Draft National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call Summary: January 12, 2012

Members Present:

Steve Perry (NH FGD/ NEAFWA rep– Vice Chair and Acting Chair)
Mike Andrews (TNC)
Doug Boyd (SFBPC)
Randy Fischer (PSMFC)
Brad Gentner (Gentner Consulting Group/CCA rep)
Rowan Gould (US FWS)– for Dan Ashe
Joe Larscheid (IA DNR)
Mike Leonard (ASA) – for Gordon Robertson
Stan Moberly (AFS)
Steve Moyer (TU) – for Chris Wood
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Eric Schwaab (NOAA Fisheries)
Mike Stone (WY GFD/WAFWA rep)
Anne Zimmerman (US FS)

Members Absent:

Kelly Hepler, Chris Horton, Bob Mahood, Fred Matt, Krystyna Wolniakowski

Motions Approved by Consensus:

- Agenda and October 2011 Meeting Minutes: Approved.

- Further revise modified action plan objectives to reflect Board discussion and distribute to Board by e-mail for final approval by January 23, 2012: Approved. Board members made the following comments and requests regarding the modified objectives:
  - Eric Schwaab provided specific alternative language to the proposed Objective #1 to emphasize the role of the partnerships in achieving targeted conservation results through their strategic plans.
  - Several other Board members requested that the concept of setting national conservation direction and priorities through the Action Plan objectives be retained.
  - The Board agreed that both concepts are not in conflict and should be reflected in two separate objectives.
  - Mike Stone and Eric Schwaab offered specific edits to proposed Objective #4 that should be reflected in further revisions.
  - Agree to follow proposed revised timeline for finalizing action plan.

- Proposed 2012 Priorities and Budget: Approved with a reduction of the FWS-NFHAP column to $300,000 and associated reduction in carryover. Discussion of the Priorities and Budget included the following points:
  - Mike Stone requested that a timeline be developed for implementing the priority to develop a strategy to obtain new funding sources (Priority #2).
  - Eric Schwaab requested that the science and data committee strategy for developing the 2015 national assessment reflect an integrated approach across coastal and inland components.

- Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership Application: Approved. Board member made the following comments.
  - Mike Leonard (ASA) requested that PMEP avoid any work that would impede recreational fishing access.
  - Lisa DeBruyckere confirmed that the work of the PMEP is entirely non-regulatory and that sportfishing representatives have been invited to sit on their Steering Committee.
  - Board staff will reflect these concerns in the approval letter to PMEP.

Updates and Discussion:

- July 2012 Board Meeting dates are moved to July 10-11 due to meeting space conflicts.

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Action items:

- Amend proposed action plan objectives and re-distribute to Board via e-mail for final approval by January 23, 2012.
- Board chair will assign teams to develop work-plans for each Board priority.
- Board staff will work with ASA on language to reflect Board position regarding the importance of retaining recreational fishing access in the approval letter to PMEP about their application.
- Board staff will make requested revisions to the 2012 Budget and provide as finalized back to the Board.

Future 2012 meetings:

- April 17 and 18 – Washington, DC
- July 10 and 11 – Portland, ME
- October 16-17 – Table Rock Lake, Missouri

Board approved policy and/or technical documents:

- 2012 Board Priorities and Budget
- Approved Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership application.

Additional attendees:

Karen Abrams, NOAA Fisheries-HQ and Board staff
Tom Busiahn, FWS-HQ and Board staff
Andrea Ostroff, USGS, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee
Ryan Roberts, AFWA and Board Communications Director
Gary Whelan, MI DNR, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee

Tom Bigford, NOAA Fisheries – HQ
Kristan Blackhart, NOAA Fisheries – HQ
Jenna Carter, TNC – Western Division
Nate Caswell – FWS, Ohio River Basin FHP
Lisa DeBruyckere, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership

Emily Greene – Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership
Colin Hume, FWS-HQ
Moe Nelson - NOAA
Sue Rodman – AK Fish and Game
Scott Roth, FWS-Mountain-Prairie Region
Stan Allen, PSMFC
Dan Shively, FWS-Northwest Region
Korie Schaeffer, NOAA Fisheries –Southwest Region
Jeff Sorenson, AZ Game and Fish
John Stadler, NOAA Fisheries – Northwest Region
Dr. Bill Taylor, Michigan State University
Jeff Underwood, FWS- HQ
John Wullschleger, NPS

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