year, four shall be re-appointed for a term of two years, and up to five shall be re-appointed for a term of three years. After these transitional terms, terms will be as provided in paragraph (1) of this Subsection.
5. Vacancies—Any vacancy among the Board members shall be filled through appointment by the ELT, and any Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term for which his or her predecessor was appointed.

D. Procedures

1. Selection of Board Chair-- At the first meeting of the Board, the Board shall elect a Chair from the state government membership of the Board. Each subsequent Chair shall be elected by the Board from among the state government representatives.
2. Term of Chair—The term of any Chair shall be two years, provided that any Chair may serve successive terms. No Chair shall serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

3. Meetings--The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair at least twice a year. The Chair shall endeavor to establish a proposed meeting schedule identifying potential meeting dates within the twelve month period following each meeting of the Board. Except as provided below, the Chair must give Board members at least two months' notice of a Board meeting and shall provide a draft agenda at that time. Notice must be provided in writing, but may be delivered by email or facsimile to each Board member. The Chair with due cause may call the Board for emergency meetings, provided, however, that business of the meeting must be restricted to the reasons for which the meeting is called. Board meetings shall be open to the public, provided, however, that the Board may meet in executive sessions closed to the public to discuss personnel, legal matters, or any other matter of a private or necessarily confidential nature. These closed sessions shall be clearly identified in the meeting announcement. Notification of Board meetings shall be made to members of the Partners Coalition and other interested parties.
4. Quorum—A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
5. Participation and Attendance--If a Board member is not able to attend a Board meeting he or she may appoint a designee provided an official proxy is signed and presented to the Board Chair. **A Board member may designate another Board member to hold his/her proxy, but no Board member may hold more than 1 proxy.** If a Board member, other than a Board member who serves by virtue of office, fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair, in consultation with the ELT, may remove that person from the Board and request that the ELT appoint a replacement. A Board member may participate in a Board meeting by conference call with the prior approval of the Chair. If a Board member, other than a Board member who serves by virtue of office, attends three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings by conference call, the Chair, in consultation with the ELT, may remove that person from the Board and request that the ELT appoint a replacement.
6. Voting—The Board should strive to achieve consensus on all actions proposed. If consensus cannot be achieved within the time frame allotted to the action on the agenda, all actions must be approved by the vote of two-thirds of all members present and voting. Each Board member shall have one vote. All voting shall proceed under Robert's Rules of Order. The Board may extend the discussion period for items on the agenda, or consider items not on the proposed agenda for a meeting, provided that such changes to the agenda must be approved by a vote at the time they are proposed.
7. Other Procedures--The Board shall establish other procedures as needed to schedule meetings, develop agendas, and otherwise facilitate and conduct business, including those procedures or matters required to comply with any requirements resulting from incorporation of the Board under law.
8. Chair's Responsibilities—In addition to such duties established elsewhere in these bylaws, the Chair shall:
    a. Prepare a written agenda of all matters to be considered by the Board at any meeting;
    b. Prepare and issue all notices, including notices of meetings, required to be given to the Board and public;
    c. Preside at all meetings of the Board and, unless otherwise directed by the Board, present items of business for consideration by the Board in the order listed on the agenda for the meeting;
    d. Conduct all meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and these bylaws;
    e. Appoint committees as required; and
    f. Perform other duties as requested by the Board.
9. Appointment of Vice-Chair—The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair from among the Board membership. In the absence of the Chair, or in the event of the Chair's inability to act, or a

conflict of interest for the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chair or by the ELT. The term of the Vice-Chair shall be the same as the term of the Chair.

E. Board Responsibilities

1. Coordination - The Board will coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level and establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources to the Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.

2. Conservation Goals and Objectives - The Board will develop and amend, as appropriate, specific national fish habitat conservation goals and objectives with the advice from the Science and Data Committee established pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subsection F of this Section.

3. Partnerships - The Board will develop and amend, as appropriate, a strategy to encourage the formation of Fish Habitat Partnerships ("Partnerships"). This strategy will be updated periodically to include new information on fish habitat status and the status of existing Partnerships.

4. Recognition of Partnerships - The Board shall develop and amend, as appropriate, criteria for recognition of Partnerships. The Board shall distribute the criteria, establish a process for parties to use in seeking recognition as a Partnership, and maintain a publicly accessible registry of recognized Partnerships. 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 Partnerships.

5. Evaluation Criteria- The Board will establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for Partnerships

6. Funding - The Board will develop and implement strategies to increase public and private funding for fish habitat conservation, 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.
7. Report - The Board will develop a strategy (including funding) to support development of a"Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report to Congress States, and other partners. The report shall be completed in 2010, and every 5 years after.

F. Coordination and Support

1. Staff–The Board shall accept staff support provided by The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Chair, in consultation with the contributing entities, shall act on behalf of the Board in directing the activities of the staff. The Chair, in consultation with the Board, may accept additional staff or other support from other entities. The contributing entities shall use their best efforts to provide common office space for all Board staff and take such other measures as they deem appropriate to facilitate communication, cohesiveness, and efficient operations for the benefit of the Board.
2. Science and Data Committee --The Board shall establish a Science and Data Committee chaired by a State representative or another entity recommended by the Committee and approved by the Board, and consisting of at least two State agency representatives, two Federal agency representatives, two non-governmental organization representatives, and two academic

representatives. All Committee members will have demonstrated knowledge of the Plan's science foundation. 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.

3. Federal Caucus–The Board shall 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. 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 agencies policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.
4. Partners Coalition--The Board shall coordinate with the broadest possible range of stakeholders and other interested parties to increase involvement and support for coordinated fish habitat conservation at national and regional scales.

G. Committees

The Board may establish and otherwise manage committees as needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Board. Such committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board.

H. Board and Committee Expenses

Board and Committee members will not be compensated for their time working on Board or Committee business or traveling to meetings. Travel expenses generally should be borne by the agency or other entity that employs the Board or Committee member, but reimbursement arrangements may be made if funds for this purpose are available.

IV. . Procedure to Amend Charter

The Board may decide to amend this charter by consensus or a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting. Any proposed change to this charter must be noted on the draft agenda that is sent out at the time the meeting is scheduled.

Title: Executive Leadership Team Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of progress related to identifying a Tribal representative
- **Board awareness** of members whose terms are slated for review in summer 2017

Background: The terms of the individuals listed below are up for review in July of 2017. We ask that the individuals listed below note whether they would like to be considered for another term (three years) by sending an email to Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov). The ELT will convene prior to the Board's June conference call to make decisions.

Board members whose terms are up for review in July 2017:

Douglass Boyd (Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council)

Christy Plumer (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership)

Sean Stone (Coastal Conservation Association)

Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited)

Briefing Book Materials:
Tab 2b – Board Member List and Terms

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

NFHP Board Membership *(January 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 2017
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
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 2017
Schriever	Ed	Idaho Department of Fish and Game	State Agency - WAFWA	July 2018
Stone	Sean	Coastal Conservation Association	At large - Sportfishing	July 2017
Wood	Chris	Trout Unlimited	At large - Conservation	July 2017
			Tribal	July 2018
NA		National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	July 2015
Board members serving by virtue of their offices				
Ashe	Dan	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Agency	
Rauch	Sam	NOAA Fisheries Service	Federal Agency	
Regan	Ron	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	AFWA – Executive Director	

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board
Science and Data Committee Report
March 2017 Board Meeting

- Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database
  - Work continues by the Pacific Fishery Management Council with partial funding from USGS. Discussions on additional funding are needed.
- Priority R: Science and Data Committee Travel
  - Gary Whelan attended a meeting with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) staff in January to provide an overview of the National Fish Habitat Assessment that they are considering implementing in the province. Others in Canada are considering extending our work across Canada. Trip was paid for by OMNRF.
  - Gary Whelan attended the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane. He presented updates and overviews of NFHP and the National Fish Habitat Assessment to committee meetings. The costs for this meeting were split between NFHP and MI DNR.
- Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment Report.
  - 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment report is fully operational and available.
  - Current 2015 Habitat Assessment updates in progress by USGS-CSAS&L and MSU include improving access to the existing 2015 data, completing the permanent inland waters layer, completing all information on the Alaskan Assessment methods, completing the change metric between 2010 and 2015 scores, and adding new GIS layers and output for FHPs. All metadata have been delivered to USGS for integration into the Assessment Report. The Inland Team is preparing to move the NFHP fish database to NHDPlusV2 (1:24,000), a much finer detail of mapping information. Developing a spatial layer to characterize waters that migrating fishes use across the lower 48 states. Once the new layers are fully checked, members of the Assessment writing team will complete the new narratives.
  - Additional work in 2017 should include investing in the 2015 National Assessment data components of the NFHP data system. The goals would be to allow users to quickly find, visualize, and download assessment results, limiting factor data, and underlying landscape data according to their geography of interest. USGS would use this effort as one of several pilot efforts for building a National Biogeographic Information Framework. In 2018, greater emphasis on integrating FHP data products into the data framework would be the goal.
  - In response to FHP requests, analyses are in progress to: examine how Reservoir FHP assessment results compare to the 2015 National Assessment scores for those waters and the Reservoir FHP assessment has been added to our spatial framework;

to examine which 2015 National Assessment factors affect inland trout and selected trout species (brook, brown and cutthroat trout) for presentation at the Wild Trout Symposium; examine how the National Assessment compares to and can incorporate Trout Unlimited's Conservation Success Index work; determine how to integrate the Assessment with the LCC's habitat blueprint through SARP; and determine how best to assist FHPs in using the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment that will lead to additional joint analyses.

- 2015 Assessment Data deliveries have been provided to: Iowa State University, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, University of Washington, State of Wisconsin and BOKU, Vienna, Austria. Addition data sharing of water withdrawal data with SARP is in progress at this time.
- In addition to the two rollout webinars, we are planning to conduct a ½ workshop at the Annual American Fisheries Society Meeting (August 2017) in the use of the 2015 National Habitat Assessment to answer specific questions from Fish Habitat Partnerships and others. It will be a working session and will attempt to show how specific issues could be addressed using the Assessment information, working through specific case histories.

- Priority P: Planning and initiation of future assessment work (pending outcome of March 2017 Board meeting).
  - October Board Charge to develop a vision, purpose, objectives and audience document – Attachment 1 contains the draft statement which incorporates input from surveys of the Board, FHPs and the Science and Data Committee (SDC) along with remarks made during the two rollout webinars in January.
  - Multiple surveys were conducted to help guide National Habitat Assessment Vision Document (see Attachments 2-4 for all responses).
- Priority S: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System
  - Work continues on this priority by USGS – CSAS&L, MSU and NOAA.
  - USGS Developer and staff effort (approximately 0.75 FTE) are working on NFHP-related tasks that also leverage toward contributions to other USGS mission priorities. For example, the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment development was leveraged to help USGS build out and test a reusable framework that can be applied for other high-impact scientific products. A similar situation exists for improving the NHFP Data System by weaving it into the USGS goal of building a large-scale Biogeographic Information System with this being contingent on the USGS budget. All USGS work has also been justified, to a large extent, on the premise that NFHP, and thus USGS, efforts are directed toward producing a national-scale assessment of fish habitat conditions.

Attachment 1
National Fish Habitat Partnership Board
Draft 2017 Vision, Purpose, Objectives and Audience Statement

Vision

A comprehensive, comparable, and connected assessment of the nation's fish habitats that include the freshwater systems and coastal waters of all 50 states.

Purpose

To regularly assess the status of the nation's fish habitats using the best available data and analytical procedures to support the protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of fish habitat.

Objectives

- To develop and continually refine a common spatial framework for determining fish habitat condition in all regions of the U.S.
- To provide a broad range of fish habitat data and analytical procedures for assessing habitat condition for use by the National Fish Habitat Partnerships, state and federal partners, and the broader scientific community.
- To identify and work to fill gaps in the nation's fish and fish habitat information needed to meet the vision of the National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- To develop a measurement of the nation's fish habitat quality that allows for meaningful and valid comparisons between assessments and between different regions of the country.
- To provide updated measurements of the nation's fish habitat quality in a manner that enables the broadest possible use of the information.
- To support the Board's communication the condition of the nation's fish habitat to target audiences.
- To provide needed outreach and training to maximize the uses of the National Fish Habitat Assessment results to the National Fish Habitat Partnership community.

Audience

The principle audiences are national decision makers, the Board, and Fish Habitat Partnerships with primary communication products aimed at these audiences. The secondary audiences and data consumers are associated National Fish Habitat Partnership partners, funding entities, government agencies, researchers, educators, key constituents, and the general public. Additional communication vehicles will be developed to meet the needs of these unique audiences as a secondary priority.

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board
Draft National Fish Habitat Assessment Implementation Options

- Option 1 – Develop and complete the 2020 National Fish Habitat Assessment with NOAA and USFWS support using a similar model as used for the 2010 and 2015 Assessments. For the inland assessment, little additional investment will be needed with the analytical methodology.
    - Key performance metrics
        - Move Assessment to NHD+V2 which uses a much higher resolution (1:24,000) in the lower 48 states.
        - Move AK Assessment to NHD+ where available and continue to refine HI Assessment in coordination with the HI FHP.
        - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available. In particular, continue to increase and update fish data, improve dam fragmentation dataset, and add other relevant biological layers, in particular mussel information for key regions.
        - Add a migratory fish layer for analyses.
        - Focus on creating a new layer on hydrology and culverts with the direct assistance of and in coordination with the Fish Habitat Partnerships.
        - Add lakes to the national assessment.
        - Link inland assessment scores with coastal/marine assessment scores, potentially using methodologies developed with the HI assessment.
        - Bring all coasts to the same analytical basis as used for the Gulf of Mexico with NOAA taking the lead for all marine work.
        - Add the Great Lakes assessment information to the National Assessment product.
        - Add requested assessment data layers for use by the FHPs.
        - Develop and provide new analyses for FHPs.
        - Develop and refine a change analysis to allow tracking of conditions over time.
        - Refine analytical approach and output new report in 5 years and continue to move the report into a decision support framework.
- Option 2 - Develop and complete the 2020 National Fish Habitat Assessment with NOAA and USFWS support using a different implementation model for the coastal assessment.
    - Inland Assessment – Continued USFWS support for current inland assessment team.
        - Key performance metrics
            - Move Assessment to NHD+V2 which uses a much higher resolution (1:24,000) in the lower 48 states.
            - Move AK Assessment to NHD+ where available and continue to refine HI Assessment in coordination with the HI FHP.
            - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available. In particular, continue to increase and update fish data, improve dam fragmentation dataset, and add other relevant biological layers, in particular mussel information for key regions.
            - Add a migratory fish layer for analyses.
            - Focus on creating new layers on hydrology and culverts with the direct assistance of and in coordination with the Fish Habitat Partnerships.
            - Add lakes to the national assessment.

- Link inland assessment scores with coastal/marine assessment scores, potentially using methodologies developed with the HI assessment.
- Add requested assessment data layers for use by the FHPs.
- Develop and provide new analyses for FHPs.
- Develop and refine a change analysis to allow tracking of conditions over time.
- Refine analytical approach and output new report in 5 years.

- Marine Assessment – Regional Fishery Management Councils take over the assessment work with support from NOAA. Given the importance of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) to the Councils, this would seem to be a natural fit for them to oversee the work and the Assessment can be refocused into this area.
  - One organizational option could be a Steering Committee with representation from each Fishery Management Council and this group would self-select a Chair(s) to oversee this project. The Steering Committee would determine how and by whom the Assessment work would be completed using the existing NOAA Estuary Assessment and spatial framework as a basis. Liaisons and coordination with the Inland Assessment would be developed between the Regional Commissions and the SDC with the SDC providing support and would review any Assessment products produced. The Steering Committee would provide a completion report to NOAA to complete the grant process. This is one possibility in moving this option forward.
  - Key performance metrics
    - Bring all coasts to the same analytical basis/standard using an EFH underpinning.
    - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available. In particular, continue to increase and update fish data and add other relevant biological layers.
    - Continue to add assessment data layers for use by the FHPs.
    - Develop and provide new analyses for FHPs.
    - Add Great Lakes assessment information as a report component which is being completed with support from the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership and the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.
    - Refine analytical approach and output new report in 5 years.

- Option 3 – National Fish Habitat Assessment Maintenance with Selected FHP Variable Analysis
  - Inland Assessment – Continued USFWS support for current inland assessment team.
    - Key performance metrics
      - Move Assessment to NHD+V2 which uses a much higher resolution (1:24,000) in the lower 48 states.
      - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available and only increase and update fish data and refine other existing data.
      - Update analysis based on new information and develop and refine a change analysis to allow tracking of conditions over time.
      - Maintain and provide needed national information for FHPs.
      - Integrate FHP information into the National Assessment Database and focus analysis on a selected group of variables requested by the FHPs.

- Marine Assessment – Either NOAA or Regional Fishery Management Councils reasonable for assessment work.
    - Key performance metrics
        - Move all coasts to a similar analytical basis/standard.
        - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available and only increase and update fish data.
        - Update analysis based on new information but no “new” analysis.
        - Maintain and provide needed national information for FHPs.
        - Integrate FHP information into the National Assessment Database and focus analysis on a selected group of variables requested by the FHPs.
- Option 4 – National Fish Habitat Data Warehouse
    - Ranges of potential ways exist to handle support of this option but will likely have to find another entity to house all components and data for the existing Assessment.
    - Key performance metrics
        - Do no additional refinements or analytical analyses on the National Fish Habitat Assessment other than to move the information to NHD+V2.
        - Requires changes to the Action Plan and Charter documents.
        - Update existing data layers as new national information becomes available and increase and update fish data.
        - Maintain and provide needed national information for FHPs.

Attachment 2
National Fish Habitat Partnership Board
National Fish Habitat Assessment Survey
Board Member Responses

- Total Number of Responses = 3 (14%). The response order below is the order in which they were received.
- How do you want to use the National Fish Habitat Assessment?
    - Provides a seamless view of fish habitat condition nationwide, and relate this to Clean Water Act restoration and protection activities involving states and tribes. Use peer reviewed data to communicate scientific information in a way that is digestible to the non-scientific community. • Use it as an outreach tool to Congress, NGO's, other potential partner agencies. Use the national assessment summary data as a part of a prioritization process, specifically, identify areas that are clearly impacted (in need of restoration and a focus for funding), and areas that stand out as less impacted (and in need of conservation investments/partnerships).
    - As an outreach / communication tool that can be used to compare the condition of fish habitat across the nation.
    - The 2010 and 2015 Assessments are valuable outreach and scientific products, however future assessment work should take a different approach. As an outreach tool, the 2010 Assessment created an important broad, baseline picture of the health of the nation's rivers and estuaries. The report and national level map served an important outreach purpose by illustrating the need for a National Fish Habitat Partnership, which in turn helped to mobilize support for the developing program. April of 2016 marked the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. It is now a fully developed organization, and should focus its national outreach on promoting the accomplishments of its Fish Habitat Partnerships. NOAA recommends that the Board should refocus and make better use of the "annual update" product developed by the Board's Communications Committee. This outreach product highlights the accomplishments of the FHPs and the great work that they're doing to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat. As a scientific tool, the 2010 and 2015 Assessments provided an important national foundation upon which to build future regional-based assessments led by FHPs with the support of the Board's Science and Data Committee. Given the significant resources need to complete an accurate National level assessment, that some of the National datasets upon which the National Fish Habitat Assessment was built have not been updated, that needed data sets to improve the assessment do not exist at a national scale (fish data, for example), and understanding that FHPs need regional and local data sets, NOAA finds that completing another national level assessment should not be the path forward.
- How would you want NFHP to use the assessment if you were a FHP representative?

    - It should provide a national context for what individual FHPs are finding and acting on in more detail.
    - Science/data tool to help identify critical (protect or enhance) habitat for potential projects/partnerships.
    - Based on what NOAA has heard from its representatives working on the ground with individual FHPs, the National Assessment map could potentially be used as a starting point or the datasets underlying the National Assessment could be used in the absence of available regional data. Based on what we heard from the FHPs at the October workshop, along with the information about the existing assessments in the pre-workshop survey, assessments would be more useful to an FHP if data were compiled and analyzed at the regional or state level. National maps and national data are not as useful to individual FHPs as a regional level maps or datasets. If NFHP assessments were based on regional or local data sets, providing realistic and informative results for a particular region or FHP, a regional map could be used for prioritizing conservation and restoration within the region or an individual FHP.
- What should be the purpose of the Board's National Assessment?
    - Provide a seamless while regionalized view of fish habitat condition and emerging risks nationwide. Provide user-friendly but science-based information that is useful for outreach with the states, federal agencies, NGOs, environmentally engaged corporations, US Congress and others.
    - To serve as a science and outreach tool that compares habitat condition across the US and between assessments.
    - The purpose of past Board supported Assessment work is different than what the purpose of Board supported assessment work should be moving forward. The purpose of past assessment work was to provide outreach to mobilize support for a young organization and to provide a national baseline upon which to build future assessment work. The purpose of Board supported assessment work moving forward should be in supporting and contributing to regional-scale assessment work.
- What needs should the Board's National Assessment fulfill?
    - Fosters data sharing and collaborative work on fish habitat nationwide. Serve as a comprehensive assessment for fish habitat in a similar way as NWCA, WSA, NLA, and NARS, and provide government agencies, scientists, and the public with comparable, scientifically-defensible information documenting the current status and, ultimately, trends in both national fish habitat quantity (i.e., area) and quality (i.e., ecological condition).
    - A measurement of fish habitat quality that allows for direct comparison between areas and years.
    - We would envision the SDC providing an important collaborative and support role to the FHP-led regional assessment work. This could include developing regional data sets, providing technical assistance, setting metadata standards and reviewing the metadata, providing peer review of the FHP products, or connecting FHPs with best practices and expertise. The role would be partly a

service to the FHPs and partly providing the Board with scientific guidance to the FHPs.

- Who should the audience be for the Board's National Assessment?
    - Policy makers, NFHP partners, funding sources, government agencies, scientists, educators, stakeholders, general public, researchers.
    - Scientists, managers, general public, and decision makers.
    - The Fish Habitat Partnerships should be the primary audience of regional assessment work that is used to prioritize conservation and restoration efforts within its region of interest or influence.
- How would you suggest that Board's Science and Data Committee interact with FHPs to complete the Board's motion on the National Assessment?
    - Ensure that the assessment data are nationally consistent. Assist the individual FHPs in building on the national data with more specific FHP enhancements, but do not lose the nationally consistent framework and product.
    - Survey with follow up conference call/webinar.
    - The Science and Data Committee should identify 2-3 alternatives for future assessment work based on what it heard at the October workshop and Board meeting, and the results of these current surveys. The SDC should discuss these alternatives with the Fish Habitat Partnerships and revise as necessary. The Science and Data committee should present these alternatives to the Board for consideration at its March Board meeting.

Attachment 3
National Fish Habitat Partnership Board
National Fish Habitat Assessment Survey
Fish Habitat Partnership Responses

- Total number of responses = 8 (40%). Responding Fish Habitat Partnerships were the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership, Midwest Glacial Lake Partnership, Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership, Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, California Fish Passage Forum, Pacific Marine Estuarine Partnership, and Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership. All of the respondents were either coordinators or partnership leaders. The response order below is the order in which they were received.
- How do you want to use the National Fish Habitat Assessment?
    - Through secondary decision support tools like FishVis that allow the partnership to focus on a refined set of data that can cross state or international boundaries. Not every coordinator has the time, knowledge skills or ability to spend taking the datasets and translating them to a functional tool. If I know that the quality of the data behind the tool is good then I would have an increased confidence of the results.
    - Two ways - we want to inform the NFHP assessment by sharing information and data to strengthen the assessment itself. And we want to be able to access data layers and information that inform our coastal, estuarine, and nearshore assessments.
    - As a basis for criteria for awarding projects and to focus on areas within DFHP that may be identified in the assessment as needing work.
    - Assess the health of the Nation's fish habitats from a national perspective, to help tell the story of why protecting, restoring or enhancing fish habitat is necessary.
    - Gather input data for our own assessment in georeferenced format. Compare priority watersheds for NFHP and MGLP to determine common targets. Potential assessment of stream quality for questions of connectivity to our lakes
    - Relate watershed habitat condition to that of RFHP habitat scores for reservoirs.
    - Not sure. The habitat assessment shows fish habitat in our region is in good shape. It does support our mission and our message that we need to protect the last of the best. However, it may create some difficulty when it comes to raising funds for projects from potential match sources as protecting what is good is often not as attractive to a funder as restoring what needs repair.
- How would you want NFHP to use the assessment if you were a Board member?
    - To articulate the message to state governments, congressional leader, and other environmental organization of the value of the current habitat, economic loss if the habitat is degraded and the return on investment for restoration.
    - If I were a Board member, I would want to ensure the assessment is being informed by the FHPs and that the FHPs find value in the assessment. I would also want to ensure that no funding was reduced to the FHPs in any particular

year because the NFHP assessment is occurring. I would do that by working as a Board member to secure additional funding for this important work. I would also ask the NFHP assessment folks to demonstrate how the NFHP assessment overlays, complements and supports other databases in existence, demonstrating the added value importance of the NFHP assessment. I would want the assessment used by more than just the FHPs - I would do everything possible to ensure federal and state agencies, NGOs and tribal sovereign nations participate in and use the NFHP assessment.
    - Outreach tool and justification for funding.
    - Tell the story, provide decision makers with data resources, and use the assessment to help direct funding needs for fish habitat across the nation.
    - Communications tool to the public and to Congress to increase public and private funding for NFHP and to communicate messages about fish habitat conservation (causes, effects, threats). Would like to see socioeconomic component to identify costs of fish habitat degradation.
    - Relate habitat restoration needs(what & where) to policy makers.
    - As fish habitat goes, so goes habitat for so many other flora and fauna. The assessment is in many ways a surrogate for the health of habitat for many other species, including humans, and resources like clean water.
- What should be the purpose of the Board's National Assessment?
    - To provide a landscape view of habitat and fish populations that cross state or international boundaries that turns into actionable items with funding support.
    - To provide science, data sets, data layers, and information in support of fish habitat restoration, conservation, enhancement and protection strategies in North America, and to create opportunities for scientists to contribute that same type of information to strengthen the overall quality and value of the assessment.
    - Establish criteria nationwide so that all fish habitats are assessed on the same basis; identify areas of highest priority that need restoration
    - Periodically check the health of the nation's fish habitat - so appropriate policy and funding decisions can be made.
    - Communication, fund-raising, improved understanding of fish-habitat relationships, guiding and leveraging projects by external entities funding conservation in the assessed ecosystems (i.e. currently streams and estuaries), public provision of datasets for future analyses by NFHP partners and the public (in easily downloaded and accessible format).
    - FHP assessments are usually at a finer scale than the national assessment. Hence their own assessments seem to fit their needs. The national assessment could serve to tie the FHP assessments together (not replace them). The national assessment should be used to discuss habitat condition & restoration needs at a broad scale to a national audience.
    - To demonstrate as factually accurate as possible, the state of fish habitat in the country.
- What needs should the Board's National Assessment fulfill?

    - Provide a clear and concise message on habitat issues that is used for outreach and education that starts with elected officials and progresses to the general population.
    - Provide science, data sets, data layers, and information in support of fish habitat restoration, conservation, enhancement and protection strategies in North America.
    - Provide a nationwide snapshot of the status of fish habitat, using the same criteria nationwide.
    - Assist the board in telling the story - sharing the status of fish habitat across the nation
    - Expanded assessment to other ecosystem types - lakes, wetlands, near- and off-shore marine habitats.
    - See above.
    - Data needs of FHP's with respect to setting priority areas for restoration. Unsure how it helps establish priorities in areas where habitat intact, but potentially threatened by factors the data would not capture.
- Who should the audience be for the Board's National Assessment?
    - Elected officials from the local to the national level along with other groups that are interested in habitat issues. This includes Landscape Conservation Collaborative's and can complement their efforts.
    - Anyone and everyone that works on fish habitat issues in North America.
    - Congress and funding justification.
    - Congress and the public.
    - Multiple products for multiple audiences: Scientists, conservation community, resource managers at all levels of government, politicians, and the public.
    - See above.
    - Congress, the Administration, and the General Public.
- How would you suggest that Board's Science and Data Committee interact with your FHP to complete the Board's motion on the National Assessment?
    - Provide a skill set list for the partnership to recruit from its members a science team that can directly interact with the national committee to provide more technical feed back on the National Assessment. The partnership teams can be tasked with actions to strengthen the National Assessment and can be the talent pool on where the Committee can draw replacement for the current members. Many of the Committee members have serve in that capacity for a long time and we need to start transferring the institutional knowledge to sustain this effort.
    - I don't know what you mean by "Board's motion." I do think it's critical the Science and Data Committee interact with the Board similar to how any other group would interact with the Board for the Board to make a decision.
    - Provide funding to complete.
    - It would be helpful to see the Board's motion again - but from my memory it seems the Board placed an unattainable request on both the S&D and the FHPs. We met in October to share collective suggestions/perspectives on the assessment. 2 surveys have now been completed. It's my recommendation that

the Board make a decision based upon the input provided. It's clear the FHPs differ in use and need for the assessment. What is more important for our FHP is how the Board and other decision makers will use it. My recommendation for the board would be to look closely at how this assessment helps to tell the story of fish habitat across the nation and from there make a decision on if and how to define its purpose and use/maintain it in the future.

- Use information from this survey and follow-up conversations with FHPs to develop list of common or high priority objectives or characteristics for 2020 assessment. I was not around for previous iterations, but it seems that a good idea for future iterations would be to present preliminary products to FHPs to "focus group" the ideas while there is still potential to change direction. For example, input data, a zoomable map for the whole US, and a pdf of the entire assessment are three things that I would prioritize and which are not available in the current assessment (pdfs are by region or section, maps are by region and not interactive, and currently no method for easily downloading input data).
- Personal interaction with FHP and follow up webinars/workshops.
- Not sure.

Attachment 4
NFHP National Fish Habitat Assessment Application Survey
Board Science and Data Committee Results
December 2016

How would you use the assessment if you were an FHP coordinator?

- Establish a basis for comparison of regional FHP assessments with the national assessment (allows standard comparison of fish habitat in the region to national conditions).
- Helps to understand the unique landscape effects on fish habitat that are operating in the region (from a national perspective).
- Provides the possible use of raw national assessment data for further analysis for the region.
- Provides a regional assessment if one does not exist for the FHP.
- It could be used as a data source and, depending on whether the national assessment contained realistic and informative results for a particular region or FHP, it could potentially be used for other things, like prioritizing conservation and restoration within the region or an individual FHP. Based on the comments of the FHPs at the recent Board meeting, the assessment would be more useful to an FHP if data were compiled and analyzed at the regional or state level. Also, an FHP could use the national assessment data as a starting point, and could add additional data sets to address their particular issues. Perhaps the assessment, augmented by local or regional data, could be an outreach tool, though a national map may not be all that useful to some FHPs.
- To give the regional FH partnership a national context, use this information as a communication tool.
- Use the available data as a piece of a more detailed regional assessment (regions don't need to re-invent the wheel when they have peer reviewed data available for them to use).
- Use the national assessment summary data as a part of a prioritization process, specifically, identify areas that are clearly impacted (in need of restoration and a focus for funding), and areas that stand out as less impacted (and in need of conservation investments/partnerships).
- Use the national assessment summary data as criteria for funding (this is more challenging in estuaries where not every estuary is used in the national assessment).
- Use the spatial framework as a baseline for a regional spatial framework. A more detailed regional spatial framework may be developed, but relate the frameworks to each other (for example, PMEP has over 400 estuaries in our spatial framework, the national assessment has over a 100, make sure to relate the estuaries PMEP has to the ones used in the national assessment).

- I would use the assessment in my work as an FHP Coordinator to influence programs/policies (e.g., state level watershed priorities for delivery of Farm Bill programs) and help shape an agenda for fish and aquatic conservation within the footprint of my FHP – see examples below. I believe the assessment has been invaluable in helping to tell the story of the fish habitat degradation issues/challenges that we face nationally, and it should be valuable at an FHP scale. I have routinely use the national assessment to spotlight specific problem areas in Texas (urban corridors, center pivot agriculture, areas with high densities of dams, roads or other infrastructure, etc), and having a national-scale perspective offers context and an opportunity for comparison with other states/regions. Furthermore, the national assessment has been used as a habitat condition variable in state-level (Texas) and regional scale (Great Plains) conservation assessments and prioritizations that I've been involved in Texas (primarily through the Fishes of Texas Project). I can envision similar uses within an FHP footprint. These assessments/prioritizations have set priorities for TPWD investments in habitat protection, restoration, research and monitoring, and we're beginning to have success with other agencies/organizations adopting our priorities – e.g., the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program recently adopted the attached focal watersheds as their aquatic priority areas for investments in incentive-based restoration on private lands throughout Texas. The USFWS Partners Program also coordinates the Wildlife Subcommittee of the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee in Texas. This committee has significant influence in shaping the priority watersheds/landscapes where Farm Bill conservation funding programs direct resources. Our priority areas framework is attached (i.e., TX Native Fish Conservation Areas Network). This priority areas framework considered the index of cumulative disturbance of river fish habitats of the national assessment in shaping priority areas. Similar assessments/prioritizations could be done by the larger FHPs and used to shape regional priorities of federal or state funding programs, or possibly priority watersheds of local land trusts or other conservation partners. I can provide other examples from Texas.
- Landscape level project coordination, planning/goal setting and prioritization.
- Advocacy / Outreach (educational, political).
- To improve NFHAP implementation and funding which currently limits utility of Assessment. Right now, NFHP is addressing funding / scope of potential projects at a much smaller scale than opportunities conveyed/revealed in the assessment.
- Identify potential threats/stressors.
- The current primary value to the Board of the assessment specific to Alaska (based on AK specific hydrographic, hydrologic and biologic data limitations) is to remind the nation and world of the unique status of an abundance of various freshwater, estuarine and marine AK habitats (and native productive fish populations sustained) and the time sensitive opportunities to avoid and arrest unacceptable degradation of these aquatic habitats and associated populations into the future short and long-term. It also helps to

focus on the more limited areas where restoration is needed recognizing prevention of unacceptable degradation is the longer-term cost effective pay back on investment in AK.

How would you want NFHP to use the assessment if you were a Board member?

- Provides a seamless view of fish habitat condition nationwide.
- We suggest that the Board would use it as an outreach tool to Congress, NGO's, other potential partner agencies. We don't think it would be very useful for helping the Board to decide on priorities. The Board can set broad priorities for the FHPs and for the SDC, to enable interpretation at the regional or the individual FHP scale. We already have the FHP's, so we think setting priorities within the FHP's would primarily rely on more local or regional data sources (though see above, the assessment could sometimes be used here as well).
- To measure changes in fish habitat and communicate those changes.
- Identify trends both regionally and nation-wide.
- Identify priority areas for conservation and restoration.
- Direct investments in data collection to improve the next assessment.
- I would encourage uses of the assessment similar to the way it's been applied in informing coarse-scale conservation planning and prioritization in Texas. Fish and aquatic resources rarely receive comparable considerations as terrestrial species when priorities are being established for investments in watershed/landscape conservation – e.g., land acquisitions, conservation easements, incentive-based restoration. As an example, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) priorities for Texas considered fish/wildlife in their prioritization. However, that consideration focused entirely on the conservation needs of Lesser Prairie Chicken. An overlay of important aquatic resources would quickly demonstrate that these CRP priorities (a program designed to take highly erodible soils out of operation to benefit water quality and air quality) eliminated many counties from consideration that were within the priority conservation landscape for imperiled fishes of the southern Great Plains. Similarly, the statewide priorities for other Farm Bill conservation programs (e.g., Environmental Quality Incentives Program) focused on Bobwhite Quail, Golden-Cheeked Warbler and other imperiled birds. Through a quick overlay, it is easy to identify important aquatic areas that overlap with these terrestrial priorities. Furthermore, holistic land conservation practices have the potential to provide multi-species benefits (for both terrestrial and aquatic species). To this end, we began working with USDA to ensure that fish and aquatic resources were being considered in programmatic prioritization of landscapes for investments through Farm Bill conservation delivery programs. At a national level, I believe there is an opportunity for the Board to connect with various federal agencies, conservation non-profits and other organizations (many of which are represented on the Board) to promote increased consideration of fish and aquatic resources in priority setting. For

example, the NRCS has a Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program that purchases conservation easements. The Board could work with NRCS leadership to influence scoring criteria/priority setting at a national level, ensuring increased consideration of fish and aquatic resources by factoring the assessment scores into the proposal review/ranking process. This is essentially what was done in Texas with our state-based conservation easements funding program; roughly 40 of the 100 points awarded to each proposal have considered focal aquatic species and priority watersheds (which again, has been informed by the national assessment). Again, I believe the Board should engage directly with the federal agencies and NGOs (or facilitate a connection b/t those organizations and the Science and Data Committee) and attempt to guide more resources available through existing conservation funding programs toward projects that benefit fish and aquatic resources; I think that national assessment can play a meaningful role in this.

What would be the purpose of the Board's National Assessment?

- Provides a national map that is useful for outreach with the US Congress and other large funding and policy entities.
- Primarily as an outreach tool.
- Develop nation- wide restoration AND conservation goals (conserve the healthy places, restore degraded areas).
- Provide a measure of change.
- Use peer reviewed data to communicate scientific information in a way that is digestible to the non-scientific community.
- Identify data poor areas.
- Identify data rich areas and promote the benefits of long term monitoring of fish habitats for decision and policy makers to invest in future monitoring.
- Help guide funding nationwide.
- Advocate for policy at the national and regional scale.
- On a nation-wide scale, to answer the question on whether we allocating our resources in the right places?
- To routinely assess status and trends of the nation's fish habitats in order to effectively plan and deliver a national program focused on the restoration and protection of such resources.
- To meet the need to routinely assess status and trends of the nation's fish habitats in order to communicate at all levels the need for investments in fish habitat restoration and protection; the need to help prioritize/influence conservation investments (especially by federal funding programs such as those authorized through the US Farm Bill) toward landscapes/projects that will benefit fish and aquatic resources – basically providing increased consideration of fish and aquatics in priority setting.

- To provide a platform to spotlight the availability/quality of existing national datasets and the need for continued/increasing investments by Congress and federal agencies in the collection/refinement of national datasets, particularly those that support assessments of the condition of aquatic resources and that allow for examination of trends over time (e.g., NHD, NID, NLCD, others).
- Congressional and other funding source outreach.
- To assist in the allocation of resources to partnerships.
- To assess national fisheries habitat status and trends.
- Despite the data limitations, the current and future assessments can help Alaska FHPs and the Board identify and prioritize the most important data gaps and resources needed to address them. It also allows for a coarse assessment of habitat status trends so long as all the current limitations are noted and there are common data sets that are established can be compared and scaled for comparison over time. If the Board wants to truly have an assessment tool for comparisons on a more global national basis than information must eventually be more consistent and comparable at similar scales and throughout the areas compared with equivalent levels of precision and accuracy, not just regionally or the ability to adjust and compensate for differences. Currently in AK, regional and locally based FHP assessments are used to compensate for the limitations of the national in AK, so, a combination of information sources must be reviewed to make the most use of the assessment at least for Alaska. And I suspect that will be the case for several future 5 year cycles.

What needs should the Board's National Assessment fulfill?

- Fosters data sharing and collaborative work on fish habitat nationwide.
- Fosters collaboration with the greater conservation world (e.g. the LCCs and other large conservation initiatives). This might be the <u>most important</u> use of the assessment, since many of these efforts are or will be better funded than NFHP. Directly engaging with these efforts will be critical for ensuring that fish habitat conservation is an important part of landscape conservation in general.
- Provide materials to help them drum up support and for outreach.
- To answer the following questions: Are our efforts at a national level for fish habitat protection and enhancement successful? How about on a regional scale? Can we measure that success?
- Encourage collaboration between different entities to achieve goals.
- Creating a national spatial framework, and every 5 years improve upon datasets and creating peer reviewed data that can be used by the FHPs and other scientists. Use improved data to enhance the overall assessment product, use best available onitoring data to assess change.
- Serve as a comprehensive assessment for fish habitat in a similar way as NWCA, WSA, NLA, NRSA and provide government agencies, scientists, and the public with comparable, scientifically-defensible information documenting the current status and,

ultimately, trends in both national fish habitat quantity (i.e., area) and quality (i.e., ecological condition).

- The national assessment has benefited AK by educating others of the current datat limitations and at the same time has increased the pace and resources directed towards filling these data gaps. That's a good thing - but it will probably take at least 10 or more years of progress, if not longer.

Who should the audience be for the Board's National Assessment?

- Congress
- Public
- National fisheries related conservation organizations such as TNC, TU, Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.
- LCCs
- The audience would be Congress, NGO's, potential partner agencies, and potential funders, such as NFWF. NOAA has been successful in the Chesapeake Bay in getting EPA funds to NFWF to support habitat projects NOAA cares about by writing our priorities into the NFWF business plans. The national and regional assessments could be helpful in this way with NFWF and other funders.
- Policy makers
- Funding entity's
- FHP coordinators
- I can't think of anyone involved in NFHP that shouldn't be using the assessment in some way – e.g., Board members, FHP Coordinators, and others giving presentations that spotlight fish habitat degradation issues nationally, regionally, or even at a state or local level; FHPs as they work to prioritize areas for restoration or preservation; researchers; those shaping policies, funding priorities, scoring criteria, etc for agency programs; etc.
- Policy makers, NFHP partners, funding sources, government agencies, scientists, educators, stakeholders, general public, researchers.
- Is there an intent of communicating/expanding the use of the assessment beyond the NFHPs? If so, there are other groups may also be interested in the results, e.g., some of the amphibian/reptile groups like Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation and others with whom I work, probably additional groups such as those focusing on freshwater mussels or inverts. Within PARC, we have made a push to begin identifying Priority Amphibian& Reptile Areas, so looking at the assessment in terms of identifying opportunities for partnering/synergy for habitat restoration, conservation actions, etc. could be beneficial.

How would you suggest that we interact with FHPs to complete the Board's motion?

- Webinars to introduce the assessment and provide training on it's use.
- Highlight the availability of data for further analysis from a regional FHP perspective.

- Encourage future data sharing and collaborative analyses between national and regional FHP assessments. Joint meetings of the national SDC and regional SDC and/or FHP coordinators would be valuable for fostering future collaboration.
- Suggest we have an initial goal of identifying 2-3 alternatives for the next assessment. The interaction could start with a con call with the FHPs as a group to initiate the process and obtain some high-level input from them. This would be followed up by one-on-one conversations with the FHPs to elicit more specific information. The SDC members would develop a standard set of questions based on the input from the con calls and our own experiences. Members of the SDC could be assigned to contact different FHPs to spread out the work load, but the questions being asked would be the same. Then the SDC could flesh the alternatives out a bit, and ask the FHP's to look them over. Then follow up with calls to individual FHPs as needed, and then another con call, to take their temperature as a group about the alternatives. We could even ask them to rank the alternatives from high to low. Report this back to the Board. We could describe and give the relative rankings of all the alternatives, though perhaps one alternative will be the clear top choice.
- Webinars (record these webinars and make them easily available so those who cannot attend can watch at another time).
- Choose a couple of FHP coordinator "leaders" to work in conjunction with members of the S&D committee to showcase how they use the assessment, and if possible, act as a liaison to answer other coordinator questions.
- Develop a communications plan and share it with coordinators, get feedback from coordinators, and follow the plan.
    - Take notes about continued concerns and continue to respond to them in a well-documented fashion so other coordinators are aware and there is less repetition on the S&D committee answering the same questions.
    - This will give S&D committee formal documentation that they have been trying to communicate in line with the agreed upon plan.
- Come up with a plan for how to get feedback from coordinators for the 2020 assessment and get data updates, and recommendations for improvements to the spatial framework.
- Webinars and/or workshops that overview the assessment and spotlight case studies in use of the assessment.
- a series of workshops that overview the national assessment and offer case studies of its use in conservation planning/prioritization. It think we could go one step further and possibly "turn a corner" on perceived value of the national assessment by the FHPs if we facilitated planning with individual FHPs to identify uses of the assessment within specific FHP geographies (drawing from uses/applications in other areas of the nation). We should be able to generate a list of proposed/planned uses of the assessment by individual FHPs, and then possibly help secure grant funding and a contractor to create/deliver related science products. The Texas examples in application of the national assessment were not all that time-intensive or expensive.

- Survey, webinar, symposia.
- Similarly, as the methods and scope of work for the 2020 national assessment are assembled, we might want to consider building into the scope of work the development of FHP-specific maps and other science products that ensure easy access/use of the assessment. For example, we've constructed some basic maps that display national assessment scores within priority sub-watersheds and priority ecoregions in Texas. Some FHPs might be able to produce such products themselves, but as for the FHPs that don't have GIS support, basic maps would likely be invaluable for reports or presentations that profile degradation issues in their geographic footprint. I recall discussing this strategy during our planning for the 2015 national assessment, and we decided to assemble those products for the regions adopted in the 2010 assessment (for consistency). In hindsight, If we had assembled those products specific to the geographic footprint of each FHP, I wonder if it might have better promoted/facilitated use of the 2015 assessment by the FHPs (resulting in more outspoken support for the national assessment in their comments to the Board).
- I think the idea of webinars could be a good start, presenting a summary of the findings or ways that the info could be used, could be really helpful. Maybe even some that target particular groups (e.g., one for how the info could be used for herps, one for how it could be used for mussels, etc.
- In terms of engaging other interested groups in conservation planning: "I think we could go one step further and possibly "turn a corner" on perceived value of the national assessment by the FHPs if we facilitated planning with individual FHPs to identify uses of the assessment within specific FHP geographies (drawing from uses/applications in other areas of the nation). We should be able to generate a list of proposed/planned uses of the assessment by individual FHPs, and then possibly help secure grant funding and a contractor to create/deliver related science products."

Appendix 1 - Uses of other very similar work with Aquatic GAP thoughts

"I really don't know what I could do with it."

"Well, you could use it to … "

Aquatic Habitat Classification and Broad-scale stuff

- define boundaries of large Aquatic Lake Units for Lake Erie. (Work with TNC biodiversity conservation strategies group (Doug Pearsall))
- Consider possible use of GLGap hydrospatial framework as a basic framework for binational riverine and Great Lake aquatic ecosystem classification system (Heelball, Wang, OMNR et al.)
- advance regional research and aquatic classifications based on habitat and geomorphology, by adding an ecological aspect in the form of averaging GLGap fish predictions by stream class (A. Olivera, TNC).
- package together the GLGap framework and ecological classification, along with habitat and climate data, in a user-friendly GIS map project for stakeholders and other agencies to use for a wide array of assessment, planning, and research.
- develop a customized GIS Presentation Map for the western Lake Erie basin, highlighting rare Fisheries Conservation & Management Units (FCMS), for conservation planning efforts. (G. Annis, TNC).
- analyze coldwater & large river species for consulting firm, providing a GIS map project with shapefiles of classified stream reaches as cold or cool water, based on GLGap stream temperature predictions and GLGap model predicted fish assemblages with a minimum number of cold water (or cool water) species, and large river size (based on NHD) (Downstream Strategies).
- Assemble GIS map projects containing GLGap framework and ecological classification data, along with other pertinent data like species diversity, species richness, habitat, political, climate, streams, and lakes for a variety of applications within and outside the USGS.
- apply GLGap frameworks or classifications as alternatives to existing systems (L. Holst, NYDEC).
- determine surface area of each Great Lake and percentages considered embayment habitat (or nearshore, etc.) (A. Mathers, OMNRF).
- generate hypsographic curves for all of the Great Lakes, and any inland lakes with bathymetry data. (B. Weidel, USGS).
- support actions designed to achieve Great Lakes Fish Community Objectives with estimates of extent, number, and/or spatial configuration of habitat patches of any given type and the fish assemblages they are likely to support.

- provide GIS shapefiles of New York GLGap size-temperature classes and Oswego watershed FCMs with GLGap flow models and aquatic classifications (Fish Conservation and Management units, FCM) to support ecological flow projects (J. Taylor, USGS).
- provide critical habitat and fish occurrence data for the Great Lakes region to consulting firm for contract work with several Fish Habitat Partnerships on aquatic habitat conditions (Downstream Strategies).

<u>Fish, Fisheries, and Biodiversity stuff</u>

- provide NGO with GIS Shapefiles of GLGap model predictions throughout New York State for Brook Trout and Fantail Darter, for assessment work (D. Crabtree of TNC).
- provide GLGap species-specific model predictions and observed data for to NGO for analysis of 10 fluvial specialist fish species in eastern Minnesota in association with the Minnesota ELOHA effort (K. Blann TNC).
- Provided GLGap produced local catchment shapefiles for New York for analysis of ecologically sensitive areas in the Sandy Creek watershed. (L. Lyons-Swift, NY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets).
- compare habitats predicted (or observed) to support Atlantic Salmon, Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, or Rainbow Trout and streams treated for Sea Lamprey.
- provide GIS shapefiles and datasets of New York observed fish data to aid in the development of models to assess the effects of climate change on fish assemblages (Alex Covert, USGS).
- provide data and documentation, including maps of predicted stream temperature and Brown Trout abundances for the Hoosick Falls, NY area, to assist other agencies with public presentations on coldwater trout fisheries in specific watersheds (D. Zielinski, NYSDEC).
- organize and manage stream temperature data from multiple organizations (USGS, NYDEC, etc.) for inclusion in other projects like online mappers (NorEaST: Stream Temperature Data Inventory).
- Build more advanced models of effects on fish abundance from temperature and/or climate changes.
- Assist State agencies with fish management decisions by supplying them with GLGap fish predictions, and also Fisheries & Conservation Management Unit (FCM) and Aquatic Ecological System (AES) classifications. (K. Blann, TNC, and S. Niemela, MPCA).
- identify and characterize coastal and/or riverine species assemblages and calculate diversity, species richness, dominant species, rare species, and other biotic metrics (GLAHF).

- highlight streams optimal for a certain species, like Brook Trout, but with fish passage in support of management decisions to prioritize culvert replacement or dam removal. (C. Castiglione and S. Schlueter, USFWS, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe).
- support aquatic habitat projects that require estimates of specific species' abundances and/or likely fish assemblages linked to hydrologic units (e.g., NHD Plus, WBD HUCs, ALU) for coastal Great Lakes or riverine systems (S. Adams and K. France, TNC; GLAHF).
- assist Native American tribe and the USFWS with aquatic habitat improvements. (T. David, SRMT and S. Schlueter, USFWS).
- generate summaries of Fallfish occurrences in large-warm rivers. (T. Wertz, PA DEP)
- provide data or model predictions needed for Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) analyses.
- "I also look forward to working with the related GIS data and files you have organized in your Steelhead model in the future. I hope to use such information to direct survey effort, identify potential fishery areas, aid in decision making regarding the allocation of funding for angler access, conservation and protection effort, target enhance restoration effort, and aid in research planning" (K. Anderson PA Fish & Boat Commission).
- Provide state agency with model predicted steelhead abundance supported by each stream reach of tributaries draining into Lake Erie (K. Anderson).
- assist state agencies in developing statewide summer water temperature maps. (M. Beauchene, CT DEEP).
- provide GLGap trout and sculpin model predictions of occurrence and abundance for a statewide cold water assessment (M. Beauchene, CT DEEP).
- examine GIS land cover data and map the extent of Hemlock forests in the eastern US that may be vulnerable to the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and project their possible effects on Brook Trout and coldwater habitat.
- apply Aquatic GAP Analysis model predictions of species specific fish abundances to a specific local watersheds or geographic areas to analysis of vulnerable or pristine habitats (J. Rogers, Raging Rivers CT).
- provide another agency with species-specific habitat analyses for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) (e.g., Blackchin Shiner) or gamefish (e.g., Walleye) (D. MacNeill, Sea Grant).
- develop predictive models of fish SGCN in New York, including some of the rarest darters in the Allegheny watershed, based on observed abundances organized in the GLGap database.
- provide GLGap Brook Trout abundance predictions to determine the best locations for Brook Trout improvement projects in the Mid-Atlantic and Hudson River watersheds of New York (Millennium Stream Improvement Fund. T. Brown, Trout Unlimited).

- provide New York GLGap fish observation and stream order data for a project examining geographic patterns of trait composition of macroinvertebrates and fish assemblages across the United States. (J. Olden, University of Washington).
- provide GLGap stream temperature predictions for the Tonawanda Creek watershed in western New York for a warm/cold stream ecological flows proposal to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). (W. Coon, USGS).
- provided GLGap stream temperature predictions to help determine viable Asian Carp spawning habitat in Lake Erie tributaries. (P. Kocovsky, USGS).

<u>Sample Design, Decision Support, and Misc.</u>

- build models of fish responses to climate change and the develop the FishVis decision support mapper (J. Stewart, USGS, LCC).
- Use analysis of habitat variables to most influence fish to inform development of models that predict stream flow in each reach of a watershed or region (H. Reeves, AFINCH predictions/development)
- Use GLGap fish predictions to inform design of regionwide field sampling for T&E species and gamefish (J. McKenna, St. Lawrence River watersheds)
- Use GLGap data including fish observations & predictions, stream temperature, and land use to examine areas expected to support high abundances of Brook Trout that might be most vulnerable to the effects of Unconventional Oil & Gas (UOG) development (J. McKenna, K. Maloney, S. Faulkner, PA and NY).
- perform stream sampling assessments and develop sampling strategies (D. Carlson, NYDEC).
- Inherent georeference of sample data in GIS to develop Data QA/QC checks within the Great Lakes proper (R. Alexander, Great Lakes).
- assist other agencies with projects to calculate the amount of freely accessible stream habitat available to Brook Trout as a result of barrier remediation and prioritize remediation projects. (C. Castiglione, USFWS).
- Determine the amount of free flowing river that will be available to migratory fish when a dam is removed from a tributary to the St. Lawrence River (A. David, J. McKenna, St. Regis River).
- develop shapefiles of the 1,510 rivermouths for the Great Lakes, attributed with GLGap habitat and FCM data. (J. Schaeffer, USGS).
- develop state of the art GIS presentations and videos of the bathymetry of rivers with georeferenced depth data. (R. Alexander, USGS)

Gary,

Thanks for distributing your draft concept paper for the future of the NFHP assessment, which has been requested by the NFHP Board. Our interpretation of your document is that the vision, purpose, and audience for the assessment going forward would be very similar to what has been done in the past.

Based on what we heard from the partnerships at the October workshop, along with the information about the existing assessments in the pre-workshop survey, we at NOAA have a different perspective on how to move forward. There is little evidence that the Board or national decision makers use the current assessment, some partnerships are concerned that the national scale assessment is misleading at the regional scale, and many of the partnerships expressed a stronger interest in having local or regional scale products.

Our perspective attempts to address the above issues by proposing two types of assessment products: 1) regional to local scale data sets that would be developed for partnerships and would address their specific data issues; and 2) outreach products that would showcase recent accomplishments and document future plans and needs of the partnerships. The latter product would be designed specifically as an outreach product, and would be programmatic in content, so would not require a major targeted effort to compile and analyze data.

The above approach allows the Science and Data Committee to adapt to changing resource availability and remain responsive to FHP needs. We feel strongly that this perspective should be presented to the Board. Perhaps we could present a range of options, ranging from the business as usual approach to the alternative we are proposing.

Sincerely,

The NOAA SDC Members

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
March 21, 2017
Tab 4

Title: Communications Committee Update

Desired outcomes:
• Board awareness of communications activities of NFHP
• Board awareness of 10-Year Anniversary Communications developments

Background:
Following the October 2016 and January 2017 Meetings of the National Fish Habitat Board, the Board adopted the priorities of the Communications Committee, which focus particular attention to the 10-Year Anniversary of NFHP. Based on those objectives, below is the progress that the Communications Committee has made in 2017.

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:

Priority A: Since January, We added a Partnership Resources page among other tweaks to improve the website. We also were able to work with our web development company to get more controls of the website to improve flexibility for posting to and changing website.

Priority B: Since November we have worked to get an online donation page up and running. We also have been working to meet the goals and objectives of our Anniversary Communications Plan.

Priority C: Since January 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 promoting NFHP at events such as AFS. We still maintain an average open rate of 26% with about 3% clicking links within the newsletter driving traffic to www.fishhabitat.org

Priortiy D: Working on planning and details for Video highlighting 10-year Anniversary of NFHP. Assessing budget for project.

Priority E: Working with the legislative team to assess progress towards the reintroduction of National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation in the 115th Congress.

Priority F: Hold spring conference call of the National Fish Habitat Communications Committee to discuss any needs and gaps within the current Communications Strategy. If changes are suggested and made we will bring back to Board for approval in June/October.

Title: Beyond the Pond Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of Beyond the Pond 2017 progress

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Fund, which was approved by the IRS in June 2015 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was established to help partnerships seek additional funding for on-the-ground projects and activities. The National Fish Habitat Fund is marketed under the title and logo, Beyond the Pond.

2017 Progress and Accomplishments:

- Launched a donation page linked through the Beyond the Pond and NFHP websites: https://secure.processdonation.org/beyondthepondusa/Donation.aspx

- Developed a state of Beyond the Pond document and provided to the Fish Habitat Partnerships as discussed in collaborative session between the Beyond the Pond Board and FHP representatives at October Board meeting of the Beyond the Pond Board. (State of Beyond the Pond Document enclosed.)

- Submitted an application to the U.S Endowment for Forestry and Communities for funding through the Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant program (A partnership of the U.S. Endowment, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service) to hire an Executive Director and focus on protection efforts of Fish Habitat Partnerships. http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html

Next Steps:

- Develop Beyond the Pond Business Plan

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 5b State of Beyond the Pond

State of Beyond the Pond -

501 c3 Non-Profit Organization to benefit
The National Fish Habitat Partnership

A Note from Beyond the Pond Board Chair, Kelly Hepler:

Greetings Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators, I wanted to write you this short note to provide you some insight into the organizational development of Beyond the Pond and provide you some assurance that the National Fish Habitat Board is here to support you would like to hear from you if any questions or needs arise. As you know, Beyond the Pond received its IRS designation in June of 2015 and is incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. Many of your Partnerships have taken an interest in Beyond the Pond and a majority of the Partnerships have agreed to become chapters. Beyond the Pond has seated 8 Board members, elected officers and developed by-laws and an organizational charter.

To date, Beyond the Pond has received one grant that will be passed through to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership for work on Black Sea Bass Habitat in the Atlantic in 2017 – 2019. There have also been a handful of personal donations from Board members (both from Beyond the Pond and the National Fish Habitat Boards), which are always appreciated and we have generated a bit of revenue from our Amazon Smile Account. As you know, we have limited capacity as we get this venture off the ground and I appreciate your patience and taking the time to ask questions of the Board. Your continued patience is appreciated as we hope to hire someone to manage Beyond the Pond soon. With that said, I think the future is bright and is in no small part thanks to you all who generate an extraordinary amount of energy and enthusiasm for habitat conservation and the National Fish Habitat Partnership. As a Board, we intend to make Beyond the Pond work for you and while we grow we aim to solidify our business plan and provide you with training in fundraising to benefit the Partnerships. I hope you find the appended resources useful as you utilize Beyond the Pond to benefit the work of your Fish Habitat Partnership. If you have questions about Beyond the Pond as we progress, please contact Ryan Roberts (rroberts@fishwildlife.org).

Sincerely,

Kelly R Hepler

Kelly Hepler,
Board Chair for Beyond the Pond

Resources for Beyond the Pond:

Articles of Incorporation: http://bit.ly/2fye9oI

Bylaws: http://bit.ly/2gfDmTW

Beyond the Pond Board Member List: http://bit.ly/2gS5opH

Beyond the Pond Funding:

Grants - $250,000

Donations - $400

Amazon Smile – $105.87

Tips for using Beyond The Pond for Grant Applications:

The Board of Beyond the Pond certainly encourages the use of the Fund and our non-profit status to apply for grants. However, given that we have a limited capacity and don't want to overburden our limited accounting and program management services, we request that your FHP reach out to Ryan Roberts to let him know your intent to use the fund in applying for grants. You should also coordinate with other FHPs to ensure there are no conflicts or competing interests. Please see the below registered numbers that we have for grant purposes.

EIN: #47-2547128
D-U-N-S: #021110095
SAM: Cage# 7R8W1

Title: Partnerships Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of the Committee's recent activities
- Board awareness to of working interdependence document progress and purpose.

Background:

2017 Partnership Committee Priorities Approved by the Board in January:

- Priority I: Complete the Document of Interdependence (FHP Forum discussion outcome).
- Priority J: Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met
- Priority K: Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2017.
- Priority L: Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.
- Priority M: Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies.
- Priority N: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed.

Update:

- Priority I: Complete the Document of Interdependence (FHP Forum discussion outcome).
    - Revisions suggested at the October Board meeting have been made
    - Beyond the Pond sections have been added.
    - State review and input will follow the March meeting discussion.
    - Next Steps: Broad review by Partnerships Committee, FHPs, State and Federal agencies, and other interested parties following the March Board meeting

- Priority J: Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met
    - Two Board members provided feedback on 2017 FHP submissions
    - Next steps: Meet in April to discuss how the Board provides feedback during the

FY18 process (status quo, small group of Board members, other?)

- Priority K: Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2017.
    - Work will begin on this priority no later than July 2017
    - Next Steps: collect feedback received during the 2015 process

- Priority L: Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.
    - Initial discussions to ID funding sources beyond MSCG began in February and will continue into March
    - Next Steps: Start on MSCGP LOI in March, following NCN announcement (in the event the NFHP NCN is accepted)

- Priority M: Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies.
    - Work will begin on this priority no later than July 2017
    - Next Steps: The group working on Priority K will address this

- Priority N: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed.
    - Members of the Committee were comfortable with the 2018 NCN that Ryan had drafted
    - Next steps: Same as Priority L

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 06b – Draft Document of Interdependence

Working Title: NFHP Document of Interdependence

Introduction

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is made up of three distinct components: the National Fish Habitat Board, the (20) individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, and partners which include federal, state, local, public, and private entities and individuals. While each of these distinct components have the freedom to act independently of one another, the actions of one affects the actions of another, and in this way the success of any one of these components is dependent upon the success of the other two – they are in fact -- interdependent. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of these relationships.

Purpose

This document is intended to acknowledge the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP, and to describe and clarify the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships between 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.

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.

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. 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 National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership to promote its mission. Examples 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 National Fish Habitat Partnership.

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 and riparian restoration projects.

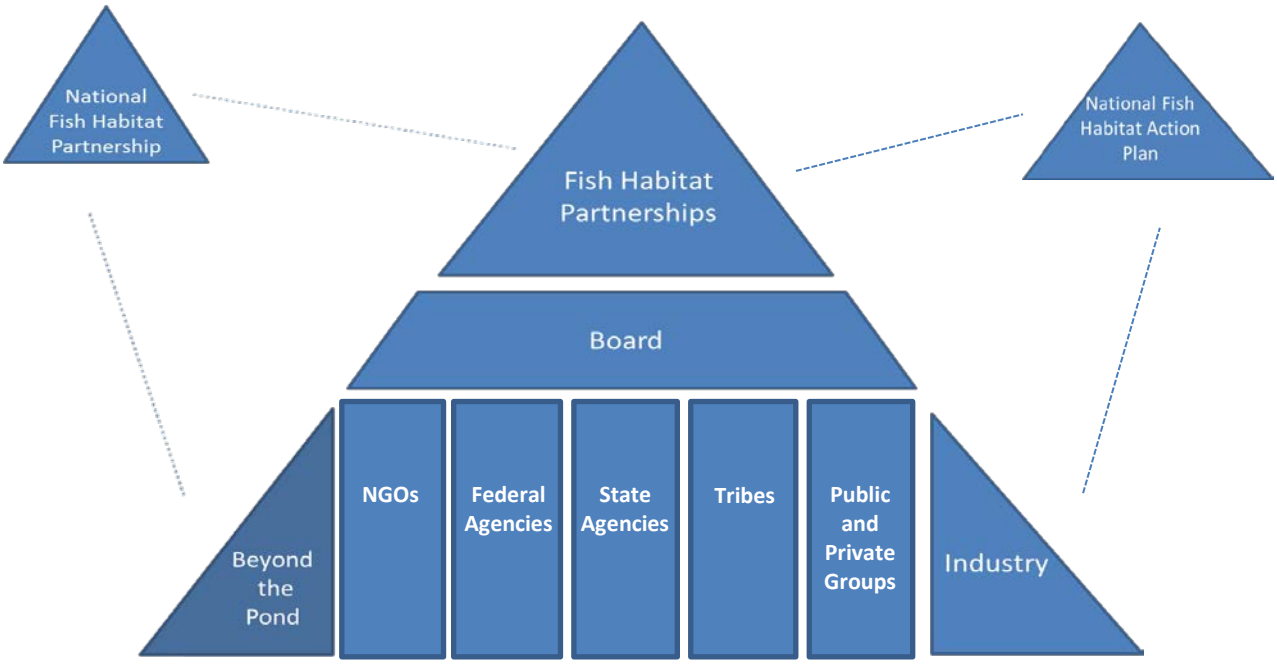


Figure 1. NFHP is made up of several different components (i.e. partners) that collectively form a solid foundation supporting the FHPs. Therefore, each component (i.e. partner) has an important role in supporting and facilitating implementation of the Action Plan.

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 Agency[1]

- 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

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.

[1] Each of the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments [DOI, DOA, and DOC] 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 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 powerful 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.

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 including websites and e-news clips.

2.3 Federal Agency[1]

- 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

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 Departments of DOI, DOA, and DOC]

- Promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus, and offices 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

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 Fish Habitat Partnerships. 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 Fish Habitat Partnerships 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 Fish Habitat Partnerships pursue local-level donors. Communication between Fish Habitat Partnerships 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 agencies policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.
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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 Agency[1]

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

4.4 State Agency

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 Fish Habitat Partnerships.

5 Funding

5.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop criteria for funding and related resources.
- 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.
- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the FHPs and other efforts of the Plan.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver National Fish Habitat Action Plan funds to the FHPs.

5.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.

5.3 Federal Agency[1]

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or matching funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and Fish Habitat Partnerships established under the Plan.
- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when awarding loans, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

- Communicate with similar programs within own agency and other federal agencies to leverage funds.

5.4 State Agency

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 National Fish Habitat Partnership by providing fundraising and fiscal services to the National Fish Habitat Board and Fish Habitat Partnership chapters recognized by Beyond the Pond.
- Support the National Fish Habitat Partnership by providing fundraising tools for the National Fish Habitat Board and Fish Habitat Partnership chapters such as training, online donation capabilities, or other opportunities.
- In all activities and respects, Beyond the Pond will advance the National Fish Habitat Partnership and the Fish Habitat Partnerships. In no manner may the funds raised by Beyond the Pond be used to support any organization that is not a member of the National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

6 Reporting

6.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop 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 National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The report shall be completed in 2010, and every 5 years after.

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 with other programs within one's own agency, with other federal agencies, and with state agencies.
- Report to the Federal Caucus on issues NFHP/FHPs are facing.

6.4 State Agency

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 Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Board of Directors ensures that Beyond the Pond stays in compliance with Federal laws.

7 Partnership Recognition and Development

7.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- 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 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Assist Beyond the Pond in their high-level fundraising efforts by providing fundraising case studies and proposals.

7.3 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..
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within their own agencies, including news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.
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7.4 State Agency

7.5 Non-Government Organization

- Selected NGOs shall participate as members of the National Fish Habitat Board.
- Work closely with FHPs on project development and implementation where feasible.

7.6 Beyond the Pond

- Support Chapters in fundraising efforts, and provide fiscal services.

8 Performance Evaluations

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

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.

9.3 Federal Agency[1]

- 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

- May lead or help with implementation at the local or watershed scale: permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

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

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 501c3, Beyond the Pond is not active in legislation efforts of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Source Material

- 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 Nation Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. Specifically, S. 659 –Crapo Amendment #1. Dated January 19, 2016.

- Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships. Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, October 8, 2008.

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC. 40 pp. 2012.

- 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.

- Articles of Incorporation of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc., May 27, 2014.

- Bylaws of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc.

- Notice of Responsibility and Expectations of Chapters of the National Fish Habitat Fund

- State of Beyond the Pond – 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization to benefit the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Title: Budget and Finance Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awarenss of 2017 Budget Status
- Board awareness of 2018 Multi-State Conservation Grant process and timeline

Background:

2017 Budget Status

The following Board priorities were noted in January as unfunded or partially unfunded:

- Priority H: Work with staff to support the planning and implementation of a Fish Habitat Partnership workshop. ($20,000)
- Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment Report. (TBD)
- Priority P: Planning and initiation of future assessment work (pending outcome of March 2017 Board meeting). ($356,000)
- Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database ($21,515)
- Priority R: Science and Data Committee Travel ($10,000)
- Priority S: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System (TBD)

Multi-state Conservation Grant Process and Timeline

- In 2015, the FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership agreed to a 3-year collaborative approach to applying for Multistate Grant Funding through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).
- The first grant in this 3-year approach was awarded during the 2016 Grant cycle, at $86,000. The second grant was awarded during the 2017 grant cycle, at $143,711.87.
- The 2018 Grant cycle would be the final year of the three-year proposal that the FHPs agreed upon. The National Conservation Need (NCN) under consideration by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee of AFWA for the 2018 Grant period is: Broadening Conservation Partnerships through the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Update:

- Contingent upon the USGS budget and continuation of a national-scale assessment of fish habitat conditions, Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment Report and Priority S: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System may be covered through inkind support of the USGS.
- Potential options under consideration for meeting the remaining unfunded priorities:
    - Federal contributions
    - Multistate Grant Program

- Campaign through Beyond the Pond
- State contributions
- University foundations
- Reducing overhead expenses

A Vision for Habitat Conservation for the Future of our Fisheries*

Recreational fishing in the United States is woven into the fabric of America's history and culture. Americans recognize this and angling is highly-valued as one of our most popular past time activities. Recreational fishing is a significant industry comprised of thousands of small and large businesses. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, more than 46 million licensed anglers generate over $48 billion in retail sales with a $115 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 people. According to the NOAA Fisheries of the Unites States Report (2014), the value of the commercial catch nationally was $5.4 billion, supporting thousands of jobs in fishing, seafood processing, and wholesale, and retail sales.

- The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP; www.fishhabitat.org) began in 2006 following a recommendation by the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council (Advisory Council to the Secretary of the Interior), for the purpose of conserving fish habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the American public through non-regulatory, voluntary actions such as increasing habitat connectivity, streambank stabilizations, and installing fish habitat structures.

- The NFHP is working through 20 regional efforts across the country and has implemented nearly 600 projects benefitting fish habitat, anglers, and recreational fishing-dependent businesses. The 20 partnerships implementing the National Fish Habitat Partnership program are an exemplary network of groups and individuals consisting of local communities, anglers, industry, conservation organizations, and local, state and federal agencies.

- Since 2006, $63 million in federal funding have been leveraged with nearly $102 million of state, local, and private funds directly benefitting on-the-ground conservation actions of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. NFHP projects have generated over $1 billion in economic value and have supported over 20,000 jobs in ten years.

- The NFHP's coordinated national efforts to prioritize aquatic habitat conditions and areas in need of conservation or restoration through National Assessments completed in 2010 and 2015, combined with the Partnerships' grassroots approach, well positions NFHP to serve as the coordinating entity for existing aquatic restoration programs.

- The National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act will be reintroduced early in the 115th Congress to benefit the work of our Partnerships. The funding authorized through this legislation ($7.2 million annually) is the same amount of funding the program receives annually from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and will ensure future support of and success for the program.

- **Action Item:** Pass legislation to formally put into law the NFHP and support dedicated and sustainable funding for this program.

*A Vision for Habitat Conservation for the Future of our Fisheries document is offered by the non-federal Members of the National Fish Habitat Board