Title: Legislative Update

Desired outcome(s): Board awareness of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act status

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act was introduced in the Senate in the 113th Congress on March 5, 2014. There has been an updated legislative fact sheet created for the bill and a press release distributed for the announcement.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act was introduced with bi-partisan support from Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) (lead sponsors). Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) was added as a sponsor on April 30.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 2080) en bloc, in a package with six other water resource and conservation bills on April 3, 2014. The bill can now proceed to the U.S. Senate floor for approval. Action on the bill will be determined at a later date.

Both Senators Cardin and Crapo sit on the Environment and Public Works Committee. Senator Cardin is the Chair of the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee, and Senator Crapo is a long-time supporter of NFHCA. Previous versions of NFHCA have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress, including bipartisan approval by the Environment and Public Works Committee in two different Congresses. The bill includes modifications to language in earlier versions of NFHCA that were made in consultation with several Senators and their staffs from both sides of the aisle.

Link to Bill on Thomas.gov:
http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2080?q={%22search%22%3A[%22S.+2080%22]}

Reference material: NFHCA Fact Sheet, Legislation Introduction Press Release, Environment and Public Works Press Release (Tab 5)