Title: 2012 Board Priorities

Desired outcome: An informational update to the Board on a proposed process for completing 2012 Board priorities; and, Board action to recruit participation on the teams established to achieve the 2012 priorities.

Background: During its January 12, 2012 conference call, the Board approved four new National Fish Habitat Action Plan objectives (Tab 2). In conjunction with establishing these new Action Plan objectives, it was recognized there is a need for the Board to establish more detailed, measurable activities on an annual basis in the form of a work plan. To begin addressing this need, the Board adopted six priorities for 2012 (Tab 2) during the January teleconference. However, since the new Action Plan objectives and 2012 Board priorities were being developed concurrently; not all of the priorities can be linked to one of the four objectives. In subsequent years the Action Plan objectives will serve as the basis for ascertaining the Board's priorities and these priorities will guide the Board's budget determinations.

Recommendation: Task the Board's standing and ad hoc committees (consisting of National Fish Habitat Partnership Board members, staff, partners, and others) with developing work plans that address the following Action Plan objectives and/or Board priorities:

Draft Proposal

Science and Data Committee

- Develop and initiate implementation of a strategy to refine the 2010 National Fish Habitat Assessment (Action Plan Objective 4 and Board Priority 6).
- Develop standard effectiveness measures for conservation actions used to address nationwide fish habitat focus areas (Action Plan Objective 1 and Board Priority 4).

Communications Committee

- Increase public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities (Action Plan Objective 3).
- Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for

conserving fish habitat to the public and conservation partners (Action Plan Objective 5).

Legislative Team

- Advancement of the National Fish Habitat Partnership legislative and policy agenda (Board Priority 1).

Funding Committee

- Development of strategies focused on obtaining new funding sources that support implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Board Priority 3).

Fish Habitat Partnership Committee

- Enhancement of the leadership, managerial, and conservation delivery capacity of Fish Habitat Partnerships (Board Priority 2).
- Facilitation of stronger communications and interactions with and among Fish Habitat Partnerships as detailed in the 2012 Communications Strategy and Action Plan (Board Priority 5).

Habitat Conservation Committee (New)

- Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the Fish Habitat Partnerships (Action Plan Objective 2).

Each committee will provide a status update to the Board at its July 2012 Meeting and will submit a final report on their accomplishments and recommendations at the Board's October 2012 Meeting.

Reference material: The following Action Plan objectives and Board priorities should be placed in Tab 2.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan: New Objectives

1. Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of 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.

2. Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2013.

3. Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities – especially young people – in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities.

4. Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals.

5. Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat to the public and conservation partners.

National Fish Habitat Board: 2012 Priorities

Priority 1: Advance the National Fish Habitat Partnership legislative and policy agenda by supporting passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act and the adoption of the Federal Secretarial Order between the Departments of Interior, Commerce and Agriculture.

Priority 2: Enhance the leadership, managerial, and conservation delivery capacity of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Priority 3: Adopt strategies focused on obtaining new funding sources that support implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Priority 4: Develop standard effectiveness measures for conservation actions used to address nationwide fish habitat focus areas.

Priority 5: Facilitate stronger communications and interactions with and among Fish Habitat Partnerships as detailed in the 2012 Communications Strategy and Action Plan.

Priority 6: Develop and initiate implementation of a strategy to refine the 2010 National Fish Habitat Assessment for 2012.