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

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 2012 MSCGP grant.

We have summarized the activities of the FHPs to match as closely as possible with the

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: 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. 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:
- The FHPs will actively contribute data and participate in the development and
  refinement of the National Fish Habitat Assessment (coastal and freshwater) and
  Decision Support tools.
- 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.
- Produce refined conservation focus area maps and list of priority criteria for each
  FHP based on latest habitat assessment information and best available data.

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.

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.

Milestones:
- FHPs will implement individual and joint outreach efforts, using strategies previously developed via the Whitewater to Bluewater partnership.
- 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.

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 interim strategies and are easily communicated and understood.

Milestones:
- 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.
- 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.

Budget:

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