



NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
PARTNERSHIP



Meeting Book for The  
National Fish Habitat Board

January 17, 2018

**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting  
January 17, 2018**

**Agenda and Board Book Tabs**

**Conference line:** 800.768.2983, **Passcode:** 8383462

**WebEx link:** <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1ecm5px6e819v&eom>

1:00 – 1:10	<u>Welcome, Attendance, Introductions, and Housekeeping</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board action</b> to approve the agenda and October meeting summary</li> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of future meeting schedule and locations</li> </ul>	Tab 1	Tom Champeau ( <i>Board Chair – Florida FWCC</i> )
1:10 – 1:15	<u>Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of recent ELT decisions</li> </ul>	Tab 2	Sam Rauch ( <i>Board Member-NOAA Fisheries Service</i> )
1:15 – 1:35	<u>2018 Board Budget and Priorities</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of 2018 funding recommendation</li> <li>• <b>Board action</b> to approve the 2018 Board budget and priorities</li> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of 2019 Multi-State Conservation Grant progress</li> </ul>	Tab 3	Tom Champeau ( <i>Board Chair – Florida FWCC</i> ) & Ryan Roberts ( <i>Board Staff/AFWA</i> )
1:35 – 2:20	<u>2018 FHP Performance Measures and Timeline</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board action</b> to approve the 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation measures and timeline</li> </ul>	Tab 4	Stan Allen, Therese Thompson, & Bryan Moore ( <i>Partnerships Committee Tri-chairs</i> )
2:20 – 2:30	<u>Update on Letter to Department of Interior</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of letter to DOI as well as any response received</li> <li>• <b>Board action</b> to identify any follow up actions if necessary</li> </ul>		Tom Champeau ( <i>Board Chair – Florida FWCC</i> )
2:30 – 2:50	<u>Beyond the Pond Fundraising Action Plan</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board awareness</b> of the status of a Beyond the Pond Fundraising Action Plan</li> </ul>	Tab 5	Ryan Roberts ( <i>Board Staff/AFWA</i> )
3:00	<u>Adjourn</u>		

Additional written updates are as follows:

Science & Data Committee Update	Tab 6
Communications Committee Report	Tab 7
International Recreational Fisher Habitat Update	Tab 8
Pacific Lamprey Update	Tab 9



**Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: October 18-19, 2017**

**Members present:**

Mike Andrews (TNC)	Pat Montanio <i>for</i> Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Doug Beard (USGS)	Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Ron Regan (AFWA)
Tom Lang (AFS) <i>by phone</i>	Ed Schriever (WAFWA) <i>by phone</i>
Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)

**Members absent:**

Benita Best-Wong (EPA), Doug Boyd (SBPC), Jim Kurth (USFWS), Jim Leach (MAFWA), Mike Leonard (ASA), Fred Matt (NAFWS), and Sean Stone (CCA).

**Approved by consensus:**

- Hold October 2018 Board meeting in Texas. Exact location and date to be determined in January.

**Approved by motion:**

- June Webinar Summary and October Board meeting agenda; motion by Bryan Moore, second by Chris Moore.
- Develop a Beyond The Pond fundraising action plan, selecting one project from each of the regions for the board to work closely with coordinators to fundraise; motion by Ross Melinchuk, second by Ron Regan. Federal agencies abstain.
- Nominate Tom Champeau as Chair [of the National Fish Habitat Board]; motion by Stan Allen, second by Mike Andrews.
- Nominate Chris Moore as Vice Chair [of the National Fish Habitat Board]; motion by Stan Allen, second by Bryan Moore.

**Updates and discussions:**

- Welcome – John Lott of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks welcomed everyone and presented on the work of the agency. Following this presentation, the Board discussed the merits of crafting a letter to DOI highlighting the importance of USFWS participation in NFHP meetings (Federal members would abstain from decision). The Board also discussed potential Texas meeting locations for October 2018, and potential places for fall of 2019 such as Michigan or the Northeast.
- Executive Leadership Team Update – It was noted that the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) met via conference call the week prior to the Board meeting, during which they approved Tom Lang as the new AFS representative, serving out Tom Bigford’s term through July 2018. Prior to the call, the ELT agreed over email that a nominating committee should be formed to vet Board leadership options. It was also noted that the MAFWA rep has signaled his intent to step down. The Board discussed the merits of executive level leadership on the Board.
- Project Tracking Database – Robin Carlson provided an update on the status of the NFHP project tracking database including next steps and funding needs for the upcoming year. The group discussed the utility of the database to FHPs and to the Board, working with USFWS and FIS data, and funding in the short and long term.
- FHP Performance Evaluation – A summary of past FHP performance evaluations, current revisions under consideration for the 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation, and timeline for next steps was

presented to the Board. Highlights of follow-up comments included a statement regarding the importance of engagement with state wildlife action plans and the importance of on-the-ground conservation. There was some discussion of how this process relates to the USFWS evaluation process.

- American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting – The Board was provided with a brief overview of NFHP involvement at the recent AFS Annual meeting. A workshop was held prior to the AFS meeting, which focused on how to use the 2015 National Assessment and was attended largely by graduate students. There was a NFHP presence at a symposium focused on large-scale data analysis for species evaluation. NFHP also hosted a successful film festival at the meeting. Follow-up discussion centered around how individual FHPs and Beyond the Pond was represented at the AFS annual meeting and the possibility of having a NFHP presence at other meetings including ICAST and American Sportfishing Association.
- FHP Presentation – The Southeast Aquatic Restoration Partnership coordinator, Jessica Graham, provided a remote presentation focused on the Partnership’s connectivity, coastal, and native black bass initiatives. Follow-up discussion focused on if the Partnership is involved in freshwater mussel work, if there is involvement from groups like DOT or the Councils, how the Partnership evaluates passage, and if they are conducting valuation of connectivity and flow. The coordinator also responded to a question regarding the Partnership’s overall operational status.
- Science and Data Committee Report – A summary of the committee’s activities with respect to the Board’s 2017 priorities was provided, including: work on a permanent streams feature, improved data retrieval, and outreach and education for the 2015 Assessment; maintaining the Assessment data system and dynamic querying work; and initial scoping for future Assessment. The Science and Data Committee’s proposed 2018 priorities were also presented-- highlights included continued 2015 Assessment outreach and planning for future assessment; maintaining the Assessment data system and project tracking database; and developing evaluation standards for FHP projects. Follow-up discussion focused on what the Committee’s top priority is and if there is a back-up plan if funding for the assessment doesn’t come through.
- Communications Committee Report – Staff provided the Board with an overview of the Communication Committee’s 2017 accomplishments. It was noted that in 2017 a story map was developed for the National Fish Habitat website, the legislative fact sheet was updated, a 2016 NFHP Annual Report was developed, and the newsletter email list grew. A NFHP video will be developed, and a list of Waters to Watch projects for Board review is anticipated in December. Highlights from the Committee’s 2018 priorities include updating the NFHP website, developing Beyond the Pond reports, and creating an integrated marketing strategy between NFHP and Beyond the Pond. Follow-up comments included a note about the successful NFHP segment on the Outdoor World radio show and the strong utility of the NFHP infographic when meeting with BassPro. Discussion around Waters to Watch challenges in developing a full list included suggestions for the chair to encourage FHPs to submit projects, widening the criteria to include projects funded in the year prior, and using the project tracking database to identify projects. Discussion around the NFHP Annual Report included a suggestion to change the report title, ensuring that the new format is compatible with FHP submissions, and developing a postcard that directs readers to a full web-based report. With respect to legislative outreach, there was a suggestion to have a Hill day and to develop a legislative outreach template that can be tailored to specific members. Hiring an intern was also suggested for assistance with social media.
- Partnerships Committee Report – A presentation on the Partnerships Committee’s 2017 activities was provided to the Board including: completion of the NFHP Document of Interdependence; review of the 2018 Multistate Grant NCN; review of USFWS FY17 FHP submissions and follow-up conversations; initial discussion regarding identification of funding sources outside of MSCGP; and revisions to the FHP Performance Evaluation measures. Priorities for 2018 are largely a continuation of those priorities that

were not completed in 2017. Follow-up discussion centered around providing feedback on USFWS FHP submissions.

- Legislation – The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA) was included in the Sportsmen’s package developed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee entitled the HELP Act. The NFHCA could also be included in a Senate Energy Committee package. It was noted that the legislative team will need to update the legislative fact sheet and ramp up education on the House side (House Natural Resources Committee). The team plans to meet with key people in the upcoming weeks. Follow-up discussion centered on the timing of site visits and educating key members, and developing a detailed legislative communications strategy that includes bringing in key Partnerships. An open house on the Hill, in March, was also suggested.
- Secretarial MOU Update – In light of the DOI order preventing USFWS from participating in NFHP meetings, and continued progress with NFCA legislation, redrafting the MOU has not been a focus of staff efforts. When the DOI order is lifted, staff will review, make any needed updates to the MOU, and discuss next steps. Follow-up discussion included consideration of moving the MOU up to the Secretary of DOI for approval through another avenue.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program – A brief history of previous Multistate Conservation Grant cycles and a timeline for the upcoming grant cycle was presented to the Board. The Board discussed approaches for the upcoming round and the potential to include the project tracking database, FHP workshop, and Assessment work. Highlights included taking a modular approach that includes Board and FHP projects, with the understanding that the full ask may not be awarded; and the importance of noting that these are new, unique projects, that they benefit many states. It was noted that the Partnerships Committee would take the lead on this issue and that finding consensus with the FHPs on this matter is important.
- Beyond the Pond – Staff provided the group with a summary of the organization’s recent activities, noting that the Beyond the Pond Board meets on an as needed basis and that the lack of an Executive Director remains a challenge. However, the Beyond the Pond has secured funding from Bass Pro for a video as well as the ability to contribute to their blog and a marketing and trade agreement; it now receives 1% on the purchase of Driftless Area hats from Rep your Water; and it is working with Southeast Alaska FHP on a campaign in the Tongas National Forest. There was some discussion regarding NFWF’s MoreFish campaign.
- World Recreational Fishing Conference – The Board viewed a presentation on the 2017 World Recreational Fishing Conference, which included among other items, a summary of NFHP’s presence at the conference and a symposium that was held specific to habitat. The group was also presented with a proposal to participate in an international habitat information-sharing forum. The Board discussed the evolution of the World Recreational Fishing Conference participation over time from scientists, managers, and the fishing community to a more science and management focus. The group also discussed whether presentations and proceedings are available. Additionally, the World Fish Migration Day was briefly discussed.
- 2018 Priorities and Budget – The Board discussed it’s currently unfunded 2018 Priorities (M, N, O, P, and L) and potential avenues for funding them including the Multistate Grant Program and potential Board and Beyond the Pond discretionary funding. The group discussed the development of a Beyond The Pond fundraising action plan, selecting project from 2-3 FHPs to bring before the January meeting that the Board can endorse or modify and then hand off to Beyond The Pond. The Board also discussed the need for an Executive Director for Beyond the Pond and an organizational business plan for the National Fish Habitat Board with respect to budget and staffing.



- US Forest Service Fish & Aquatic Strategy Update – The Forest Service is updating its Rise to the Future strategy. It received 50 sets of comments on its draft strategy, including input from NFHP. Goals have largely stayed the same, but the sixth goal was modified slightly to work in a broader community to tell the story of healthy habitats and fish and its benefits. The new policy will be released on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Waters to Watch Discussion – The Board discussed several scenarios for moving forward with the 2017 Waters to Watch including: finalizing a list of projects that is less than 10, sending out one more request to the FHPs, requesting that Board members nominate projects, and highlighting the status/results of past Waters to Watch. The Board also discussed whether the title of the program had a negative connotation and should be changed.
- National Fish Habitat Board Leadership – The nomination committee met prior to the Board meeting and felt that leadership stability was important. They agreed to ask the current chair and vice-chair to stay on for another term (2 years). They also discussed succession planning, recognizing that the chair must be a state representative and Tom will not be able to run for a third term. It was noted that the terms of the Board's state representatives will be up for review next summer, so the nomination committee proposes re-examining potential candidates next summer and approaching state representatives to see who is willing to be nominated for chair the following year. The committee also suggested that willing state representative(s) shadow Tom and Chris to get a feel for the roles and responsibilities. It was noted that pending legislation could reformat the board.
- Field Trip Presentation – A brief presentation on the history and character of the project site was provided to the Board, including the objectives of the restoration work.

**Action items:**

- A small group, led by Ross and including Bryan and state reps, may develop a letter to the DOI on behalf of the non-Federal members of the Board.
- Staff will work with Ross to plan the October 2018 meeting in San Antonio, ensuring it doesn't conflict with SEAFWA and Commission meeting. October 15-19 is preferred, with a back-up week of October 22nd.
- Staff will send out the current board roster and term review dates so members are aware the timeframe of their term.
- ELT will consider input provided by the Board with respect to the level of leadership represented on the Board.
- FHP Performance Evaluation Working Group will revise language pertaining to legislative outreach.
- Staff will consider Board member suggestions for future annual reports and Hill outreach, including a detailed legislative communications strategy.
- Partnerships Committee will take the lead on developing an approach for the upcoming MSCGP round.
- Staff should work with BassPro to update its website with the NFHP logo and a revised summary.
- Staff will participate on the proposed international habitat information sharing list-serve and will provide information on the National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- Staff will determine whether presentations from the World Recreational Fishing Conference habitat symposium are available and will explore participation in World Fish Migration Day.
- State representatives should let the nomination committee know if you are interested and willing to stay on in your roles.
- Staff and the Communications Committee will consider Board member suggestions for the Waters to Watch program and send a list of projects to the Board for endorsement via email.
- A Beyond The Pond fundraising action plan will be developed and brought before the Board at its January meeting.

**Future Board meetings (2018):**

- January 17 WebEx
- March 7-8 (Arlington)
- Summer Introductory Call for new members (Date TBD)
- June 27 WebEx
- October 17-18 (Texas)

**Board approved documents:**

- June Board Webinar summary

**Additional attendees:**

Alex Atkinson (NOAA contract)

John Carreiro (SD Game, Fish and Parks)

Jake Davis (SD Game, Fish and Parks)

Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)

John Lott (SD Game, Fish and Parks)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)

Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)

By Phone: Tom Bigford (AFS), Jessica Graham (SARP), Joe Nohner (MGLP), Kate Sherman (PSMFC), Therese Thompson (WNTI) and Daniel Wieferich (USGS).



**National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2018-2019**

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2018	January 17 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 7-8 (Wed-Thurs)	Washington, DC	Room reserved at USDA HQ
	June 27 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer (TBD)	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 17-18 (Wed-Thurs)	San Antonio, Texas	
2019	January 16 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 13-14 (Wed-Thurs)	Washington, DC Area	
	June 26 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer (TBD)	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 16-17 (Wed-Thurs)	Coastal MI (Great Lakes)? Hawaii? Seattle, WA?	

**Record of Past Board Meetings 2006-2016**

Year	Date	Location	Facility
2006	September 22	Aspen, Colorado	Hotel
	November 16	Washington, DC	Hall of States
2007	January 16	Teleconference	
	March 1-2	Washington, DC	Environmental Protection Agency
	June 6-7	Washington, DC	Commerce Department
	October 2-3	Arlington, VA	Hotel
2008	February 20-21	St. Petersburg, FL	Tampa Bay Watch
	May 13-14	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2009	March 4-5	Harrisburg, PA	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

	June 25, 2009	Leesburg, VA	National Conference Center
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2010	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 3-4	Memphis, TN	Ducks Unlimited
	June 9-10	Silver Spring, MD	NOAA headquarters
	August 25	Teleconference	
	October 12-14	Portland, OR	Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission
2011	January 13	Teleconference	
	March 11	Teleconference	
	April 12-13	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 26-27	Madison, WI	Hotel
	October 19-20	Albuquerque, NM	FWS Regional Office
2012	January 12	Teleconference	
	March 1	Teleconference	
	April 17-18	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 10-11	Portland, ME	Hotel
	October 16-17	Ridgedale, MO	Big Cedar Lodge
2013	January 16	Teleconference	
	February 26-27	Arlington, VA	FWS headquarters
	April 15	Teleconference	
	June 25-26	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah State Capitol
	October 22-23	Charleston, SC	SC DNR
2014	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 9-10	Denver, CO	
	June 25	Tele/web conference	
	November 8-9	National Harbor, MD	Held in conjunction w/ RAE Summit
2015	January 14	Tele/web conference	
	March 3-4	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 24	Tele/web conference	
	September 22	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 20-21	Sacramento, CA	Hotel
2016	January 20	Tele/web conference	
	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 29	Tele/web conference	
	October 26-27	Panama City, FL	
2017	January 18	Tele/web conference	

	March 21	Rosslyn, VA	Trout Unlimited Offices
	June 28	Tele/web conference	
	August 29	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 18-19	Rapid City, SD	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Total: 48 regularly scheduled meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date. 2 introductory calls for new members held to date.

**NFHP Board Membership** (January 2018)

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
Boyd	Douglass	Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council	At large- Sportfishing	July 2020
Champeau	Tom	FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State Agency	July 2018
Harper	Rob	USDA Forest Service	Federal Agency	July 2018
Lang	Tom	American Fisheries Society	American Fisheries Society	July 2018
Leonard	Mike	American Sportfishing Association	At large-Sportfishing	June 2019
Matt	Fred	Native American Fish and Wildlife Society	Tribal	July 2018
Melinchuk	Ross	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	State Agency - SEAFWA	July 2018
Moore	Chris	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council	At large- Commercial fishing	October 2019
Nygren	Doug	Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism	State Agency - MAFWA	July 2018
Plumer	Christy	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	At large- Sportfishing	July 2020
Schriever	Ed	Idaho Department of Fish and Game	State Agency - WAFWA	July 2018
Stone	Sean	Coastal Conservation Association	At large - Sportfishing	July 2020
Wood	Chris	Trout Unlimited	At large - Conservation	July 2020
NA		National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	July 2015
<b>Board members serving by virtue of their offices</b>				
Kurth	Jim	US Fish and Wildlife Service (Acting Director)	Federal Agency	
Rauch	Sam	NOAA Fisheries Service (Acting Assistant Administrator)	Federal Agency	
Regan	Ron	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	AFWA – Executive Director	

**Title:** Budget and Finance Committee Update**Desired outcomes:**

- Board awareness of 2018 funding recommendation
- Board approval of 2018 NFHP Budget and Priorities
- Board awareness of 2019 Multi-State Conservation Grant progress

**Background:**

The following proposed 2018 Board priorities were noted in October as unfunded or partially unfunded:

- Priority M: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop (\$15,000).
- Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work. (\$156k for Inland Assessment, \$50k for Coastal Assessment)
- Priority O: Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database (\$20,000)
- Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System (USGS Inkind support)

Update

- The Budget and Finance Committee met via conference call on December 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss how best to support 2018 unfunded priorities with available discretionary funds (approximately 11k in old NFWF contributions). The Committee agreed to the recommendation below. Staff has also sent a survey FHPs to determine whether any may be able to fund their travel to a workshop (which may reduce costs to the Board).

**Recommendation:** The Board should use the [approximately] 11k of discretionary funds towards funding the FHP workshop, and a request to Beyond the Pond to help cover the costs (the current estimated cost of the workshop is 15k).

- On November 28, the attached proposed NFHP NCN was submitted for 2019 Multistate Grant Program consideration.

**Board Book Materials:**

- Tab 3b – Proposed 2018 Board Budget
- Tab 3c – Proposed 2018 Board Priorities
- Tab 3d – Proposed 2019 NFHP NCN

National Fish Habitat Board  
DRAFT 2018 Budget

REVENUES						
	AFWA/FWS Coop (4500)	Other - (FWS)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4584)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4585)	Old NFWF Contributions - (4520)	TOTAL
Income	\$ 115,000			\$ 209,960		\$ 324,960
Carryover	\$ -		\$ 95,000		\$ 11,097	\$ 106,097
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 115,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 95,000</b>	<b>\$ 209,960</b>	<b>\$ 11,097</b>	<b>\$ 431,057</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Coordination of Board and FHPs</b>						
Travel - Board functions						\$ -
Priority M: Implement a 2018 FHP Workshop					\$ (10,088)	
Contractual to FHPs			\$ (50,000)	\$ (152,800)		\$ (202,800)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (50,000)</b>	<b>\$ (152,800)</b>	<b>\$ (10,088)</b>	<b>\$ (212,888)</b>
<b>Communications</b>						
Salaries and Benefits	\$ (86,833)		\$ (18,167)			\$ (105,000)
Awards			\$ (1,500)			\$ (1,500)
Annual Report			\$ (1,500)			\$ (1,500)
Communications Products						\$ -
Telephone	\$ (2,400)					\$ (2,400)
Travel - Communications Coordinator	\$ (1,318)		\$ (8,000)	\$ (12,000)		\$ (21,318)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (90,551)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (29,167)</b>	<b>\$ (12,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (131,718)</b>
<b>Science &amp; Data</b>						
Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (Chair Travel)				\$ (12,000)		\$ (12,000)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (12,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (12,000)</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>\$ (90,551)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (79,167)</b>	<b>\$ (176,800)</b>	<b>\$ (10,088)</b>	<b>\$ (356,606)</b>
IDC	\$ (24,449)		\$ (15,833)	\$ (33,160)	\$ (1,009)	\$ (74,451)
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT</b>	<b>\$ (24,449)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (15,833)</b>	<b>\$ (33,160)</b>	<b>\$ (1,009)</b>	<b>\$ (74,451)</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

KEY:

cells with green borders indicate DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

EXPENSES OUTSIDE THIS BUDGET						
Priority M: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop.						\$ 3,903
Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work.						\$ 206,000
Priority O: Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database						\$ 20,000
Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System						Inkind -TBD
Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (Committee Meeting)						\$ 15,000

## **2018 National Fish Habitat Board Priorities**

### No Funding Needed or Funding Provided

Priority A: Complete recommended improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board approval.

Priority B: Develop an approach for future Multistate Conservation Grant Program submissions.

Priority C: Develop strategies for multiple FHPs to jointly submit project proposals to alternative funding sources and programs.

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

Priority E: NFHP website additions

Task F: Develop an improved marketing strategy integrating both NFHP and Beyond the Pond

Priority G: Expand the reach and messaging of the NFHP program within the conservation community.

Priority H: Improve the Waters to Watch Campaign for the future

Priority I: Monitor National Fish Habitat Legislation

Priority J: Prepare detailed reports regarding Beyond the Pond for the NFHP Board

Priority K: Continue Outreach Efforts on the 2015 Assessment Products

### Partially Funded

Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (\$12,000 of 27,000)

Priority M: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop (\$11,097 of \$15,000).

### Unfunded



Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work. (\$156k for Inland Assessment, \$50k for Coastal Assessment)

Priority O: Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database (\$20,000)

Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System (USGS Inkind support)

## Proposed NCN

### **Title: Broadening Conservation Partnerships through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee & Ocean Resources Policy Committee)**

**Statement of Need:** The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) seeks to arrest and reverse declines to the quality and quantity of our nation's fish habitat in freshwater, estuarine, and marine waters through voluntary partnerships throughout the United States. The NFHP is comprised of 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) based on fish species, landscapes or habitat types. FHPs develop and implement landscape-scale approaches to protect, restore, and enhance priority fish habitats, both natural and manmade, across the United States. All 50 states are engaged in one or more of the FHPs. The conservation practices of the umbrella National Fish Habitat Partnership and FHPs are guided by the framework set forth in the 2nd Edition of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012) and by the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) which includes AFWA and representatives from the four regional associations and the Chair of the Board, who holds an at-large seat representing a state fish & wildlife agency. FHPs implement on-the-ground conservation activities that complement and strengthen efforts to conserve fish habitat by coordinating closely with local, regional, and national fisheries programs and priorities. The Multi-state Conservation Grant Program enables FHPs to leverage other federal, state, and private resources to fully implement the priorities of the Board and the FHPs. Grant resources support FHPs, Board and other committees under the Board, including the Science and Data Committee by providing funds to:

- improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and better recreational fishing opportunities.
- raise public awareness of the importance of healthy fish habitats and communicate conservation outcomes.
- coordinate with federal initiatives to maximize impact and results.
- ensure projects are consistent with national conservation initiatives for fish species.
- improve the National Fish Habitat Assessment, and increase coordination between Fish Habitat Assessments being implemented through the NFHP.

**Desired Proposals:** Grant recipients would compete for Multi-state Conservation Grants (MSCG) to:

- promote strategic fish habitat conservation through regionally-coordinated science and conservation efforts by building upon previous MSCGs.
- assist FHPs with development, growth, organizational capacity and management.
- improve FHP capabilities to implement habitat assessments and habitat-related projects to identify priority watersheds.
- compile the socio-economic and recreational benefits associated with FHP projects.
- communicate habitat improvement efforts to the greater fisheries community and to the Board, FHPs, state fish chiefs, AFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy and Ocean Resources Policy Committees and the National Fish Habitat Fund on fisheries issues affecting state fish and wildlife agencies.

**Desired Outcomes:** Desired outcomes of successful proposals would include:

- 1) effective and efficient conservation actions coordinated by and among FHPs.
- 2) development of improved FHP coordination, strategic planning, and partnership management.
- 3) improved FHP coordination and data collection for the 2020 National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- 4) increased funding for FHP-sponsored conservation projects.
- 5) increased capacity to engage new partners for FHPs and the Board.
- 6) increased awareness and support for fish habitat conservation across the US.
- 7) improved angling opportunities through the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of fish habitat.
- 8) increased coordination on marine-related FHP projects that advance collaboration among partners.

**Title:** Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation

**Desired outcome(s):**

- **Board approval** of 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation measures and timeline

**Background:**

To uphold the high standards set by the Action Plan, the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) adopted a set of ten measures aimed at evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) performance levels for core operational functions (i.e., coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). At its July 2012 meeting, the Board voted to begin the first “formal” performance evaluation of FHPs in January 2015, covering a 3-year period (2012-2014), and to repeat this process every 3 years thereafter. Following the 2015 performance evaluation process, the following recommendations were adopted by the Board:

1. The 2015 FHP Evaluation Team recommends that this evaluation process be improved and repeated in 2018.
2. The Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the performance measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016.

**Update:**

- During the summer of 2017, a FHP Performance Evaluation Work Group was formed to consider and recommend improvements to the performance measure wording and overall evaluation process for 2018. The working group was made up of FHP coordinators, members of the 2015 FHP Performance Evaluation Review Team, and the Partnerships Committee Tri-chairs.
- The FHP Evaluation Work Group met via conference call four times during 2017: September 6, September 18, October 25, and December 13 to discuss revisions to the FHP Performance Evaluation measures.
- The Work Group focused its efforts on comments collected by staff during the 2015 Performance Review process. Some comments could be addressed with fairly minor edits, while others required more significant revisions. A progress update was provided to the Board in October 2017.
- Upon agreeing to proposed revisions to the performance measures and the addition of one new additional measure, the Work Group made the revised FHP Performance Evaluation document and supporting spreadsheet available to the FHPs for their review. The comments received are included as additional Board Book materials. The Work Group did not make changes to the performance measures based on the comments received, however it does recommend that comments received by the California Fish Passage Forum be considered for future FHP presentations to the Board. The Work Group also recommends that the comments received by Southwest Alaska FHP be considered as part of a broader discussion, at a later date.
- The performance measures document and supporting spreadsheet were then made available to the Partnerships Committee for final approval. Based on a concern raised during this final Partnerships Committee review period, the Tri-chairs determined that the new measure – measure 5 - should be treated as a ‘pilot’ measure in the 2018 Performance Evaluation. Because this is a ‘pilot’ measure, it will not be formally scored by the Board, but FHPs are encouraged to complete the question and self-

score themselves. The Board will consider the results of the 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation and determine whether to include this measure for formal scoring in a future performance evaluation process.

Timeline:

- The 2018 performance measures and timeline will be ready for consideration and approval at the January 2018 NFHP Board meeting. At this same meeting, the Board will also need to determine which Board members and staff will be the Review Team.
- The 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation process will be initiated by the chair of the Board no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Opportunity for Review Team to meet with FHPs at March Board meeting to go over questions and/or Review Team members available to talk to FHPs as needed before the review process starts
- FHP reports will be due back to Review Team May 18, 2018
- Review Team will score each FHP and then meet with FHP leadership to discuss score/further explanation
- Draft report by Review Team to the NFHP Board at October 2018 Board meeting
- NFHP Board approves final report by Review Team at January 2019 Board meeting

**Briefing Book Materials:**

Tab 4b - 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation Measures

Tab 4c - Comments received by Fish Habitat Partnerships on revised FHP Performance Measures

## 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation

### *Introduction*

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an unprecedented effort to build and support partnerships that are strategically focused on fish habitat conservation. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) guides this initiative and establishes processes for bringing partners together, challenging them to collaboratively advance strategic priorities, as well as measure and report on the outcomes of their conservation actions. The geographic scope and focus on fish habitat conservation distinguishes the National Fish Habitat Partnership from other more local fish habitat initiatives.

To uphold the high standards set by the Action Plan, the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) adopted a set of ten measures aimed at evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership performance levels for core operational functions (i.e., coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). At its July 2012 meeting, the Board voted to begin the first “formal” performance evaluation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in January 2015, covering a 3-year period (2012-2014), and to repeat this process every 3 years thereafter.

### *Performance Evaluation Process*

Each Fish Habitat Partnership will submit a completed performance evaluation form by May 18, 2018. A Board-appointed team will assess each partnership’s responses to the eleven measures and rate their level of performance using a scale of 1 (low) to 4 (high). The performance evaluation outcomes will be sent to each Fish Habitat Partnership for their review and response prior to being finalized by the team.

Performance measures 1–5 are focused on fish habitat conservation projects, which are defined as (a) approved actions taken for the conservation or management of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms; (b) the provision of technical assistance to states, Indian tribes, or local communities to facilitate the development of strategies and priorities for aquatic habitat conservation; and, (c) the obtaining of 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 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.

Please note that measure 5 is new and should be considered a ‘pilot’ measure for the 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation. Because this is a ‘pilot’ measure, it will not be formally scored by the Board, but you are encouraged to complete the question and self-score your FHP. The Board will consider the results of the 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation and determine whether to include this measure for formal scoring in a future performance evaluation process.

*Performance Evaluation Form Instructions*

Please provide a complete description of the information requested for each performance measure as the review team will rely on your responses when assessing your partnership's level of performance. The time period that is being covered by this performance evaluation is Federal Fiscal Years 2014-2016 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2016) for measures 1- 4 and calendar years 2015-2017 (January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017) for measures 5-11.

***Fish Habitat Performance Evaluation Form***

1) For federal fiscal years 2014-2016, list the title of each of your partnership's fish habitat conservation<sup>1</sup> projects that:

- a. Used National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) funding sources (e.g., US Fish & Wildlife Service); or,
- b. Your partnership developed and were funded by non-NFHAP sources; or,
- c. Were neither funded by NFHAP sources nor developed by your partnership, but were formally endorsed by your partnership.

For each project listed, identify the project type (a, b, or c) as well as the specific FHP and/or national conservation priority (i.e., geographic focus areas, priority habitat types, key stressors or impairments) the project addresses

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Federal Fiscal Year the project was funded or endorsed
- Project title
- Project type
- Project location
- FHP conservation priority, as stated in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s), being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project
- National conservation strategy/ies being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project. The national conservation strategies can be found [here](#).
- Why the project was endorsed by your FHP (if applicable)

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (2 points).

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<sup>1</sup> "The use of the term conservation refers to tools for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and their habitats." (National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, D.C. 40 pp. 2012.)



- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (4 points).

2) Describe the monitoring /evaluation plan being used to measure success in achieving the expected conservation outcomes\* for each on-the-ground fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1. Monitoring/evaluation plan descriptions are not required for communications, operations, or assessment projects for this criterion. (\*Outcomes represent “a desired future state” while outputs are “immediate project products.” Providing fish in a stream unimpeded access to spawning habitat is a conservation outcome, whereas removing a manmade barrier is a project output.)

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Expected conservation outcome
- Description of the monitoring/evaluation plan

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (4 points).

3) Describe vulnerable fish habitat being protected **or** the causes of and processes influencing fish habitat decline that are being addressed by each fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1.

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Vulnerable fish habitat being protected, as defined in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s) (e.g. placing land in conservation easement). Please include the vulnerable habitat description or link to the definition in your strategic plan.

**OR**

Causes of and processes influencing the vulnerable fish habitat decline being addressed (e.g. planting riparian buffers to minimize polluted run-off from entering a stream and negatively affecting water quality), recognizing that it may not be feasible for an individual FHP to address the larger cause or causes of the habitat decline.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (4 points).

4) For the fish habitat conservation projects listed under Performance Measure 1, what is the amount of NFHP funds (i.e., US Fish and Wildlife Service NFHP funds) allocated in support of these projects, and what is the total amount of funding from all other sources?

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Amount of NFHP funds supporting the project
- Amount of other federal funds supporting the project
- Amount of non-federal funds supporting the project
- If pertinent, also include a description of how funding the project assisted with generating additional sources of non-NFHP funding that is being targeted towards your partnership's priorities. For example, using NFHAP funds for a fish habitat conservation project that subsequently lead to a new funding source devoted to addressing one or more of your priorities.

**Summary information:**

- Provide the percentage of projects listed under Performance Measure 1 with higher than 2:1 non-NFHP:NFHP funding.
- Provide the total sum of non-NFHP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.
- Provide the total sum of NFHP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was less than NFHAP funding (1 point).
- b. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was equal to or up to 1.5 times higher than NFHP funding (2 points).
- c. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 1.5 and up to 2.0 times higher than NFHP (3 points).
- d. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 2.0 times higher than NFHP funding (4 points).

5) PILOT MEASURE: NFHP National Conservation Strategies are intended as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the FHPs while allowing the FHPs to develop meaningful goals and approaches to conserve fish habitat. By establishing and communicating a national framework to partners, these strategies emphasize the need to focus on the process-level issues, not just the symptoms, to reverse the decline in fisheries and aquatic resources by directly addressing the contributing factors. Under each National Conservation Strategy Category below, please provide a short narrative indicating additional FHP activities (other than the on-the-ground projects listed in Performance Measure 1) that address the National Conservation Strategies. Examples of additional activities can be, but are not limited to, work accomplished such as development of Best Management Practices, outreach activities, partnerships that your FHP has created with local/regional organizations, collaborations, engagement of key audiences, or your FHP acting as a catalyst to promote a collective vision.

#### National Conservation Strategy Categories

##### Protection Category:

1. Protect intact and healthy waters.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

##### Restoration Category:

2. Restore hydrologic conditions for fish.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

3. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

4. Restore water quality.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. The protection category of national conservation strategies is clearly addressed by fish habitat conservation projects and activities (2 points).
- b. The restoration category of national conservation strategies is clearly addressed by fish habitat conservation projects and activities (2 points).

6) Please provide a copy of the criteria your partnership currently uses to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. The NFHP Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria can be found [here](#).

- a. Less than 70% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (4 points).

7) Describe the ways your partnership has engaged with neighboring/overlapping Fish Habitat Partnerships and/or other natural resource conservation entities during the past three years (2015-2017) and what these engagements produced for outcomes (e.g. reduced redundancy, enhanced message delivery or access to a larger outreach audience, greater geographic coverage).

The following information should be included in your response:

- Name of the Fish Habitat Partnership/ natural resource conservation entity engaged (examples of a 'conservation entity' include, but not are limited to: state resource agencies, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, land trusts, and non-government organizations).
- Type of engagement activity or activities (building awareness, coordination, collaboration) that occurred with each Fish Habitat Partnership/regional natural resource conservation entity.
- The outcome achieved by each engagement activity.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure and the score will be cumulative, with each type of outcome (a-d) listed below being worth 1 point. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for all four criteria.

- a. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities included an exchange of information about their respective programs (1 point).
- b. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities improved mutual capacity for communications and outreach (1 point).
- c. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities improved the development or delivery of scientific information and products (1 point).
- d. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities included generating collaboration that improved the delivery of an on-the-ground conservation project (1 point).



8) Describe how your partnership uses resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to determine your conservation priorities and to identify the actions they require.

The following information should be included in your response:

- Title of the resource condition assessment(s) and/or analysis(es) used by your partnership along with the date(s) it (they) were completed.
- A listing of the conservation priorities, and the actions they require, determined by the resource condition assessment and/or analysis results.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for criteria b-d, otherwise points are assigned and totaled across all criteria met.

- a. The partnership has not used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (0points).
- b. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with either determining their conservation priorities or identifying the actions they require (2 points).
- c. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining both their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (1 point).
- d. The partnership has further refined their conservation priorities and/or the actions they require through best available resource condition assessment and/or analysis results (1 point).

9) Describe your partnership's outreach activities aimed at: 1) sharing information about your strategic priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments); 2) building broader visibility among local and regional partners; 3) tailoring events to garner media coverage; and 4) strengthening relationships with policy-makers. (Note: strengthening relationships with policy-makers may include activities such as, but not limited to, your FHP providing information to members of legislatures, individuals at state or federal governmental agencies, AFWA regional association committee or leadership, etc.)

The Performance Review Team will use the outreach criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. Fish Habitat Partnerships whose activities includes only one of these criteria will receive 1 point; use of two criteria will receive 2 points; use of three criteria will receive 3 points; and, use of all four criteria will receive 4 points.

- a. The partnership's outreach activities were limited to information sharing (1 point).
- b. The partnership's outreach activities included building broader visibility among local and regional partners (1 point).
- c. The partnership's outreach activities included events to garner media coverage (1 point).
- d. The partnership's outreach activities included strengthening relationships with policy- makers (1 point).

10) Describe the ways your partnership coordinated its aquatic resource data and regional assessment information with the NFHP Science and Data Committee during the past 3 years (2015-2017).

The following information/documents should be included in your response:

- The regional data sets and/or conservation outcomes you provided for integration into the NFHP National Assessment. Please provide a link to where the dataset(s) are housed or may be viewed (do not attach datasets to this report).
- Documents your partnership produced that provide details about the effectiveness of the conservation outcomes supported by your partnership.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure with a total of 4 points maximum.

- a. The FHP coordinated with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing FHP science and data updates, either in writing or verbally, to the NFHP Science and Data Committee at minimum twice per year (1 point).
- b. The FHP provided datasets to the NFHP Science and Data Committee, either those directly requested by the NFHP Science and Data Committee or new datasets developed by the FHP, for future inclusion in the National Fish Assessment (1 point).
- c. The FHP directly involved and worked with the NFHP Science and Data Committee in the development of FHP habitat assessment products or in ensuring the National Assessment properly addressed FHP needs (1 point).
- d. The FHP provided either data products or written materials directly used in the National Fish Habitat Assessment Report (1 point).

Optional Points that could be used to replace points lost above.

- e. The FHP provided reviews and comments of the 2015 National Assessment products (1 point).
- f. The FHP provided scoping information to assist in the development of the next National Assessment (1 point).
- g. The FHP responded to the Science and Data Committee survey on the direction for the next National Assessment (1 point).

11) List your partnership's conservation priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments) and describe the progress that has been made toward addressing these priorities during the past 3 years (2015-2017).

The following information should be included in your response:

- Separate listings for short-term and long-term conservation priorities.
- Target dates for achieving each conservation priority.
- Current status of achieving each conservation priority by its target date (i.e. ahead of schedule, on schedule, behind schedule).
- Efforts underway within the partnership that are focused on addressing each conservation priority.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 50% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (1 point).
- b. 50% to 69% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (2 points).
- c. 70% to 89% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (4 points).

## Evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership Performance

### *Introduction*

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an unprecedented effort to build and support partnerships that are strategically focused on fish habitat conservation. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) guides this initiative and establishes processes for bringing partners together, challenging them to collaboratively advance strategic priorities, as well as measure and report on the outcomes of their conservation actions. The geographic scope and focus on fish habitat conservation distinguishes the National Fish Habitat Partnership from other more local fish habitat initiatives.

To uphold the high standards set by the Action Plan, the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) adopted a set of ten measures aimed at evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership performance levels for core operational functions (i.e., coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). At its July 2012 meeting, the Board voted to begin the first “formal” performance evaluation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in January 2015, covering a 3-year period (2012-2014), and to repeat this process every 3 years thereafter.

### *Performance Evaluation Process*

Each Fish Habitat Partnership will submit a completed performance evaluation form by May XX, 2018. A Board-appointed team will assess each partnership’s responses to the ten measures and rate their level of performance using a scale of 1 (low) to 4 (high). The performance evaluation outcomes will be sent to each Fish Habitat Partnership for their review and response prior to being finalized by the team.

Performance measures 1–5 are focused on fish habitat conservation projects, which are defined as (a) approved actions taken for the conservation or management of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms; (b) the provision of technical assistance to states, Indian tribes, or local communities to facilitate the development of strategies and priorities for aquatic habitat conservation; and, (c) the obtaining of 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 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.

### *Performance Evaluation Form Instructions*

Please provide a complete description of the information requested for each performance measure as the review team will rely on your responses when assessing your partnership’s level of performance. The time period that is being covered by this performance evaluation is Federal Fiscal Years 2014-2016 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2016) for measures 1- 4 and calendar years 2015-2017 (January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017) for measures 5-10.

**Commented [EG1]:** FHP Comment: Are some FHP’s able to purchase land and water rights? To me this sounds like some of the partnerships might be in the position to do this or does this mean something else? I’m sorry I am a little confused.

### ***Fish Habitat Performance Evaluation Form***

1) For federal fiscal years 2014-2016, list the title of each of your partnership's fish habitat conservation projects that:

- a. Used National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) funding sources (e.g., US Fish & Wildlife Service); or,
- b. Your partnership developed and were funded by non-NFHAP sources; or,
- c. Were neither funded by NFHAP sources nor developed by your partnership, but were formally endorsed by your partnership.

For each project listed, identify the project type (a, b, or c) as well as the specific FHP and/or national conservation priority (i.e., geographic focus areas, priority habitat types, key stressors or impairments) the project addresses

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- o Federal Fiscal Year the project was funded or endorsed
- o Project title
- o Project type
- o Project location
- o FHP conservation priority, as stated in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s), being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project
- o National conservation strategy/ies being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project. The national conservation strategies can be found [here](#).
- o Why the project was endorsed by your FHP (if applicable)

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (4 points).

**Commented [TT2]:** This should be better defined. We have not had requests for formal endorsements from partners not seeking NFHP funding, nor have we asked partners to submit projects for formal endorsement. However, we consider projects proposed to us for NFHP funding that were not funded, but nevertheless met our threshold criteria for funding, as "endorsed" projects

**Commented [TT3]:** Should this be GIS coordinates?

2) Describe the monitoring /evaluation plan being used to measure success in achieving the expected conservation outcomes\* for each on-the-ground fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1. Monitoring/evaluation plan descriptions are not required for communications, operations, or assessment projects for this criterion. (\*Outcomes represent “a desired future state” while outputs are “immediate project products.” Providing fish in a stream unimpeded access to spawning habitat is a conservation outcome, whereas removing a manmade barrier is a project output.)

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- o Project title
- o Expected conservation outcome
- o Description of the monitoring/evaluation plan

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (4 points).

**Commented [TT4]:** I'm not sure what the expectations are here for a partnership. If, for example, our partnership funds a project to delineate anadromous fish habitat for legal protection under Alaska law, the “output” would be a nomination to and inclusion of the delineated stream within Alaska’s Anadromous Waters Catalog. If the “outcome” is the desired future state of continued anadromous fish presence within the delineated stream, is the partnership expected to regularly “monitor” that stream to make sure the anadromous fish are still there? If so, this would be an unduly expensive prospect for which we have no funding.



3) Describe vulnerable fish habitat being protected **or** the causes of and processes influencing fish habitat decline that are being addressed by each fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1.

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- o Project title
- o Vulnerable fish habitat being protected, as defined in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s) (e.g. placing land in conservation easement). Please include the vulnerable habitat description or link to the definition in your strategic plan.

**OR**

Causes of and processes influencing the vulnerable fish habitat decline being addressed (e.g. planting riparian buffers to minimize polluted run-off from entering a stream and negatively affecting water quality), recognizing that it may not be feasible for an individual FHP to address the larger cause or causes of the habitat decline.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (4 points).

**Commented [TT5]:** How do we adequately address or measure this in Alaska. All fish habitat is vulnerable to future degradation, but most of our habitat is not currently in decline. We often fund projects that provide a measure of protection against some possible, but presently undefined, future threat.

**Commented [TT6]:** FWS funds can't be used to purchase conservation easements. It is, nevertheless, a defined strategic action in our Conservation Plan.

4) For the fish habitat conservation projects listed under Performance Measure 1, what is the amount of NFHP funds (i.e., US Fish and Wildlife Service NFHP funds) allocated in support of these projects, and what is the total amount of funding from all other sources?

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Amount of NFHP funds supporting the project
- Amount of other federal funds supporting the project
- Amount of non-federal funds supporting the project
- If pertinent, also include a description of how funding the project assisted with generating additional sources of non-NFHP funding that is being targeted towards your partnership's priorities. For example, using NFHAP funds for a fish habitat conservation project that subsequently lead to a new funding source devoted to addressing one or more of your priorities.

Summary information:

- Provide the percentage of projects listed under Performance Measure 1 with higher than 2:1 non-NFHP:NFHP funding.
- Provide the total sum of non-NFHP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.
- Provide the total sum of NFHP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was less than NFHAP funding (1 point).
- b. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was equal to or up to 1.5 times higher than NFHP funding (2 points).
- c. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 1.5 and up to 2.0 times higher than NFHP (3 points).
- d. In aggregate, non-NFHP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 2.0 times higher than NFHP funding (4 points).

**Commented [TT7]:** The information requested here is not always available to the partnership coordinator if the coordinator is not the principal lead or manager of the project. To adequately capture this information there would need to be close communication between the USFWS contact, the partnership coordinator and the project lead.

**Proposed new metric around NFHP conservation strategies:** NFHP National Conservation Strategies are intended as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the FHPs while allowing the FHPs to develop meaningful goals and approaches to conserve fish habitat. By establishing and communicating a national framework to partners, these strategies emphasize the need to focus on the process-level issues, not just the symptoms, to reverse the decline in fisheries and aquatic resources by directly addressing the contributing factors. Under each National Conservation Strategy Category below, please provide a short narrative indicating additional FHP activities (other than the on-the-ground projects listed in Performance Measure 1) that address the National Conservation Strategies. Examples of additional activities can be, but are not limited to, work accomplished such as development of Best Management Practices, outreach activities, partnerships that your FHP has created with local/regional organizations, collaborations, engagement of key audiences, or your FHP acting as a catalyst to promote a collective vision.

**Commented [EG8]:** FHP Comment: I really like this and I think it will be very beneficial. I didn't see anything mentioned about the Climate Change Strategies and Objectives so would that fit here as well?

National Conservation Strategy Categories

Protection Category:

1. Protect intact and healthy waters.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

Restoration Category:

2. Restore hydrologic conditions for fish.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

3. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

4. Restore water quality.

Narrative on additional FHP activities that support this Strategy:

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. The protection category of national conservation strategies is clearly addressed by fish habitat conservation projects and activities (2 points).
- b. The restoration category of national conservation strategies is clearly addressed by fish habitat conservation projects and activities (2 points).



5) Please provide a copy of the criteria your partnership currently uses to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. The NFHP Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria can be found [here](#).

- a. Less than 70% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (4 points).

6) Describe the ways your partnership has engaged with neighboring/overlapping Fish Habitat Partnerships and/or other natural resource conservation entities during the past three years (2015-2017) and what these engagements produced for outcomes (e.g. reduced redundancy, enhanced message delivery or access to a larger outreach audience, greater geographic coverage).

The following information should be included in your response:

- Name of the Fish Habitat Partnership/ natural resource conservation entity engaged (examples of a 'conservation entity' include, but not are limited to: state resource agencies, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, land trusts, and non-government organizations).
- Type of engagement activity or activities (building awareness, coordination, collaboration) that occurred with each Fish Habitat Partnership/regional natural resource conservation entity.
- The outcome achieved by each engagement activity.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure and the score will be cumulative, with each type of outcome (a-d) listed below being worth 1 point. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for all four criteria.

- a. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities included an exchange of information about their respective programs (1 point).
- b. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities improved mutual capacity for communications and outreach (1 point).
- c. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other natural resource conservation entities improved the development or delivery of scientific information and products (1 point).
- d. The outcomes of engagement with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities included generating collaboration that improved the delivery of an on-the-ground conservation project (1 point).

**Commented [TT9]:** This is a difficult request for a partnership coordinator because the information may not be easily obtained. Our partnership is made up of organizations that are local and national in scope that are engaging in activities to further their own agendas but these activities also benefit the mission of the partnership – e.g. creating a larger constituency for the protection of local fish habitat. Also, our partnership hosts meetings to make government agencies and conservation entities aware of projects they are undertaking in our service area, but we don't have the capacity to follow up with each to see if redundancy is being reduced.

7) Describe how your partnership uses resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to determine your conservation priorities and to identify the actions they require.

The following information should be included in your response:

- Title of the resource condition assessment(s) and/or analysis(es) used by your partnership along with the date(s) it (they) were completed.
- A listing of the conservation priorities, and the actions they require, determined by the resource condition assessment and/or analysis results.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for criteria b-d, otherwise points are assigned and totaled across all criteria met.

- a. The partnership has not used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (0 points).
- b. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with either determining their conservation priorities or identifying the actions they require (2 points).
- c. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining both their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (1 point).
- d. The partnership has further refined their conservation priorities and/or the actions they require through best available resource condition assessment and/or analysis results (1 point).

**Commented [TT10]:** Resource condition assessments are really not relevant to our partnership because the overall assessment is that the resource is pristine in our service area. Rather, our priorities are determined more by potential threat to habitat or lack of permanent conservation protection for important habitat. As currently structured we would get only 1 credit here.

8) Describe your partnership's outreach activities aimed at: 1) sharing information about your strategic priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments); 2) building broader visibility among local and regional partners; 3) tailoring events to garner media coverage; and 4) strengthening relationships with policy-makers. (Note: strengthening relationships with policy-makers may include activities such as, but not limited to, your FHP providing information to members of legislatures, individuals at state or federal governmental agencies, AFWA regional association committee or leadership, etc.)

**Commented [TT11]:** How do you want us to distinguish between the partnership and partners for purpose of this question. Most of our NGO partners undertake outreach activities to fundraise and boost their own visibility and may or may not emphasize their membership in the partnership. Such activities may not bring immediate cash benefits to the partnership but by strengthening a partner's ability to do conservation (e.g. a land trust) advance the partnership's mission or a strategic action identified by the partnership's conservation plan. Again, the coordinator may not be in a position to know what partners are doing.

The Performance Review Team will use the outreach criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. Fish Habitat Partnerships whose activities includes only one of these criteria will receive 1 point; use of two criteria will receive 2 points; use of three criteria will receive 3 points; and, use of all four criteria will receive 4 points.

- a. The partnership's outreach activities were limited to information sharing (1 point).
- b. The partnership's outreach activities included building broader visibility among local and regional partners (1 point).
- c. The partnership's outreach activities included events to garner media coverage (1 point).
- d. The partnership's outreach activities included strengthening relationships with policy-makers (1 point).

9) Describe the ways your partnership coordinated its aquatic resource data and regional assessment information with the NFHP Science and Data Committee during the past 3 years (2015-2017).

Commented [TT12]: Is this information that can be provided by the Science and Data committee?

The following information/documents should be included in your response:

- The regional data sets and/or conservation outcomes you provided for integration into the NFHP National Assessment. Please provide a link to where the dataset(s) are housed or may be viewed (do not attach datasets to this report).
- Documents your partnership produced that provide details about the effectiveness of the conservation outcomes supported by your partnership.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure with a total of 4 points maximum.

- a. The FHP coordinated with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing FHP science and data updates, either in writing or verbally, to the NFHP Science and Data Committee at minimum twice per year (1 point).
- b. The FHP provided datasets to the NFHP Science and Data Committee, either those directly requested by the NFHP Science and Data Committee or new datasets developed by the FHP, for future inclusion in the National Fish Assessment (1 point).
- c. The FHP directly involved and worked with the NFHP Science and Data Committee in the development of FHP habitat assessment products or in ensuring the National Assessment properly addressed FHP needs (1 point).
- d. The FHP provided either data products or written materials directly used in the National Fish Habitat Assessment Report (1 point).

Optional Points that could be used to replace points lost above.

- e. The FHP provided reviews and comments of the 2015 National Assessment products (1 point).
- f. The FHP provided scoping information to assist in the development of the next National Assessment (1 point).
- g. The FHP responded to the Science and Data Committee survey on the direction for the next National Assessment (1 point).



10) List your partnership’s conservation priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments) and describe the progress that has been made toward addressing these priorities during the past 3 years (2015-2017).

The following information should be included in your response:

- Separate listings for short-term and long-term conservation priorities.
- Target dates for achieving each conservation priority.
- Current status of achieving each conservation priority by its target date (i.e. ahead of schedule, on schedule, behind schedule).
- Efforts underway within the partnership that are focused on addressing each conservation priority.

**Commented [TT13]:** Do we not need to distinguish between “outputs” and “outcomes” here? A short term “output” for us may be nominating a stream for inclusion in Alaska’s Anadromous Waters Catalog, and upon doing so we may have achieved the “outcome” of a measure of long term conservation, at least under Alaska law (if it is enforced by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game)

**Commented [TT14]:** Some of our conservation priorities are arguably infinite in duration. For example, a top conservation priority for us is to reserve water for fish under Alaska law in the rivers and streams within our service area. There are thousands of miles of rivers and streams and each reservation requires the collection of five years of flow data. It is currently the most effective measure of future protection for fish under Alaska law and will likely be a conservation priority of our partnership for as long as we are in existence.

**Commented [TT15]:** Again, the coordinator can only answer these questions if he or she has access to the information from FWS for NFHP funded projects and to other non NFHP funded projects from partners.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 50% of the partnership’s conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (1 point).
- b. 50% to 69% of the partnership’s conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (2 points).
- c. 70% to 89% of the partnership’s conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the partnership’s conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (4 points).

**Additional Comments from FHPs:**

**Midwest Glacial Lakes:**

For question 1, we are asked to list and narratively substantiate what “national conservation strategies” are being addressed by each project. I am unclear whether this is the goals, objectives, or strategic actions listed in the 2nd ed. of the NFHP action plan or if there is another set of strategies elsewhere that I should reference.

For question 5, is there a place that I can find the “Board’s minimum benchmark set of criteria.”

I suppose these are both direct questions to you as I build my database for Kate Sherman (in preparation for the evaluation) and comments for additional clarity/pointing to resources in the

evaluation.

Nevermind on both fronts; I found the information in the criteria document. Easy to check that one off your list!

### **California Fish Passage Forum:**

Governance Committee members, an effort is underway to revise the 2018 FHP Performance Evaluation (see attached). This is a process that NFHP undertakes every 3 years.

I don't have any specific comments, per se, on the actual form, or the proposed changes – my comments are based on the process itself, given both desired outcomes as well as the recognition that each of the FHPs is very different – some of the FHPs are very project-focused, some are very outreach and education focused, some focus on data collection and assessment work, etc. It is a difficult task to quantify performance across numerous attributes based on the unique attributes of each FHP – it is especially difficult to rank categories of production, especially when the FHPs have a small amount of resources and must (and should) focus their efforts in a handful of categories (versus the 10 categories proposed on the new form).

Would the FHPs be better served by participating in a process, every three years, in which each FHP presents its outcomes to the Board and has a robust SWOT analysis discussion – sharing strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats, and engaging with Board members, getting their thoughts, perspectives, and guidance moving forward? There are 19 partnerships. If the Board had discussions with 2 partnerships each time they convened, they would engage with each partnership on a “regular” basis (compared to the current situation). The Board could leverage its discussions with each FHP, developing ideas for fundraising topics for the nonprofit arm of NFHP, encouraging cross-fertilization of partnerships based on the topics they discuss with each partnership, etc.. Would the utility of that type of process better serve both NFHP and each partnership compared to producing a document that scores and ranks?

I don't know the answer to the question – I've been doing some reviews of how nonprofit organizations are evaluated, and in particular, nonprofit campaigns (which align quite well with FHPs). I think about questions like:

- Are our goals clearly defined and do they remain relevant? What emerging issues might drive changes to our goals?
- What are we doing well and what should we continue doing?
- What can we do to better position the Forum for addressing existing and emerging issues?
- Are we achieving what we have described in our strategic plan; what actually happened and why were there differences?
- In what ways has our understanding about Forum outcomes deepened or changed, and what do we need to do to respond to those drivers?



- What other FHPs have similar goals as the Forum, and what opportunities exist to work together to leverage resources and outcomes?
- What types of projects is the Forum proposing that might spark the most interest by potential funders, and what other FHP partnerships have similar projects?

I would like to see the Forum asking and answering these questions with the Board versus listing our “projects”, the title, type, location, etc. Much of that information is reflected in and can be extracted from the annual report we produce for the USFWS/Board for NFHP funding considerations.

We have an opportunity to have a more robust experience with the Board that enhances their experience as well as Forum outcomes – and helps inform future changes to each FHPs strategic framework.

**Title:** Beyond the Pond Update

**Desired Outcome:**

- **Board awareness** of fundraising plan for FHP projects and updates on marketing initiatives for 2018.

**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. In 2016, a website was launched: <http://beyondthepondusa.com/>, along with securing a trademark, developing a fact sheet, an Amazon Smile account and an online donation page <https://secure.processdonation.org/beyondthepondusa/Donation.aspx>.

**Update:**

By March the Board of Directors for Beyond the Pond will identify approximately 5 FHP related projects to develop a fundraising strategy around. One project already identified is the Tongass Top 5 project from the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership. Beyond the Pond staff will work with the FHPs to identify specific projects that they are seeking additional funding for that would align well with Beyond the Pond fundraising efforts.

These projects will be presented to the Board in March along with a Draft fundraising strategy. In addition Beyond the Pond is working with Fishpond on some ideas to benefit NFHP FHPs through merchandise sales and we are also working on fundraising solicitations for an FHP workshop in October 2018.

**Title:** Science and Data Committee Update

**Desired outcome(s):**

- **Board awareness** of NFHP Science and Data Committee Tasks and Operations

**Update:**

- Inland Assessment – No progress has been made on implementing the Board approved Inland Assessment Strategy as funding has not been made available from the USFWS to being this task. Assessment Team members have been reassigned other funded tasks on other grants and the 2015 Assessment information is currently warehoused using MI DNR and Michigan State University resources. Only very simple data requests are being honored at this time due to a lack of resources.
- Marine Assessment – Initial planning for the Northeast Marine Assessment has begun with an organizational conference call scheduled for January 11.
- Project Database – No progress has been made on implementing the planned and Board approved work on the Project Database as funding has not been made available to work on this task. The current database has been warehoused using Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission resources and only very simple data requests are being honored at this time due to a lack of resources.
- Committee Operations – A conference call to update Committee members on recent Board decisions and the status of various Committee tasks will be held during the week of January 8. No planning is being done on the requested Committee Meeting as funding is not available to support this task.

**Board Book Materials:** No additional materials

**Title:** Communications Committee Report

**Desired outcome:** An informational update to the Board on the committee's 2018 work plan.

**Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2018:**

Task A – NFHP website additions

Additions in 2018 are expected to improve partnership pages and connections between The National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond.

- In February, we will be supporting our partnership with Rep Your Water, by adding logos and partnership descriptions on both the fishhabitat.org webpage and the beyondthepondusa.com website.

Task B - Develop an improved marketing strategy integrating both NFHP and Beyond the Pond develop a marketing strategy that integrates both the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond. This strategy will be intricate in raising awareness of FHP project needs and work to help raise funding to meet FHP needs. Draft strategy will be presented to the Board in March.

Task C - Expand the reach and messaging of the NFHP program within the conservation community.

Support travel and marketing for the National Fish Habitat Partnership to raise awareness of NFHP projects.

Deliverables will also include enhancing the National Fish Habitat Partnership assessment and meeting with partners to expand the reach and input into the assessment.

- We will be attending the American Fisheries Society Annual meeting in 2018 and will be providing updates regarding NFHP at various meetings, including The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA Annual Meeting.

Task D - Improve the Waters to Watch Campaign for the future

Work to improve the Waters to Watch campaign and utilize the campaign as a marketing piece to understand and promote additional project needs for FHPs to raise additional resources.

- In April we will cycle our requests for Waters to Watch nominations for 2018.

Task E - Monitor National Fish Habitat Legislation

Work with the NFHP legislative affairs team to identify communications needs to advance the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

- The Government Affairs team for NFHP will be developing a strategy for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act in early 2018.

Task F - Prepare detailed reports regarding Beyond the Pond for the NFHP Board

As Beyond the Pond develops, we will work to keep the National Fish Habitat Board informed of marketing and fundraising developments regarding Beyond the Pond.

**Title:** International Recreational Fisher Habitat Group Update

**Desired outcome(s):**

- **Board awareness** of the availability of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Recreational Fishing Conference habitat symposium presentations
- **Board awareness of** International Recreational Fisher Habitat Group activities

**Background:**

In October, NFHP staff presented the Board with an overview of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Recreational Fishing Conference (WRFC8), which was held in July 2017 in Victoria, B.C., Canada. The staff presentation included among other items, a summary of NFHP's presence at the conference and a summary of a symposium that was held specific to habitat. The Board was also presented with a proposal to participate in an international habitat information-sharing forum. The Board discussed the evolution of the World Recreational Fishing Conference participation over time and whether presentations and proceedings from the 8<sup>th</sup> conference were available. The actions items generated during the October meeting were as follows:

- Staff will participate on the proposed international habitat information sharing list-serve and will provide information on the National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- Staff will determine whether presentations from the World Recreational Fishing Conference habitat symposium are available and will explore participation in World Fish Migration Day.

**Update:**

Following the October Board meeting, staff shared with the international recreational fisher habitat group that they had been tasked by the NFHP Board to participate. Gary Whelan was introduced to the group and his offer to provide information on NFHP 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment was shared. Ryan Roberts was also introduced, and the NFHP December newsletter was shared with the group.

Staff suggested that the international recreational fisher habitat group could make the presentations from the habitat symposium of the WRFC8 available on the web and share the link with interested individuals. As such, the presentations from the conference symposium can now be accessed at:

<http://www.fishhabitatnetwork.com.au/> . The individual presentation links are at the bottom of the third article on the home page entitled "The 3 winners report back!"

The goals of the group have undergone revision since originally proposed. The current goals are as follows:

- Share information on fish habitat initiatives and programs; things that work and things that don't
- Seek information or contacts or ideas to help resolve those intractable problems we all face
- Provide opportunities for professional development (trips, meetings, site inspections, conferences) to colleagues visiting our respective countries (or at least fishing buddies).
- Develop either an international forum focused on recreational fishers AND FISH HABITAT or a series of video conferences on selected habitat topics as required or requested (or both)
- Work towards the integration of fish habitat management as a core component of fisheries management

**Title:** Pacific Lamprey Update

**Desired outcome(s):**

- **Board awareness** of presentation at Pacific Lamprey 5-Year Policy Review

**Update:**

In December, NFHP staff presented on behalf of the Board at the Pacific Lamprey 5-Year Policy Review. This presentation focused on the history and major achievements of the NFHP, the Board function and make-up, the role of FHPs, the purpose of Beyond the Pond, and the connections between these groups. Follow-up discussion and questions focused on: 1) why there is only one Tribal representative on the Board; 2) whether the Board funds on the ground restoration projects on Tribal lands; and 3) whether the Board engages in litigation with respect to protection issues of Tribal concern. Further information with respect to the first question was requested by the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission.

**Board Book Materials:**

Tab 9b - Pacific Lamprey NFHP Presentation





# National Fish Habitat Partnership Update

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement  
Policy Committee 5-Year Review  
December 5, 2017

Emily Greene  
NFHP Board Staff



## What is the National Fish Habitat Partnership?

The National Fish Habitat Partnership seeks to **protect, restore, and enhance** the nation's fish and aquatic communities through:

- **Partnerships** that foster fish habitat conservation
- **Non-regulatory**, voluntary conservation actions
- **Leveraging** investments



## In The Beginning...

- In 2001, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council supported an ad hoc group of fisheries professionals to develop the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- Create a conservation system similar to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.



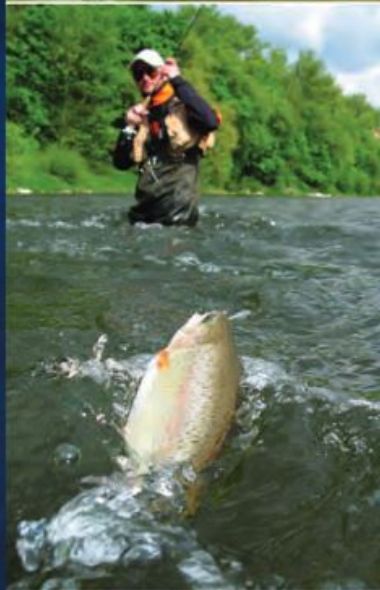
# NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

COOPERATION

INVESTMENT

STEWARDSHIP





## NFHP Mission

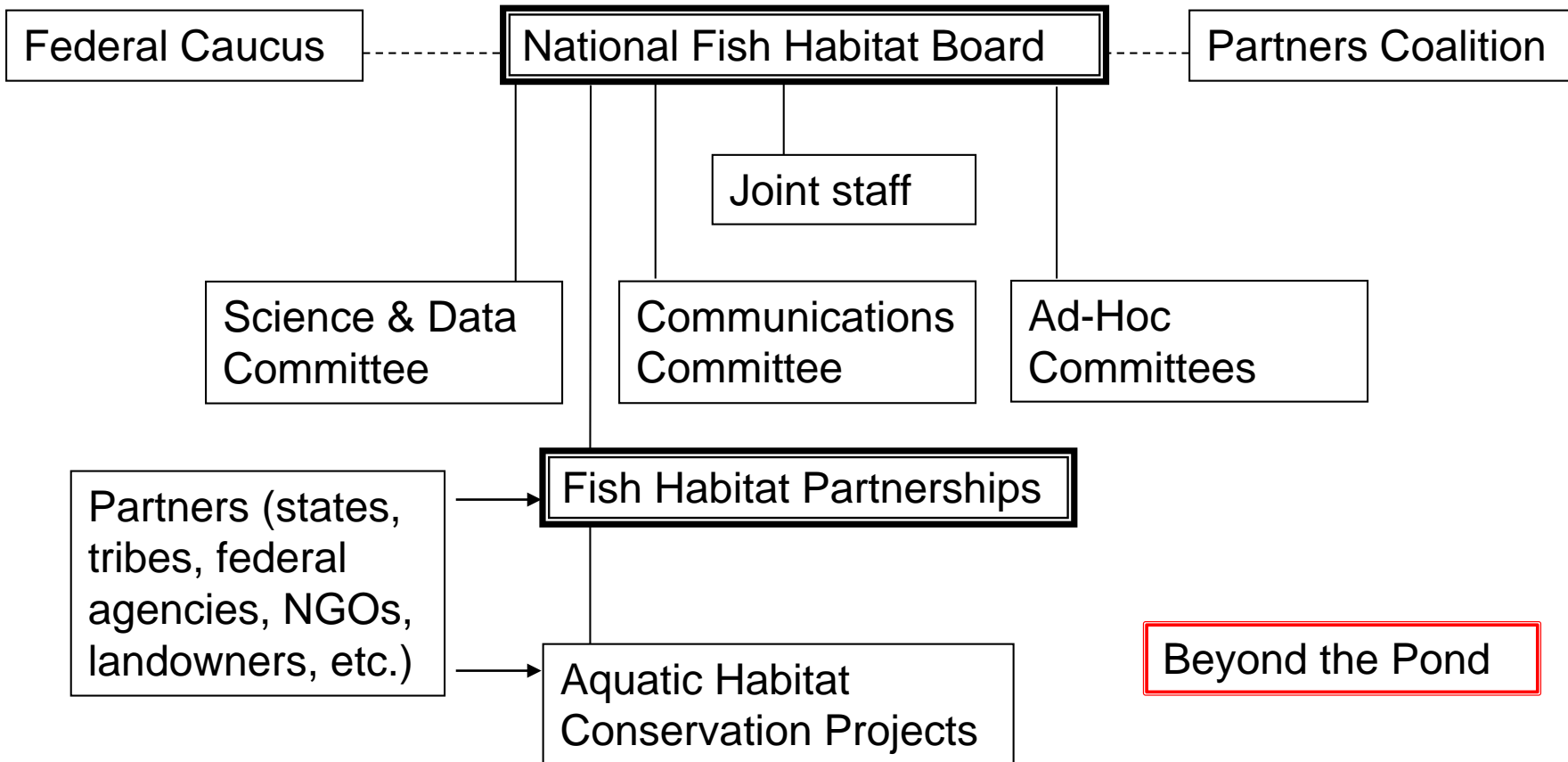
Our mission is to **protect, restore and enhance** the nation's fish and aquatic communities **through partnerships** that foster **fish habitat conservation** and improve the quality of life for the American people.





## NFHP Goals

- Protect and maintain healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitat.
- Enhance and restore fish habitat.
- Increase quality and quantity of fish habitats to achieve diversity.





# National Fish Habitat Board Responsibilities

- Develop national conservation goals
- Establish criteria for *Fish Habitat Partnerships*
- Measure and communicate progress
- Increase public and private focus on aquatic habitat
- Recommend the best use of funds
- Advocate policy (non-Federal members)
- Guide Board member and staff resources
- Produce “*Status of Fish Habitats in the United States*” report every 5 years





# National Fish Habitat Board

State Government Representatives (6)

Federal Government Representatives (5)

Indian Tribal Representation (1)

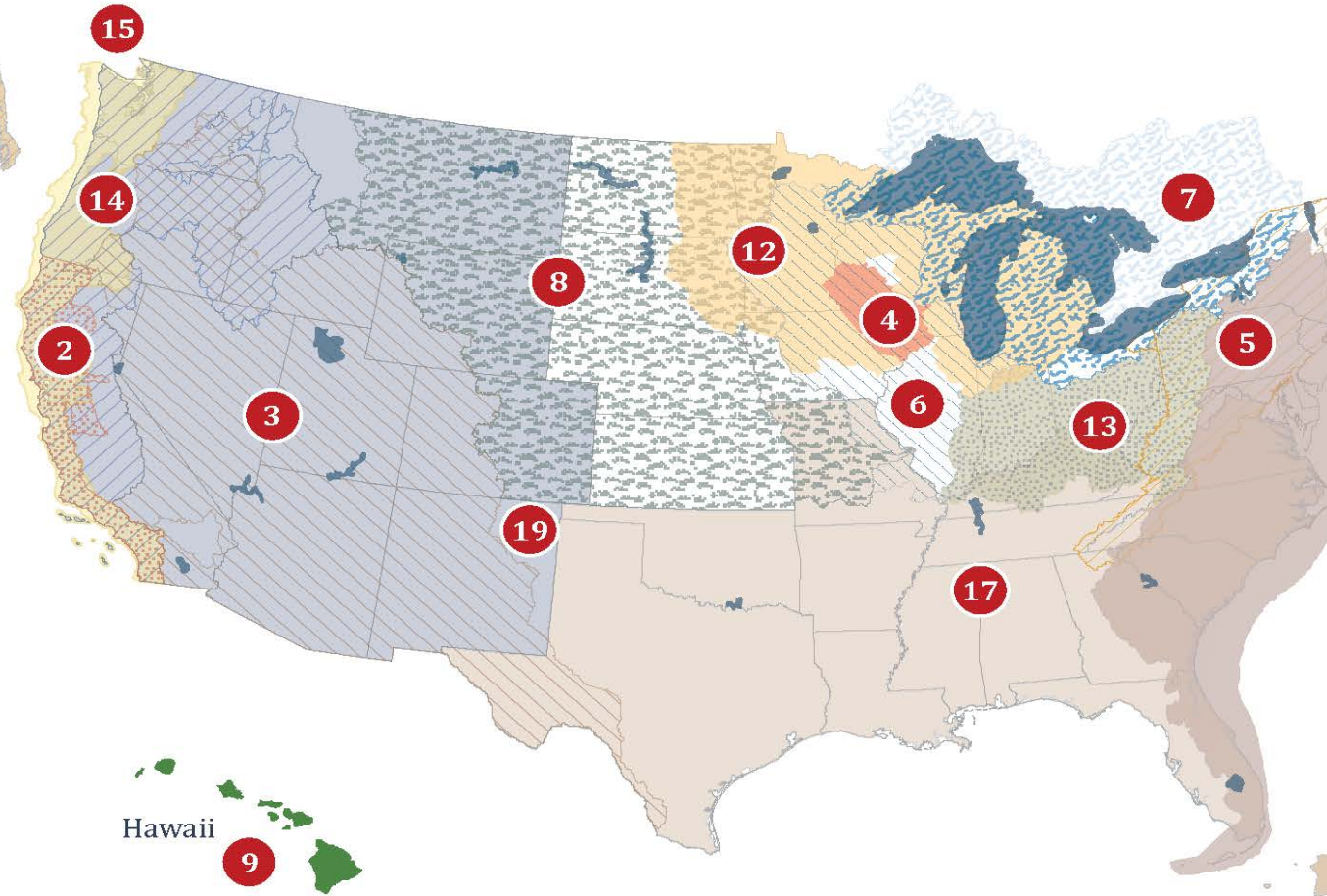
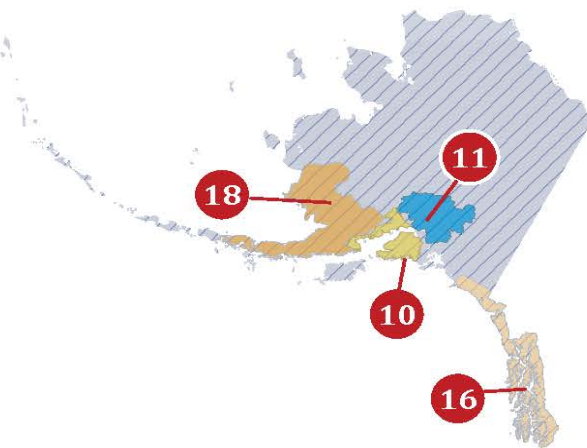
American Fisheries Society (1)

Sportfishing (4)

Commercial fishing (2)

Land and aquatic resource conservation organizations (2)

# Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships



## Geographic / Species Based Partnerships

- 1 Atlantic Coast FHP
- 2 California Fish Passage Forum
- 3 Desert FHP
- 4 Driftless Area Restoration Network
- 5 Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
- 6 Fishers and Farmers Partnership
- 7 Great Lakes Basin FHP
- 8 Great Plains FHP
- 9 Hawaii FHP
- 10 Kenai Peninsula FHP
- 11 Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
- 12 Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- 13 Ohio River Basin FHP
- 14 Pacific Lamprey FHP
- 15 Pacific Marine and Estuarine FHP
- 16 Southeast Alaska FHP
- 17 Southeast Aquatic Resources FHP
- 18 Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
- 19 Western Native Trout Initiative

## System Based Partnership

- 20 Reservoir FHP+  
\*the Reservoir FHP is a system based partnership that covers reservoirs across the country

Note: Alaska and islands not to scale  
Includes current fish habitat partnerships, approved by the NFHP Board, June 2016.

Puerto Rico  
U.S. V.I.





# Fish Habitat Partnerships

- **Develop** mutually beneficial priorities across multiple partners
- **Secure, leverage, and distribute** resources for habitat protection, restoration and enhancement
- **Coordinate** information sharing and conduct **outreach** to enhance understanding and support for fish habitat
- **Support scientific research**, fish habitat assessments, and development of decision support tools





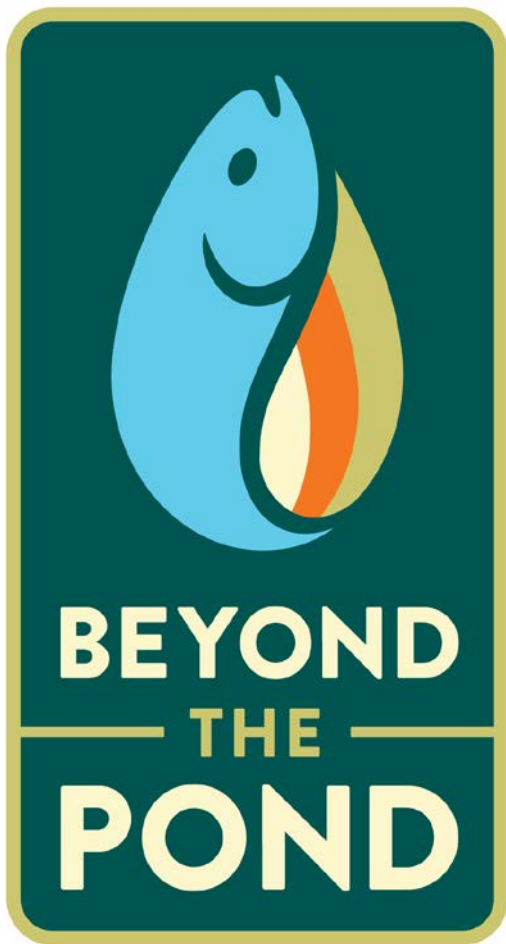
# NFHP Progress

- **National Fish Habitat Action Plan Update (2012)**
- **Federal MOU: Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture (2012)**
- **National Assessments: 2010, 2015**
  - Defines scope of conservation needs
- **20 Partnerships: 500 projects in 46 states**
  - Pacific Lamprey Fish Habitat Partnership in June 2016
- **Established 501(c)3 - Beyond the Pond (2015)**
- **Progress on National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (ongoing)**





## Beyond the Pond 501(c)3



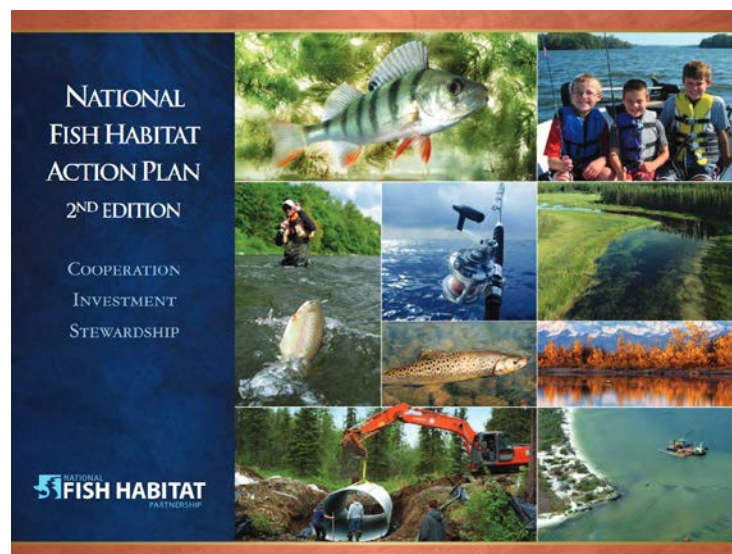
- The 501(c)3 foundation for the National Fish Habitat Partnership (IRS Approved-June 2015)
- **Sole purpose is to raise additional funds for FHPs for on-the-ground conservation projects**
- Board of Directors established
- Bylaws/Charter/participation from FHPs established
- More information at:

<http://beyondthepondusa.com/>





[WWW.FISHHABITAT.ORG](http://WWW.FISHHABITAT.ORG)



 NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
PARTNERSHIP