Proposed Draft Example 2012 Board Priorities

Background: The National Fish Habitat Board agreed at the July 2011 Board meeting to develop Board priorities tiered from Action Plan Objectives. The purpose of setting Board priorities is to help the Board decide what to continue doing with existing resources, to drop if resources become scarce, and new actions to take when additional resources become available.

The Board also approved in July 2011 a priority-setting schema (attachment 1) that depicts key characteristics of Board priorities as:

- national in scope,
- a hierarchy of Board actions that advance Action Plan objectives,
- constrained by available Board budget (as informed by the funding allocation framework), and
- developed and approved by the Board

The schema also differentiates Board priorities from those of others contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan such as Fish Habitat Partnerships and individual agency/organization priorities. As such, these priorities should reflect the unique responsibilities of the Board as described in the Board charter.

Although the Action Plan objectives remain in development, they will likely focus on themes of setting national priorities, generating solid science to drive priorities and measure progress, strengthening partnerships, and communicating success. Board staff offer the following 2012 Board Priorities based on the broad themes that will likely be the focus of revised Action Plan Objectives. As the 2012-2017 Action Plan is finalized, future Board Priorities should more directly link to the new Action Plan objectives and be updated annually.

Proposal for Board Discussion:

Draft Example 2012 Board Priorities:

- Provide oversight and support necessary to complete and approve revisions to the Action Plan including publication and rollout to key national audiences.

- Approve and support implementation of a strategy by the Science and Data Committee for the completion of the 2015 Status of Fish Habitats in the United States.

- Provide oversight and support necessary to complete and approve the first review of Fish Habitat Partnerships' performance (including recommendations to partnerships).

- Engage with key congressional interests in support of passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

- Develop a strategy to attract non-governmental/outside partners to support NFHAP implementation.

- Approve and support implementation of communications strategy and annual action plan developed by the Communications Committee.

Proposed Next steps:

- Board comments to Karen Abrams by November 1, 2012.
- Board approves draft Board priorities at January 2012 Board call.

Discussion question:

- Do these priorities capture the key areas where the Board would like to make progress in 2012?

- Would the Board like to identify members to shape the final drafting of 2012 Board priorities for Board approval in January?