

**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**GRANT NUMBER F12AP00134**  
**CONSERVING FISH HABITAT FROM WHITEWATER TO BLUEWATER**

**JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO 12/31/13**

An extension of the grant is being requested. Significant progress has been achieved during the period of March 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012. Several factors account for the funds that remain and could be used to continue supporting activities of the three Fish Habitat Partnerships (EBTJV, SARP, ACFHP) included in the Whitewater to Bluewater grant:

- 1) Grant funds for contracts, committee meetings, and outreach activities have been used efficiently, but not as quickly as originally planned. In particular, EBTJV was able to collaborate with the Appalachian LCC to redesign and re-populate the EBTJV website without expenditure (to date) of grant funds. It is anticipated that the planned funding is needed to re-invigorate other outreach efforts that were secondary in priority to the EBTJV website. SARP recently started work to build a website on the same platform and grant funds will be used for that purpose. This will allow the two FHPs to communicate and share information more effectively. Employees of the USFWS and New Hampshire Fish and Game devoted time and effort to EBTJV website re-design instead of hiring contractors.
- 2) Deliberations among EBTJV Steering Committee members in the development of roles, responsibilities, and duties of the EBTJV Coordinator position proved more difficult than originally envisioned; however, these have been agreed to, a candidate search completed, and a Coordinator hired in January 2013.
- 3) Additional EBTJV Steering Committee work load that was not planned for: completing the FHP assessment; continued availability of EBTJV data to partners and interests due to discontinuation of NBII; and involvement with the Chesapeake Bay initiative that has brook trout status as a primary objective and measure of progress toward habitat status/restoration.
- 4) SARP Science and Data Committee work towards the grant activities was much slower than planned in 2012 due to committee leadership being assigned to other job functions. The committee met recently in Atlanta and renewed efforts toward completing the grant activities.
- 5) The assessment of the FHPs organizational strengths was delayed by lack of available and qualified personnel to do the assessment. The FHPs decided to wait until after the NFHAP sponsored organizational training session in early 2013 to continue this effort so we could avoid duplication of services and build upon that training.

Extending funds from the grant is critical for the continued operation of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. A grant extension will also support coordination with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) Board staff and Science and Data Committee, to ensure that implementation of FHP strategic plans effectively executes the NFHAP at the regional level.

An extension of the current grant would support continuation of core operational activities - Science & Data activities, Committee Meetings, Outreach & Communications, Coordinators' salaries. Activities include 1) collectively advancing habitat assessments through identification of mutual data needs, data acquisition, and landscape-level-analyses, 2) coordinating engagement and outreach activities among Partnerships to expand and strengthen conservation partners, and 3) retaining and enhancing capacity to implement each FHP's Strategic Plan by facilitating completion of prioritized, on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects.

The balance of funds available for the extension will be approximately \$75,761. The Partnerships will also receive partial support via subcontracts from an FY13 Multi-State Conservation Grant awarded to the NFHP Board. The FY13 grant would, in combination with potential extension of the current grant, cover operational costs of the three Partnerships for 2013. Each grant will provide partial support for a variety of activities, including habitat assessments, communication and outreach to the public and between FHPs, and FHP operations (meetings coordination and travel, coordinator salaries). The current and new grants will cover distinct activities under each objective:

Objective 1. In the current (extended) grant, the three FHPs will convene regular webinars of the Science and Data Committees to identify, share, and assemble data, and establish action items to focus their efforts. The new grant is focused on developing methods for collecting, compiling and managing data, contributing data to and participating in the development of decision support tools, and producing priority criteria and focus area maps. Both grants emphasize collaboration with LCCs.

Objective 2. Individual and joint outreach efforts of the FHPs will occur in the current (extended) and new grants. Major outcomes of the current (extended) grant will include the development of individual and joint messaging strategies, as well as completing an organizational assessment of the FHPs, developing sustainable FHP plans, and beginning implementation of these plans. The new grant will focus on implementing the outreach strategies and sustainable FHP plans developed in the current (extended) grant.

Objective 3. The current (extended) and new grants will support regular meetings of FHPs in order to continue to identify opportunities to implement strategic plans. The current (extended) grant will also focus on identifying potential monitoring/reporting measures to track progress of the FHPs, while the new grant will focus on developing and implementing those measures.

*Budget by Grant and by Partnership*

Extended Grant

	<b>ACFHP</b>		<b>SARP</b>		<b>EBTJV</b>	
	Cost	Spend Date	Cost	Spend Date	Cost	Spend Date
Personnel	\$18,352	6/30/13				
Fringe Benefits	\$5,200	6/30/13				
Travel	\$7,035	6/30/13	\$14,830	6/30/13	\$14,854	9/30/13
Supplies			\$2,720	6/30/13	\$275	6/30/13
Contractual			\$10,195	9/30/13	\$2,300	9/30/13
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>\$30,587</b>		<b>\$27,745</b>		<b>\$17,429</b>	
Indirect	6,117				1,743	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$36,704</b>		<b>\$27,745</b>		<b>\$19,172</b>	

1. ACFHP Personnel and Fringe will cover the Coordinator's salary and benefits from 3/1/13 – 6/30/13
2. ACFHP Travel will be spent on the Spring 2013 Steering Committee meeting
3. SARP Travel will be spent on the Black Bass Symposium, June 2013 Steering Committee meeting, Science & Data Committee meetings and consultations, and Coordinator travel.
4. SARP Supplies for committee/workshop meetings and office needs
5. SARP Contractual will cover percentage of costs for Communications Program Manager and Admin Assistant

New Grant

	<b>ACFHP</b>	<b>SARP</b>	<b>EBTJV</b>
Personnel	\$29,697	\$36,500	\$48,666
Fringe Benefits	\$9,012	\$8,875	
Travel	\$12,068	\$10,000	\$10,000
Supplies	\$985	\$2125	\$425
Contractual		\$7500	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$59,091</b>
Indirect	\$13,000		\$5,909
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>