National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Supporting Partnerships for Healthier Fish, Healthier Fish Habitats

More Conservation = More Fish & Fishing

WHAT WILL THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT DO?

This national legislation will authorize the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and establish the National Fish Habitat Board to provide oversight to:

- Establish Fish Habitat Conservation Partnerships implementing on-the-ground conservation practices.
- State fish and wildlife agency approval of all conservation projects under the Action Plan.
- Continue support of a grant program for fish habitat projects through the Department of the Interior.
- Encourage grassroots driven partnerships consistent with the Plan's goals in restoring, conserving, and enhancing fish habitat; improve fisheries and their economic contributions to local communities.

WHY TODAY?

The United States is home to a diverse array of freshwater and marine fish, shellfish, and other aquatic species. More than 3,000 species of fish inhabit America's freshwater and saltwater habitats. The U.S. is also home to more than 300 million people, all depending on the same water that fish depend upon.

Healthy habitats are essential for sustainable fish populations. Unfortunately, in many places across the country, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline. In 1997, Congress declared that one of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other fish habitats.

CONSIDER THIS…

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, over 33 million licensed anglers generate more than $46 billion in retail sales with a $115 billion boost to the nation's economy and creating jobs for more than 828,000 people. At least 60 million anglers fished at some point over the past five years, consider themselves to be anglers, and rely on healthy fish habitat for their recreational pursuits.

Did you know?

The United States has 181,000 square miles of aquatic habitat, an area larger than the State of California (not counting marine waters beyond State boundaries).

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is an initiative to conserve fish habitat across the country. www.fishhabitat.org @fishhabitat

Boone River Watershed Oxbow Restoration, Iowa

"Water to Watch" 2012

National Fish Habitat Partnership Successes

> Completed 1st ever national assessment of Fish Habitat

>Formed 18 Fish Habitat Partnerships covering all 50 states

> Conducted 341 conservation projects in 46 states

> Highlighted 70 key projects through "Waters to Watch" initiative, tracking project progress and improvement

> Created a map and data web tool analyzing conditions of habitat through USGS

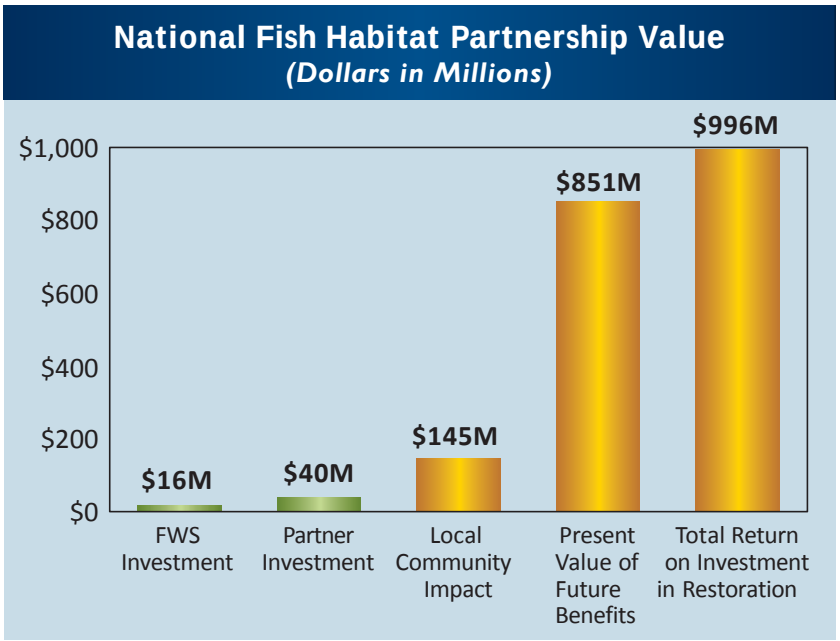
> signed MOU implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan between the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Commerce and Agriculture

PARTNERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

• The direct economic value of the National Fish Habitat Partnership exceeds $150 million and has created more than 1,100 jobs with the $34 million invested by the partnership since 2006

• The National Fish Habitat Partnership has a perceived long- term value to local communities of $851.6 million with 19,300 jobs created – projection is based on habitat restored by NFHP to date

- **Return on investment totals nearly 18:1**



PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE U.S.