

Advancing the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
(NFWF/Perry Contract # 5001.13.038194)

Promoting Strategic Fish Habitat Conservation through Regionally-Coordinated Science and Collaboration (ASMFC/NFWF Contract #013-0502)

Scope of Work:

2013 MSCGP Grant Objective 1: Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information.

2013 MSCGP Grant Action 1.1: Collectively advance each partnership's habitat assessments through identification of mutual data needs, data acquisition and landscape-level-analysis techniques for the benefit of fish, mussels, and other aquatic animals.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 1.1.1: The FHPs and LCCs will collaboratively develop effective methods of collecting, compiling, and managing regional fish population and aquatic habitat data that will provide a platform to develop consistent decision support tools for aquatic habitat restoration and conservation actions.

2013 MSCGP Grant Action 1.2: Assist the National Fish Habitat Science and Data Committee in improving the 2015 status report by filling major data gaps with regional-specific fish population, habitat, and human impact monitoring data.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 1.2.1: Actively contribute data and participate in the development and refinement of the National Fish Habitat Assessment and Decision Support tools.

2013 MSCGP Grant Objective 2: Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by the Eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation partners and broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation.

2013 MSCGP Grant Action 2.1: Coordinate ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV partner engagement and outreach activities to strengthen and expand an already robust base of on-the-ground conservation partners.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 2.1.1: FHPs will implement individual and joint outreach efforts, using strategies previously developed via the Whitewater to Bluewater partnership.

2013 MSCGP Grant Objective 3: Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of the Eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships that improve ecological condition,

restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities.

2013 MSCGP Grant Action 3.1: Implement strategies developed previously by the Whitewater to Bluewater partnership and via the National Fish Habitat Partnership Fish Habitat Excellence Workshop, to enhance their organizational capacity.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 3.1.1: Continue to implement Sustainable FHP plans developed through a previously conducted organizational review/capacity assessment with knowledge gained via participation in the national workshop to enhance the effectiveness and capacity of the FHPs to achieve their missions and goals.

2013 MSCGP Grant Action 3.2: Retain and enhance critical capacity to implement each of the individual FHP's Partnership Strategic Plans by facilitating completion of prioritized, on-the-ground, partner-led fish habitat conservation projects that achieve measurable results towards National Fish Habitat Action Plan goals and interim strategies and are easily communicated and understood.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 3.2.1: Support regular meetings of the individual FHPs to engage with partners, identify opportunities to implement the FHP Strategic Plans, and prioritize actions toward protection and restoring function of eastern aquatic habitats.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 3.2.2: Produce refined conservation focus area maps and list of priority criteria for each FHP based on latest habitat assessment information and best available data.

2013 MSCGP Grant Task 3.2.3: Develop and implement a consistent mechanism for evaluating and reporting the benefits of fish habitat conservation projects to a wide range of audiences by monitoring region-specific variable(s) that will inform and add to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan tracking effort.

Under this sub-award the ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV will collaborate with AFWA and the USFWS in particular to ensure that project objectives are rolled into national-level outcomes for the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV will ensure collaboration and coordination with the project co-principal investigator, Matt Menashes, senior policy advisor to the NFHB and AFWA Director of Operations to:

- Coordinate inclusion of project results into outcome tracking for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition.
- Ensure review of project results by the NFHB.

- Coordinate project results with the NFHB's Science and Data Committee, Partnership Committee, and Communications Committee.
- Communicate project results to the state fish and wildlife agencies through the Association's Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee, Ocean Resources Policy Committee, and Science and Research Committee.
- Communicate project results to program offices at the USFWS and other federal agencies.

Reporting requirements:

1. The reporting requirements for this agreement shall be semi-annually.
2. A final Performance Report summarizing all project accomplishments under this award shall be submitted no later than 90 days after completion of the project.