



Appendix A  
Scope of Work for  
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, and  
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture  
Under a Multistate Conservation Grant to  
Promote Strategic Fish Habitat Conservation through Regionally-coordinated  
Science and Collaboration  
During the Year 2014

### **Introduction**

This statement of work details how the Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) named above will implement specific activities in collaboration with the National Fish Habitat Board and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

This project will support and enhance the communication and outreach, steering committee operation, and scientific assessments of the ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV, and provide for increased coordination within and between Partnerships, and with the NFHP Board and Science Data Committee. Funding will allow the FHPs to build upon projects initiated or completed under a 2013 MSCGP grant.

We have summarized the activities of the FHPs to match as closely as possible with the objectives laid out in the *National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

### **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.**

Action: Advance each partnership's habitat assessments and 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.

#### Milestones:

- Building upon work from previous Whitewater to Bluewater grants the FHPs, in partnership with LCCs, will continue to collect, and compile regional fish population and aquatic habitat data for use in decision support tools for aquatic habitat restoration and conservation actions, and share data of mutual need.

**Objective 2: Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by effectively communicating the conservation outcomes produced by the Eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships, as along with advancing new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.**

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

Milestones:

- Communicate the results of NFHP, FHP, and partner-led habitat conservation projects via web, print and in-person outreach, aided by strategies previously developed via the Whitewater to Bluewater partnership.
- Complete development and begin 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.

**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.**

Action: 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 strategies.

Milestones:

- Support regular meetings of the individual FHP Steering Committees to engage with partners, identify opportunities to implement the FHP Strategic Plans, and prioritize actions toward protection and restoring function of eastern aquatic habitats.
- Support FHP staff who facilitate implementation of Strategic Plan activities towards protecting and restoring function of eastern aquatic habitats, communicating those accomplishments to stakeholders, and coordinate science objectives supporting fish habitat conservation efforts.

Budget:

	ACFHP	SARP	EBTJV
Personnel	\$28,249		\$35,876
Fringe Benefits	\$7,627		
Travel		\$10,000	
Supplies		\$2,125	
Contractual			
Other		\$23,751	
TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES	\$35,876	\$35,876	\$35,876
Indirect Charges			
TOTALS	\$35,876	\$35,876	\$35,876

**Coordination with the National Fish Habitat Board Overall MSCG Project**

The National Fish Habitat Board is responsible for overseeing and coordinating implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is responsible for serving as fiscal agent for this project and for coordination on behalf of the FHPs and the National Fish Habitat Board. The regional Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) are responsible for:

- Coordinating and compiling scientific assessment information on fish habitats within their partnership areas,
- Establishing strategic goals and objectives that define desired outcomes for fish species and habitats within their partnership areas,
- Identifying priority places and/or issues to focus conservation action, and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects to meet goals and objectives,
- Coordinating and compiling information on outputs (conservation actions) and outcomes (changes in habitat condition) for reporting to the Board and stakeholders, and
- Collaborating with other FHPs where appropriate to carry out these responsibilities.

The approach envisioned under the MSCG is to leverage collaboration among all of the regional FHPs, the national partners including AFWA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NFHB to advance the objectives laid out under the NFHAP. The MSCG is intended to fund the activities of five regional groupings of FHPs. Under this sub-award the Fish Habitat Partnerships 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.

The Fish Habitat Partnerships will ensure collaboration and coordination with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to:

- Coordinate inclusion of project results into outcome tracking for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.