

NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



Teleconference of the National Fish Habitat Board

Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board

June 29, 2016



**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
(via Conference Call and WebEx)
June 29, 2016 Draft Agenda and Board Book Tabs**

Conference line: 866-560-0760, **Passcode:** 2832957

Web link:

<https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=m5a017f9c740d6fbc4164f92826c2e7a4>

1:00-1:20	<u>Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board action to approve draft agenda and draft March meeting summary• Board awareness of October Board Meeting dates and location	Tab 1	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair – FWCC</i>)
1:20-1:30	<u>ELT Update</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of ELT National Fish Habitat Board member decisions	Tab 2	Ron Regan (<i>Board Member - AFWA</i>) / Sam Rauch (<i>Board Member – NMFS</i>)
1:30 – 1:50	<u>Executive Session Outcomes and Next Steps</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board approval of staff recommendations and next steps.	Tab 3	Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff – NOAA/ERT</i>)
1:50-2:00	<u>USFWS-NFHP FY16 Funding</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of FWS-NFHP FY16 Allocations	Tab 4	David Hoskins (<i>Board Member - USFWS</i>)
2:00-2:20	<u>Presentation of Revised 2015 Assessment Report</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the 2015 National Assessment Report status• Board awareness of the roll-out plan	Tab 5	Gary Whelan (<i>Board Science and Data Committee Co-Chair - MI DNR</i>)
2:20-2:40	<u>Legislative Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act status	Tab 6	Mike Leonard (<i>Board Member- American Sportfishing Assoc.</i>)
2:40-3:00	<u>Budget and Finance Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of Committee members• Board approval of Committee Charter	Tab 7	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair – FWCC</i>)

3:00 – 3:20	<u>Pacific Lamprey Candidate Partnership</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approval of Pacific Lamprey FHP 	Tab 8	Board Staff
3:20-3:30	<u>Partnerships Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of Partnerships Committee make-up and priorities 	Tab 9	Stan Allen (<i>Board Member – PSMFC</i>)
3:30 – 3:45	<u>10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of Steering Committee establishment and membership • Board awareness of 10-year Anniversary Communication Strategy development 	Tab 10	Chris Moore (<i>Board Vice-Chair, MAFMC</i>)
3:45-3:55	<u>Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of 2016 Letters of Intent (LOI) from FHPs 	Tab 11	Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff -AFWA</i>)
3:55 – 4:00	<u>Meeting wrap-up</u>		Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair – FWCC</i>)

Additional Informational updates included in the Board Book:

<u>Communications Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the Communications Committee’s 2016 work plan progress 	Tab 12
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<u>Science and Data Committee Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the Science and Data Committee’s 2016 work plan progress 	Tab 13
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Draft National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary: March 8-9, 2016

Members present:

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Mike Andrews (TNC)	Kelley Myers (MAFWA)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Andrea Ostroff <i>for</i> Doug Beard (USGS)
Doug Boyd (SBPC)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Ron Regan (AFWA)
Whit Fosburgh (TRCP)	Ed Schriever (WAFWA)
Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Sean Stone (CCA)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Dan Ashe (USFWS)	Kate Walker <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)	

Members absent:

Mike Leonard (ASA) and Ron Skates (NAWS)

Approved by consensus:

- January National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call/WebEx Summary
- March Board Meeting Agenda
- Creation of a Board Budget Committee

Approved by motion:

- Tom Bigford moved to approve FHP Performance Evaluation Review Team Recommendations, seconded by Stan Allen, unanimous in favor. Recommendations were as follows: This evaluation process be improved and repeated in 2018 and the Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the performance measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016.

Updates and discussions:

- Executive Leadership Team – Team members will consider Board members whose terms are up for review this summer, and are actively trying to connect with NFWF.
- USFWS Funding Methodology – USFWS provided a comparison of past and current processes and timelines for how and when the Board provides input into the USFWS funding decisions. Discussion centered around *how* Board input would affect the USFWS scoring, *what* they would review and at what point in the process this would occur. This included a potential scenario in which a subset of Board members review summaries of the FHP submissions in winter/early spring and provide input which USFWS Regional Coordinators would consider in their scoring recommendations.
- Secretarial MOU – Letters to the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce were sent in the first week of March, initiating the renewal of the MOU for implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. While the letters were tailored somewhat to each Department, they each highlight the success of the NFHP, mutual benefits, and request that the Departments work together to renew the MOU, without modification. A question was asked regarding whether someone was coordinating next steps. NOAA Fisheries Federal Caucus representative/Board staff offers to coordinate MOU renewal
- 2015 FHP Performance Evaluation – A report which included the measures where FHPs demonstrated excellent, good, and fair progress; lessons learned; and recommendations was presented to the Board.

Feedback included suggestions to compare these results with the Test Drive results to see where FHPs have improved, to identify what the Board can do to collectively help FHPs improve, and to use the Board's Committees and Federal Caucus as outlets.

- Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation – The Board heard a presentation from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture which included an overview of its vision, species of interest, and threat concerns, in addition to an overview of its members, services provided, and its two completed assessments. The Board also learned about the EBTJV partnerships, projects, and challenges.
- Beyond the Pond Update – The Board was provided a brief overview of the current Section 501(c)(3) Board of Directors and staff support. It was noted that all FHPs are chapters unless they opt out and that the Section 501(c)(3) can accept funds. ACFHP and the mid-Atlantic Council have been successful in using the Section 501(c)(3) for a Black Sea Bass Grant program. The Board was also provided with a demo of the draft Beyond the Pond website. Board suggestions included correcting the "Network of FHPs" text, increasing diversity in the BOD, and adding photos of marine habitat. Board discussion of the website centered around strengthening the link between the Beyond the Pond brand and the National Fish Habitat Partnership by adding the NFHP logo; making more clear that success stories on the website are FHP success stories (versus Beyond the Pond success stories); and defining the type of donor the website is geared towards. There was also a short discussion emphasizing that everyone should be using the same NFHP logo (various versions are in existence). Additionally, there was a strong recommendation that Board members contribute to the Foundation.
- National Fish Habitat Awards – Gordon Robertson was presented with the Extraordinary Action in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation Award for his involvement in the original National Fish Habitat Action Plan, his integral role in drafting the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act, and helping to lead the legislative team. Drs. Tyler Wagner and Tyrell DeWeber were awarded the National Fish Habitat Award for excellence in Scientific Achievement for their work on Eastern Brook Trout Habitat modeling.
- Legislative Update – A brief update and history of the Act was provided. In the Senate, some provisions related to trapping and Waters of the US added to the package could create issues on the floor. It's unclear timewise whether it will be heard on the floor. On the House side, they are working to correct the concern that this is new funding as it is an existing program.
- National Drought Resilience Partnership and White House Water Summit – It was noted that the Partnership includes several Federal Agencies, and is not for emergency response, but for planning future conditions. And, it is a place for FHP involvement. A new tool was released on flow alterations/risk assessment framework and the EPA and USGS are seeking comments. On March 22nd, World Water Day, the White House will host a summit with 100+ participants that will include the private sector. It will likely focus on technology and climate change.
- 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment – The Board was provided with an overview of the beta Assessment website which will include options for looking at report chapters, regions of interest, and potentially a third option tailored more to FHPs. Development to date has focused on building a framework for capturing the information and development of all draft texts. The visualization and addition of content will be the next steps. The National Assessment shows what areas are at risk of degradation. The inland assessment of the lower 48 states and the Gulf of Mexico estuary assessment use fish data (spatial and fish data gaps exist for Alaska, marine, lakes, and reservoirs). There are gaps pointed out in the document such as hydrology, grazing intensity, and forest practices. Board discussion was regarding whether any hardcopies would be made available (such as a regional one pagers – sections/reports will be able to be printed out as the user wants), the need to concisely note where the gaps exist (in particular for use by the legislative team), and who uses the assessment and how. EPA suggested two approaches for release: noting that scores can be refined and emphasizing the flexibility of

the tool.

- Communications Update – The Board was provided with an overview of communications objectives, action steps, and deliverables. Major items include release of the 2015 National Fish habitat Assessment, the 2015 Annual Report, and the 10th Anniversary of Waters to Watch. Board suggestions included having a NFHP presence at AFS, I CAST, Toyota Bass event in TX, and AFWA regional meetings; developing handouts for Board members to bring with them to meetings; connecting with the tribes and commercial industry through the Councils and the Commissions; and using social media and the web to reach target audiences. There was a suggestion that the lack of connectivity between Beyond the Pond and NFHP websites needs to be reconciled. It was also suggested that the new NFHP website be released with the Assessment report in June and that press releases be coordinated with USGS and others.
- NFHP 10 Year Anniversary – It was noted that the National Fish Habitat Partnership has a lot to celebrate and that a celebration needs to occur with a bigger group such as I CAST, AFS, or AFWA. It was noted that ‘the who’ and ‘the what’ of such an event needs to be determined, that FHPs should be involved, and that fundraising will likely need to occur. It was suggested that we need to determine the target, and then the message. Co-branding and ‘10 year anniversary’ branding were suggested. It was noted that we need to celebrate the past 10 years, and talk about where we’re going.

Action items:

- Members are requested to consider participating on a Board Committee, including Communications, Partnerships, and FHP Performance Evaluation committees.
- Bryan Moore, Sean Stone, and Doug Boyd volunteered for the Partnerships Committee. Partnership Coordinators interested in participating on the Partnerships Committee should reach out to Stan Allen.
- Board members whose terms are up for review should reach out to Ron Regan, Sam Rauch, or David Hoskins indicating their interest in serving another term.
- Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met.
- It needs to be made clear to FHPs when they officially become chapters and where donations physically go (i.e. address)
- Begin consultations with FHPs in terms of what they need and how to fundraise.
- Ellen will report back on the National Drought Resilience Partnership, the Board will monitor how the Partnership moves and changes.
- Emily will send out websites for the Drought Resilience Partnership and EPA related items.
- Board members and FHPs should provide comments on the National Assessment by April 15.
- Communications Committee will provide a demo to the NFH Board before the new NFHP website is released.
- Coordinate the Press Release of the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment with USGS and others.
- Form a 10th Anniversary Steering Committee that will work with the Communications Committee to keep that event moving forward.
- Chairman will form a Budget Committee; Stan Allen expressed interest in participating.

Future Board meetings:

- June 29 teleconference, Summer teleconference (for new Board members), October 26-27 in the Florida Panhandle

Board approved documents:

- January conference call summary

Additional attendees:

Stephanie Bailenson (TNC)

Devin DeMario (AFWA)

Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)

Jim Harper (NOAA Fisheries-ERT)

Lisa Havel (ACFHP)

Julie Henning (USFWS)

Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)

Jennifer Lukens (NOAA Fisheries)

Tony Marshak (NOAA Fisheries)

Mallory Martin (SALCC)

Joe Nohner (MGLP)

Doug Norton (EPA)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

Taylor Pool (AFS)

Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)

Gordon Robertson (ASA-retired)

Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)

Jen Mock Schaeffer (AFWA)

Susan Wells (USFWS)

Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)

Daniel Wieferich (USGS)

On the phone: Therese Thompson (WNTI), Stephanie Vail-Muse (DFHP)

DRAFT

National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2016 -2017

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2016	June 29 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 26-27 (Wed-Thurs)	Panama City, FL	
2017	January 18 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 7-8 (Tues – Wed)	Washington, DC Area	Reserve room at TNC HQ
	June 28 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 18 – 19 (Wed-Thurs)	TBD	

Record of Past Board Meetings 2006 -2014

Year	Date	Location	Facility
2006	September 22	Aspen, Colorado	Hotel
	November 16	Washington, DC	Hall of States
2007	January 16	Teleconference	
	March 1-2	Washington, DC	Environmental Protection Agency
	June 6-7	Washington, DC	Commerce Department
	October 2-3	Arlington, VA	Hotel
2008	February 20-21	St. Petersburg, FL	Tampa Bay Watch
	May 13-14	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2009	March 4-5	Harrisburg, PA	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
	June 25, 2009	Leesburg, VA	National Conference Center
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2010	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 3-4	Memphis, TN	Ducks Unlimited
	June 9-10	Silver Spring, MD	NOAA headquarters
	August 25	Teleconference	
	October 12-14	Portland, OR	Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission
2011	January 13	Teleconference	
	March 11	Teleconference	

	April 12-13	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 26-27	Madison, WI	Hotel
	October 19-20	Albuquerque, NM	FWS Regional Office
2012	January 12	Teleconference	
	March 1	Teleconference	
	April 17-18	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 10-11	Portland, ME	Hotel
	October 16-17	Ridgedale, MO	Big Cedar Lodge
2013	January 16	Teleconference	
	February 26-27	Arlington, VA	FWS headquarters
	April 15	Teleconference	
	June 25-26	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah State Capitol
	October 22-23	Charleston, SC	SC DNR
2014	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 9-10	Denver, CO	
	June 25	Tele/web conference	
	November 8-9	National Harbor, MD	Held in conjunction w/ RAE Summit
2015	January 14	Tele/web conference	
	March 3-4	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 24	Tele/web conference	
	September 22	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 20-21	Sacramento, CA	Hotel
2016	January 20	Tele/web conference	
	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy

Total: 43 (in-person and teleconference) meetings held to date

Title: Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Update

Desired outcome(s): Board understanding of ELT National Fish Habitat Board member decisions

Background:

The Executive Leadership Team met via conference call on June 15, 2016 to discuss National Fish Habitat Board Membership. The following individuals were reappointed:

Stan Allen (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)

Mike Andrews (The Nature Conservancy)

Ellen Gilinsky (Environmental Protection Agency)

Mike Leonard (American Sportfishing Association)

Chris Moore (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council)

On the June 15th call, the ELT also agreed to keep the NFWF seat open for the foreseeable future, and keeping lines of communication with NFWF open.

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 2b Board Member List and Terms

NFHP Board Membership (June 2016)

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Representing	Next Review
Aarrestad	Peter	CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	State Agency - NEAFWA	July 2018
Allen	Stan	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	At large- Commercial fishing	June 2019
Andrews	Michael	The Nature Conservancy	At large - Conservation	June 2019
Beard	Doug	US Geological Survey	Federal Agency	July 2018
Bigford	Tom	American Fisheries Society	American Fisheries Society	July 2018
Boyd	Douglass	Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council	At large- Sportfishing	July 2017
Champeau	Tom	FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State Agency	July 2018
Fosburgh	Whit	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	At large- Sportfishing	July 2017
Gilinsky	Ellen	US Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Agency	June 2019
Harper	Rob	USDA Forest Service	Federal Agency	July 2018
Leonard	Mike	American Sportfishing Association	At large-Sportfishing	June 2019
Melinchuk	Ross	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	State Agency - SEAFWA	July 2018
Moore	Chris	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council	At large- Commercial fishing	October 2019
Myers	Kelley	IA Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Bureau	State Agency - MAFWA	July 2018
Schriever	Ed	Idaho Department of Fish and Game	State Agency - WAFWA	July 2018
Skates	Ron	Native American Fish and Wildlife Society	Tribal	July 2018
Stone	Sean	Coastal Conservation Association	At large - Sportfishing	July 2017
Wood	Chris	Trout Unlimited	At large - Conservation	July 2017
NA		National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	July 2015
Board members serving by virtue of their offices				
Ashe	Dan	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Agency	
Rauch	Sam	NOAA Fisheries Service	Federal Agency	
Regan	Ron	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	AFWA – Executive Director	

Title: Executive Session Outcomes and Next Steps

Desired outcomes:

- **Board approval** of staff recommendations and next steps.

Background:

Recognizing that NFHP has been in existence for 10 years, on March 8, 2016 the National Fish Habitat Board met in an executive session to discuss where NFHP has been and where it is headed. The session ranged in content from high level topics such as whether the NFHP mission is still relevant, to operational questions such as whether existing structures and processes will meet NFHP needs going forward. The ultimate purpose was to bring all Board members, both old and new, to a common understanding of and support for how the Board will move forward over the next 10 years.

The Board was presented with a series of topics; each topic was introduced with a summary of the current Board process, and followed by one or more questions to spark discussion. Board members were encouraged to provide input and ask additional questions pertaining to the topic. The goal was to have an open and honest discussion. If the Board did not arrive at a clear answer to any discussion question, action items and parking lot issues were recorded for future discussion. Following the Executive Session, staff recommendations were developed to address these Board generated parking lot issues and action items.

Staff Recommendations:

- Please see the attached document for staff recommendations and next steps, organized by Executive Session discussion topic.

Board Book Material:

Tab 3b – March2016 Exec Session Staff Recommendations

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Executive Session

Staff Recommendations based on Board generated Parking Lot Issues and Action Items.

Topic 1: National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) mission.

Action Item: edit mission statement to make FW, estuarine, marine explicit

Staff Recommendations:

- Put this action item in the parking lot for the time being.
- Take the action up when we begin on the third edition of the Action Plan or once the legislation is resolved.

Topic 2: Board Purpose.

Parking Lot: Discussion of national conservation goals and objectives

Staff Recommendations:

- Until we get significant more funding the Board should continue to work with qualitative goals, versus quantitative. Trying to move the needle at the National level would be difficult, at the current funding level.
- When we revisit the Action Plan (which occurs every 5 years), consider the following:
 - Rolling-up the FHPs objectives, etc. into national goals and objectives
 - Developing a strategic plan that drives an annual implementation plan -- with specific activities that measure success-- and including the FHPs in that discussion.
 - Capturing where we've had influence. This is difficult to measure, but could be aided by our TNC partner.
 - Combining the National Conservation Strategies and the Action Plan into one document.

Topic 3: Board Membership.

Staff Recommendations:

- Draft a document that articulates the kind of commitments we're looking for from Board members and have a discussion at a future Board meeting.
- Members would outline what they'll commit too. For example, re-occurring vs. dedicated funding.
 - Next Steps:
 - Staff will capture in kind contributions of Federal agencies from the MOU reports
- Tom and Chris would follow-up with these individuals offline, either in person/via phone.

Topic 4: Board Committees and Working Groups.

Parking Lot:

- **Purpose, participants, and work (e.g. meeting tasks/charge) of the Federal Caucus**
- **Board discussion on development of a Finance/ Budget Committee**

Action Items:

- **Circulate Committee rosters and purpose [this was included in the Board Book]**

- **Circulate list of Fed Caucus members and call schedule (Cecilia)**
- **Review committees; identify ones that should include members of the Board.**

Staff Recommendations:

- Have a discussion with the Federal Caucus about shifting and aligning better with NFHP. Ideally – money, but if we can capture alignment that would be good. Related discussion should include:
 - Investigating how we get the NRCS engaged
 - Improving communication with EPA
- Rotate leadership of the Federal Caucus among Federal agencies annually.
 - Next Steps: Tom notes that he talked with David and Julie (USFWS) about rotating the leadership of the ELT. Julie will have a discussion with Andrea Ostroff (USGS) about having USGS coordinate calls and meetings.
- FHPs should be invited to speak at Board meetings, both in-person meeting and on conference calls.

Topic 5: Board staff.

Parking Lot: Discuss decision-making process; clarify which decisions can be made at other levels (ie. not by the Board)

Action Items:

- **NGO internships for Board staff**
- **Staff coordinator needed**
- **Finances person needed to help AFWA staff**

Staff Recommendation:

- Clarify with the Board what decisions are okay for staff to make. Alternatively: On an ad-hoc basis, propose to the Board that with its concurrence, give to staff to move forward. Inform Board members what might come up before Board meetings.
 - Next Steps:
 - Decisions could be made that have the appearance of a Board decision, so will need to consider how to deal with the issue of Federal input.
- NGO caucus discussion regarding an internship program.
 - Next Steps:
 - Follow-up on Tom's discussion with TU regarding the potential for hosting an intern (no AFWA or NFHP funding available for this)
 - Couch this with the Board as one way to engage: support an intern. Outline the roles and responsibilities of the intern for NGO consideration.
- Clarify the roles of the existing staff.
 - Next Steps:
 - Discussions are ongoing at AFWA regarding whether Matt would be replaced or whether his role will permanently be with Ryan.
 - Tom C. has spoken with Julie and David at USFWS, and hopes to follow-up with them in the first week of May (fishing and boating partnership meeting). He will seek to clarify the USFWS

partnership coordinator role because there is a disconnect between the USFWS expectation of its staff person, and what NFHP is expecting of the USFWS staff person. USFWS expects an internal facing role, versus NFHP which expects an FHP facing role. For example, Tom B. drove the process of decision making regarding FHP projects, however Cecilia takes a coordination role.

- Identify what a staff coordinator does; is it different than what Emily and/or Ryan is currently doing?

Topic 6: Board Funding.

Action Items:

- **Identify the users of Board products**
- **Connect Board Science products to management decisions**
- **Identify the right person and invite NRCS**
- **Not just Feds should be providing funding**

Staff Recommendations:

- With the Board, discuss the direction we go with the National Habitat Assessment. Discussion should also address why we conduct a National Habitat Assessment, what is the expectation, and how much we need to continue to invest.
 - Next Steps:
 - Conduct a survey of the Science and Data Committee and Fish Habitat Partnerships to determine who is using the Assessment and how it is being used (Gary, Cecilia, and Emily)
- With the Board, discuss how to engage the NRCS. Recognizing that success has not been had at the National level, consider the following alternative options below.
 - Potential Next Steps:
 - Send a message internally up the NRCS chain of command: Work with the individuals in NRCS who work with the FHPs (e.g. Fishers and Farmers).
 - Send a message from within the Department of Agriculture: Work with USFS Board member to reach out to counterparts at NRCS.
- Identify other potential funding sources, such as states, NGOs, MSCGP, and Beyond the Pond.
 - Next Steps:
 - Identify concrete funding needs, noting what could be done with funding, and then sell the importance of the need (e.g. communications staff support, lesson plan, and/or website) to a potential funder.
 - Develop the 10 year anniversary plan and use this as a spring board from larger discussion.

Topic 7: New NFHP legislation

Parking Lot:

- **Impact of legislation on FWS.**
- **Federal Caucus Role in determining (potentially) how to use appropriated funds.**
- **Involvement of other Fed/non-Fed entities.**

Action Items:

- **Address the “now what” question of the Legislation**

- **Ask the FHPs [about the potential impacts of the legislation].**

Staff Recommendations:

- Table further discussion and planning on this topic until the legislation passes.
 - Next Steps:
 - None at this time.

Topic 8: Purpose and role of FHPs.

Action Items:

- **Define the role of Partnerships in raising money. If it's fundraising, then train them in this (talk to WNTI)**
- **Identify the private FHP partners.**

Staff Recommendations:

- Define where the nexus between Beyond the Pond and the FHPs should be. Determine what is needed to achieve this, and how to accomplish it.
 - Next Steps:
 - Consider WNTI as a case study in which the FHPs are fundraising at the local level, and the Beyond Pond works at a national level.
- Train Fish Habitat Partnerships in fundraising, so that they may effectively begin fundraising at the local level.
 - Next Steps:
 - Host a webinar, workshop, or Board session during which Board members and/or BOD members with experience in fundraising train FHPs.

Topic 9: Relationship between Board and FHPs.

Parking Lot: Solidify how the Board supports the FHPs; define commitments from the Board to the FHPs and vice versa.

Action Item: Ask the FHPs if the Board is performing

Staff Recommendations:

- Partnerships Committee is working to define commitments between the Board and FHPs.
 - Next Steps:
 - Partnerships Committee will review the FHP Guidance document to determine whether this suffices, whether it needs to be revised, and whether a document of interdependence should be developed.
- Revisit the idea of having a FHP non-voting representative on the Board and determine when the FHPs should next review the Board's performance.
 - Next Steps:
 - Work with the Partnership Committee to take on these issues in 2017.

Topic 10: New FHPs.

Action Items:

- **Remove Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Salmon in the City, and North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership**
- **Determine which FHPs have a FWS coordinator**

Parking Lot:

- **Should acceptance of new FHPs cease?**
 - **If not, how should new FHPs be handled**
 - **Timeframe (need to develop a 5-year perspective on how to approach this issue)**
- **Approaching the candidate partners (need to come to closure on pending applications)**

Staff Recommendations:

- Continue this conversation with the full Board in October.
 - Next Steps:
 - Prior to the meeting, staff will develop a document listing the pros and cons to continuing to consider new FHPs.

Topic 11: The NFHP 501(c)(3).

Action Item:

- **Advance the skills of the FHPs in fundraising.**

Staff Recommendation:

- This action item is addressed through Topic 8.

Topic 12: Marketing and Branding

Parking Lot:

- **Still lack of awareness of NFHP – even within fisheries community – need to promote awareness.**
- **FHPs still appear/operate as distinct, unrelated entities; their relation to national network is not clear.**

Staff Recommendations:

- Planned 10-year Anniversary events should help to build awareness.
 - Next Steps:
 - Finalize 10-yr anniversary communications plan and seek funding to achieve objectives, which include but are not limited to having a NFHP presence at AFS Annual Meeting, AFWA Annual Meeting, and ASA Recreational Fishing summit.
- Continue discussion with the full Board regarding why we are marketing, what effective marketing is, and how much more branding and marketing we want to do.
 - Next Steps:
 - Continue co-branding and evaluate the effect that the Beyond the Pond website has.
- Continue discussion with the full Board with regard to emphasis on network and connection to the National effort.

○ Next Steps:

- Staff will identify other examples of organizations with strong chapter or member organizations and how they interact at the national and regional scales.

Final Discussion

What the next 10 years look like in one-three words.

Staff Recommendations:

- Identify themes present in responses.
- Consider pursuing a more formal visioning process.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

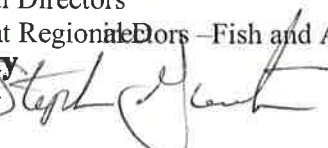


FWS/AFAC/FAC DCN 062800

APR 14 2016

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Assistant Regional Directors – Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Deputy

From: Director 

Subject: FY16 FWS NFHAP Proj Funding

Working with others to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and their habitats is an essential component of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) mission. To help achieve this, the FWS is committed to supporting the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP or Action Plan) and the Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) that implement it. The Action Plan is a science-based, voluntary effort to address fish and aquatic habitat issues across the US. In fiscal year (FY) 2016, the FWS is providing \$3,176,156 to support cost-shared, strategic fish and aquatic habitat projects that address the goals of the Action Plan.

Eighteen FHPs will receive \$75,000 each in stable operational support totaling \$1,350,000. The remaining \$1,826,156 of the project funds will be distributed based on each FHP's performance level (PL) score for FY16. Each FHP's PL score was determined by applying the FWS's NFHAP Allocation Methodology, adopted in December 2013 and revised in November 2015. The resulting PL scores and respective funding amounts for each FHP can be found in the attachment.

FWS funds will be used to support FHP operations, conduct aquatic habitat assessments, and implement on-the-ground conservation projects that address the goals of the Action Plan and align with the mission of the FWS. Specifically, the FHP's will use the funds to implement proposed projects identified in their Work Plan and Accomplishment Reports. In case of delays, funds may be carried over to FY17 and used as soon as possible. Additionally, all projects will be tracked and project accomplishments will be reported in the FWS's Fisheries Information System –Accomplishments Module.

The FWS looks forward to continuing its support of the Action Plan and partnering with the FHPs. If you have questions regarding FY16 Action Plan allocations, please contact David Hoskins, Assistant Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation, at 703-358-2250 or David_Hoskins@fws.gov.

Attachments

Table 1. Number of Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) at each performance level (Level) and respective project funding amount for FY16

Performance Levels	Number of FHPs at each Level	Project Funding at each Level
Level 1	4 FHPs	\$46,824
Level 2	10 FHPs	\$140,474
Level 3	1 FHPs	\$234,120

Table 2. FY16 performance levels and the corresponding funding amount for each FHP

Lead FWS Region	Fish Habitat Partnership Name	Performance Level ¹	Total FY16 FHP Funding ²
1	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	N/A	\$75,000
	Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
2	Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
3	Driftless Area Restoration Effort	1	\$121,824
	Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin	1	\$121,824
	Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	N/A	\$75,000
	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	N/A	\$75,000
	Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
4	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	2	\$215,474

¹ FHP performance levels are applicable to the 2016 federal fiscal year, only

² FHP funding amounts include \$75,000 of operational support for each Fish Habitat Partnership

Attachment 1 –FY16 National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) Project Funding

Lead FWS Region	Fish Habitat Partnership Name	Performance Level ¹	Total FY16 FHP Funding ²
5	Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	1	\$121,824
	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	2	\$215,474
6	Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
7	Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
	Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
	Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474
8	California Fish Passage Forum	1	\$121,824
	Western Native Trout Initiative	3	\$309,120
HQ	Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership	2	\$215,474

Total FY16 NFHAP Project Funding \$3,176,156

Fish Habitat Partnerships	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
ACFHP	
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Operations FY16, VA NFHP	\$107,142
Creation of Shellfish-Based "Living Shoreline" for Fish Habitat Restoration and Water Quality Improvement in the Mid- Atlantic	\$0
Improving Fish Passage Through the Removal of the Bradford Dam, Pawcatuck River, Westerly RI	\$14,682
Lower Bog Dam Removal and Stream Restoration, Coonamessett River, Barnstable County, Falmouth, MA	\$0
NFHP Third Herring Brook Restoration, Tack Factory Dam Removal (Deconstruction Phase)	\$0
ACFHP Total	\$121,824
CFPF	
Central California Traction Company Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Improvement Project	\$10,059
FY16 CFPF Coordination and Support	\$57,000
Manly Gulch Coho Access and Habitat Restoration Project	\$54,765
CFPF Total	\$121,824
DARE	
DARE Habitat Improvement Project Tarr Creek, Ft. McCoy WI	\$26,000
DARE Trout Unlimited Coordination and Planning	\$22,000
Driftless Karst feature database- Apple/Plum spotlight watershed	\$9,100
GIS - Riparian Assessment, web project map, project monitoring	\$10,724
Troy Mills Partial Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Construction, Wapsipinicon River, IA	\$28,000
West Silver Wetland Dam Removal on Silver Creek-Ft. McCoy, WI	\$26,000
DARE Total	\$121,824
DFHP	
Bitter Creek Drop Structure Fish Passage Project, Wyoming	\$26,788
Goose Creek Allotment Pipeline Project (FONS# 14330-2016-974)	\$54,836
NFHP: DFHP: FY2016 Coordinator and Operational Expenses	\$75,000
Upper Sycan River Aquatic Habitat Restoration (FONS# 81450-2016-050)	\$58,850
DFHP Total	\$215,474
EBTJV	
Bear Run Restoration (PA)	\$0
Beebe River Watershed Connectivity Project (NH)	\$38,331
Eastern Brook Trout Coordination and Operations FY16	\$128,571
Howe Brook Habitat Restoration Project (VT)	\$0
Instream Brook Trout Habitat Restoration in East Branch Nulhegan River	\$0

Fish Habitat Partnerships	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Little Cards Brook Culvert Replacement (ME)	\$34,286
Sparta Glen Brook Restoration (NJ)	\$14,286
EBTJV Total	\$215,474
FFP	
NFHP- FFP Hutchins Creek Watershed Partnership Project, IL 32330-2016-	\$52,000
NFHP-FFP Boone River Watershed (BRW) Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project, IA (Part 2)	\$26,000
NFHP-FFP Root River Field to Stream Partnership (RRFSP), MN	\$43,824
FFP Total	\$121,824
GLBFHP	
Great Lakes Basin FHP Coordination and Operational Support	\$75,000
GLBFHP Total	\$75,000
GPFHP	
Fish Passage Culvert to Bridge on 1821 800 Ave Road, Kansas	\$15,000
Fish Passage Culvert to Bridge on 912 Vane Road, Kansas	\$15,000
Fish Passage for Lowermost Weir on Tarkio River in Page County, Iowa	\$120,474
Landscape Scale GIS Analysis and Partnership Coordination Support	\$53,000
Rapid Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project, South Dakota	\$12,000
GPFHP Total	\$215,474
HFHP	
Loko Ea Tributary Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Waialua District, Oahu	\$21,450
Molokai Estuary-Fishpond Habitat Restoration Project, Molokai	\$31,950
Restoration of Anchialine Pools along the Kona Coast on the island of Hawaii	\$21,600
HFHP Total	\$75,000
KFHP	
Field validation of Kenai Peninsula NHD	\$52,517
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination and operational support	\$75,000
Restoring and reconnecting cold water habitat to the Ninilchik River	\$11,045
Stream stage monitoring to track changes in available fish habitat	\$25,000
Stream Temperature Monitoring Network 10-year assessment	\$7,075
Stream Watch Protecting and restoring Habitat for Kenai River	\$23,150
Using EDNA to assess and eradicate invasive species from Kenai Peninsula	\$21,687
KFHP Total	\$215,474
Mat-Su	
2016 Mat-Su Fish Passage Program	\$10,000
2016 Mat-Su Water Reservation Program Flow Data Acquisition	\$40,000

Fish Habitat Partnerships	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Cataloging Anadromous and Resident Fish in Previously Unmapped Streams Identified During Fish Passage Assessments in the Matanuska-Susitna	\$32,038
Chelatna Lake Invasive Northern Pike Eradication	\$31,427
Guidelines for Developing Around Salmon Habitat in the Mat-Su	\$27,009
Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Outreach and Coordination	\$75,000
Mat-Su Total	\$215,474
MGLP	
A regional Habitat Assessment and Prioritization Framework for Cisco and Walleye Lakes in the Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Accounting for Landuse Impacts and Climate Change Vulnerability	\$40,000
Michigan Shoreland Stewards: Partnering to Protect Our Inland Lakes through Outreach and Education	\$11,256
Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP Coordination and Operational Support	\$23,744
MGLP Total	\$75,000
ORBFHP	
NFHP/NFPP: Batavia Ohio Low-Head Dam Removal	\$14,286
NFHP/NFPP: Culvert Replacement Under the Little Beaver Creek Greenway	\$3,571
NFHP: Big Creek Watershed Project	\$57,143
NFHP: Gertrude Run Aquatic Organism Passage Project	\$58,571
NFHP: MWCD Dam Modification/Reoperation	\$14,286
NFHP: Using in-situ exposures to assess the suitability of streams for freshwater mussel restoration streams for freshwater mussel restoration	\$42,857
Ohio River Basin FHP Coordination and Operational support	\$24,760
ORBFHP Total	\$215,474
PMEP	
Columbia-Pacific Passage Habitat Restoration at Megler Creek (Washington)	\$39,864
Coos Bay Eelgrass Mapping Project (Oregon)	\$60,610
PMEP Coordinator and Operational Support	\$75,000
Poole Slough Acquisition (Oregon)	\$40,000
PMEP Total	\$215,474
RFHP	
Delaware Lake Fish Habitat Structure Installation and Monitoring	\$10,000
Establishing Ground Cover in Reservoir Mudflats to Foster Fish Assemblages	\$29,225
Improvement of Sport Fish Habitat and Species Diversity in Lake Livingston,	\$10,000
Lake Austin Habitat Restoration	\$20,000
Lake Wichita Habitat Enhancement Project	\$29,224
Rend Lake Fishery Habitat Enhancement Project	\$10,000
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support	\$75,000

Fish Habitat Partnerships	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Richard B. Russell Shoreline and Deepwater Habitat Enhancement Project	\$10,025
Trooper Island Shoreline Stabilization Project, Dale Hollow Lake	\$16,000
Underwater Structure Enhancement for West Point Lake	\$6,000
RFHP Total	\$215,474
SARP	
ACFHP/NFHAP: Restoring the Mangroves of the Three Sisters Island, Indian River Lagoon, FL	\$71,372
Cathy Brown Streambank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement Project, Mulberry River, Ozarks, Arkansas	\$40,000
Continuing Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Restoration in the Valley River	\$40,000
SARP Operations	\$18,628
Streambank Stabilization Benefiting Rare Mussels on the Tennessee River Mainstem Below Pickwick Dam	\$45,474
SARP Total	\$215,474
SWAK	
Bristol Bay Salmon Conservation and Environmental Youth Education	\$10,000
Protect spawning habitat via assessment of Kvichak River sockeye smolt production	\$92,000
Protecting Fish Habitat -Instream flow reservations in the Nushagak	\$54,573
Southwest Alaska Salmon habitat partnership coordination and support	\$58,901
SWAK Total	\$215,474
WNTI	
“k’wne’ ‘ulchiyark’wmntsut” (Hangman Creek Relict Channel and Floodplain Reconnection)	\$42,292
Connecting Teton Creek: Green Property Habitat and Stream flow restoration	\$46,310
Mill Creek Watershed Restoration and Fish Passage Project, Utah	\$41,000
Miners Gulch Stream and Riparian Restoration Project, Montana	\$20,000
Mulherin Fish Screen & Entrainment Prevention Project, Montana	\$3,000
Swauk Creek RM 17.3 to 18.8 Floodplain Reconnection Design	\$40,915
The rapid, range-wide, eDNA-based assessment of bull trout distributions: Wenatchee River basin	\$40,603
WNTI Operational Funding	\$75,000
WNTI Total	\$309,120
Grand Total	\$3,176,156

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Alaska	
2016 Mat-Su Fish Passage Program	\$10,000
2016 Mat-Su Water Reservation Program Flow Data Acquisition	\$40,000
Bristol Bay Salmon Conservation and Environmental Youth Education	\$10,000
Cataloging Anadromous and Resident Fish in Previously Unmapped Streams Identified During Fish Passage Assessments in the Matanuska-Susitna	\$32,038
Chelatna Lake Invasive Northern Pike Eradication	\$31,427
Field validation of Kenai Peninsula NHD	\$52,517
Guidelines for Developing Around Salmon Habitat in the Mat-Su	\$27,009
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination and operational support	\$75,000
Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Outreach and Coordination	\$75,000
Protect spawning habitat via assessment of Kvichak River sockeye smolt production	\$92,000
Protecting Fish Habitat -Instream flow reservations in the Nushagak	\$54,573
Restoring and reconnecting cold water habitat to the Ninilchik River	\$11,045
Southwest Alaska Salmon habitat partnership coordination and support	\$58,901
Stream stage monitoring to track changes in available fish habitat	\$25,000
Stream Temperature Monitoring Network 10-year assessment	\$7,075
Stream Watch Protecting and restoring Habitat for Kenai River	\$23,150
Using EDNA to assess and eradicate invasive species from Kenai Peninsula	\$21,687
Alaska Total	\$646,422
Arkansas	
Cathy Brown Streambank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement Project, Mulberry River, Ozarks, Arkansas	\$40,000
Arkansas Total	\$40,000
California	
Central California Traction Company Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Improvement Project	\$10,059
FY16 CFPP Coordination and Support	\$57,000
Manly Gulch Coho Access and Habitat Restoration Project	\$54,765
PMEP Coordinator and Operations Support	\$75,000
California Total	\$196,824
Florida	
ACFHP/NFHAP: Restoring the Mangroves of the Three Sisters Island, Indian River Lagoon, FL	\$71,372
Florida Total	\$71,372
Georgia	
Richard B. Russell Shoreline and Deepwater Habitat Enhancement Project	\$10,025

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Underwater Structure Enhancement for West Point Lake	\$6,000
Georgia Total	\$16,025
Hawaii	
Loko Ea Tributary Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Waialua District, Oahu	\$21,450
Molokai Estuary-Fishpond Habitat Restoration Project, Molokai	\$31,950
Restoration of Anchialine Pools along the Kona Coast on the island of Hawaii	\$21,600
Hawaii Total	\$75,000
Idaho	
“k’wne’ ‘ulchiyark’wmntsut” (Hangman Creek Relict Channel and Floodplain Reconnection)	\$42,292
Connecting Teton Creek: Green Property Habitat and Stream flow restoration	\$46,310
Goose Creek Allotment Pipeline Project	\$54,836
Idaho Total	\$143,438
Illinois	
Driftless Karst feature database- Apple/Plum spotlight watershed	\$9,100
NFHP- FFP Hutchins Creek Watershed Partnership Project, IL	\$52,000
NFHP: Big Creek Watershed Project	\$57,143
Rend Lake Fishery Habitat Enhancement Project	\$10,000
Illinois Total	\$128,243
Iowa	
A regional Habitat Assessment and Prioritization Framework for Cisco and Walleye Lakes in the Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership Accounting for Landuse Impacts and Climate Change Vulnerability	\$40,000
Fish Passage for Lowermost Weir on Tarkio River in Page County, Iowa	\$120,474
NFHP-FFP Boone River Watershed (BRW) Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project, IA (Part 2)	\$26,000
Troy Mills Partial Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Construction, Wapsipinicon River, IA	\$28,000
Iowa Total	\$214,474
Kansas	
Fish Passage Culvert to Bridge on 1821 800 Ave Road, Kansas	\$15,000
Fish Passage Culvert to Bridge on 912 Vane Road, Kansas	\$15,000
Kansas Total	\$30,000
Kentucky	
NFHP: Using in-situ exposures to assess the suitability of streams for freshwater mussel restoration streams for freshwater mussel restoration	\$42,857

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Kentucky Total	\$42,857
Maine	
Little Cards Brook Culvert Replacement (ME)	\$34,286
Maine Total	\$34,286
Massachusetts	
Lower Bog Dam Removal and Stream Restoration, Coonamessett River, Barnstable County, Falmouth, MA	\$0
NFHP Third Herring Brook Restoration, Tack Factory Dam Removal (Deconstruction Phase)	\$0
Massachusetts Total	\$0
Michigan	
Michigan Shoreland Stewards: Partnering to Protect Our Inland Lakes through Outreach and Education	\$11,256
Michigan Total	\$11,256
Minnesota	
GIS - Riparian Assessment, web project map, project monitoring	\$10,724
NFHP-FPP Root River Field to Stream Partnership (RRFSP), MN	\$43,824
Minnesota Total	\$54,548
Mississippi	
Establishing Ground Cover in Reservoir Mudflats to Foster Fish Assemblages	\$29,225
Mississippi Total	\$29,225
Montana	
Miners Gulch Stream and Riparian Restoration Project, Montana	\$20,000
Mulherin Fish Screen & Entrainment Prevention Project, Montana	\$3,000
Montana Total	\$23,000
Multiple States	
Eastern Brook Trout Coordination and Operations FY16	\$128,571
Great Lakes Basin FHP Coordination and Operational Support	\$75,000
Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP Coordination and Operational Support	\$23,744
NFHP: DFHP: FY2016 Coordinator and Operational Expenses	\$75,000
Ohio River Basin FHP Coordination and Operational support	\$24,760
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Coordination and Operational Support	\$75,000
SARP Coordination and Operations	\$18,628
WNTI Operational Funding	\$75,000
Multiple States Total	\$495,703

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
New Hampshire	
Beebe River Watershed Connectivity Project (NH)	\$38,331
New Hampshire Total	\$38,331
New Jersey	
Sparta Glen Brook Restoration (NJ)	\$14,286
New Jersey Total	\$14,286
New York	
Creation of Shellfish-Based "Living Shoreline" for Fish Habitat Restoration and Water Quality Improvement in the Mid- Atlantic	\$0
NFHP: MWCD Dam Modification/Reoperation	\$14,286
New York Total	\$14,286
North Carolina	
Continuing Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Restoration in the Valley River	\$40,000
North Carolina Total	\$40,000
Ohio	
Delaware Lake Fish Habitat Structure Installation and Monitoring	\$10,000
NFHP/NFPP: Batavia Ohio Low-Head Dam Removal	\$14,286
NFHP/NFPP: Culvert Replacement Under the Little Beaver Creek Greenway	\$3,571
Ohio Total	\$27,857
Oregon	
Coos Bay Eelgrass Mapping Project (Oregon)	\$60,610
Poole Slough Acquisition (Oregon)	\$40,000
Upper Sycan River Aquatic Habitat Restoration	\$58,850
Oregon Total	\$159,460
Pennsylvannia	
Bear Run Restoration (PA)	\$0
Pennsylvannia Total	\$0
Rhode Island	
Improving Fish Passage Through the Removal of the Bradford Dam, Pawcatuck River, Westerly RI	\$14,682
Rhode Island Total	\$14,682
South Dakota	
Landscape Scale GIS Analysis and Partnership Coordination Support	\$53,000

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
Rapid Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project, South Dakota	\$12,000
South Dakota Total	\$65,000
Tennessee	
Streambank Stabilization Benefiting Rare Mussels on the Tennessee River Mainstem Below Pickwick Dam	\$45,474
Trooper Island Shoreline Stabilization Project, Dale Hollow Lake	\$16,000
Tennessee Total	\$61,474
Texas	
Improvement of Sport Fish Habitat and Species Diversity in Lake Livingston, Lake Austin Habitat Restoration	\$10,000
Lake Wichita Habitat Enhancement Project	\$20,000
	\$29,224
Texas Total	\$59,224
Utah	
Mill Creek Watershed Restoration and Fish Passage Project, Utah	\$41,000
Utah Total	\$41,000
Vermont	
Howe Brook Habitat Restoration Project (VT)	\$0
Instream Brook Trout Habitat Restoration in East Branch Nulhegan River	\$0
Vermont Total	\$0
Virginia	
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Operations FY16, VA NFHP	\$107,142
Virginia Total	\$107,142
Washington	
Columbia-Pacific Passage Habitat Restoration at Megler Creek (Washington)	\$39,864
Swauk Creek RM 17.3 to 18.8 Floodplain Reconnection Design	\$40,915
The rapid, range-wide, eDNA-based assessment of bull trout distributions: Wenatchee River basin	\$40,603
Washington Total	\$121,382
West Virginia	
NFHP: Gertrude Run Aquatic Organism Passage Project	\$58,571
West Virginia Total	\$58,571
Wisconsin	
DARE Habitat Improvement Project Tarr Creek, Ft. McCoy WI	\$26,000
DARE Trout Unlimited Coordination and Planning	\$22,000

States	FWS NFHAP Project Funds
West Silver Wetland Dam Removal on Silver Creek-Ft. McCoy, WI	\$26,000
Wisconsin Total	\$74,000
Wyoming	
Bitter Creek Drop Structure Fish Passage Project, Wyoming	\$26,788
Wyoming Total	\$26,788
Grand Total	\$3,176,156

Title: Presentation of the Revised 2015 Assessment Report

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the 2015 National Assessment Report status
- **Board awareness** of the roll-out plan

Background:

The second draft of text has been provided to the web developers and they are in final stages of knitting together text, graphical elements, and dynamic charting and data visualization. Team is on track to provide Board with access to beta development site by June 22.

Completed

- March 7-9: dropbox links to the draft report language were provided to the NFHP SDC members, FHP coordinators and Board members and staff.
- March 9-17: overviews of the Assessment were provided at Board Meeting, AFS Administration and AFWA Meetings.
- April 15: comments and suggested revisions of first draft from SDC members, FHP coordinators, and Board members.
- May 31: review of the second draft of the text completed and provided to development team
- June 7: beta version of web site made available on development site, comments solicited from principle authors

Upcoming

- June 22: beta version of Report web site available Board members for review, USGS internal view begins.
- June 23 – July 15: final review period for web site
- July 18 – 29: revisions of web site in response to final review comments
- August 1 – 12: transfer web site from USGS development servers to NFHP web site

Roll-Out Plan:

- August 21-25: Official release at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting with oral presentation by Daniel Wieferich and demonstrations at NFHP exhibition booth.
- Accompanied by:
 - Press release from NFHP
 - Social media posts
 - Article in Fisheries Magazine
 - Newsletter to Partner Coalition
- Followed by:
 - Demonstrations at AFWA annual meeting, September 6-14 (pending funding)
 - Webinar demo for FHP's on their bi-monthly conference call (will invite Federal Caucus)

Title: Legislative Update

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

Background:

Versions of the National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation, which will codify and strengthen the National Fish Habitat Partnership, have been introduced in the previous four sessions of Congress.

Update:

The most recent version of this legislation, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act, passed the Senate on April 20, 2016 as a part of the Sportmen's package, which was included as an amendment to the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 ([S.2102](#)).

S. 2012 passed the House as an amendment to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015 ([H.R. 8](#)) on May 25, 2016. However, the two chambers have taken significantly different approaches toward energy legislation, as well as imbedded Sportsmen's Act legislation. For example, and of relevance to the Board, the House bill does not include the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act.

The next step, which is conferencing the Bill between the two chambers of Congress, has not begun. Because the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act is included in the Senate bill, it remains in play and it is possible that this language would be agreed upon by the bill conference committee.

Title: Budget and Finance Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Committee members
- **Board approval** of Committee Charter

Background:

Recognizing the need for greater support from Board members on NFHP fiscal matters, the Board approved the creation of a Board Budget Committee at its March 2016 meeting. The Board's Budget and Finance Committee met on June 3rd to discuss finalizing the charter, priorities, and next steps.

The purpose of the committee is to work with and support the National Fish Habitat Board (NFHB) (also referred to as the 'Board') in fiscal matters affecting the function of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, including the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs). The committee's goal is to expand, diversify, and secure funding to support NFHB functions, including committee activities and staffing, and FHP programs and activities and ensure all funding is properly expended. Key responsibilities of this committee are to assist NFHP staff develop annual budgets, prioritize funded and unfunded projects, review existing and potential funding sources, and coordinate with the Beyond the Pond Board. Committee member responsibilities do not include fund raising per se, but to assist in the development of financial strategies.

The Committee's current membership is as follows: Mike Andrews (TNC), Tom Champeau (FWCC), Chris Moore (MAFMC) Bryan Moore (TU), Ed Shriever (IDFG), and Sean Stone (CCA).

Staff Recommendation:

- Approve the Budget and Finance Committee Charter

Board Book Material:

Tab 07b – Budget and Finance Committee Charter

National Fish Habitat Board Committee Charter

Committee Title: Budget and Finance

Purpose: This committee will work with and support the National Fish Habitat Board (NFHB) (also referred to as the 'Board') in fiscal matters affecting the function of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, including the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs). The committee will report to the Board with recommendations for Board actions related to budgets, funding priorities, fiscal needs, and strategies to expand funding for Board functions and FHP projects and programs.

Goal: Expand, diversify, and secure funding to support NFHB functions, including committee activities and staffing, and FHP programs and activities and ensure all funding is properly expended.

Objectives:

1. Develop short and long-term fiscal goals and budgets for Board and FHP activities.
2. Identify potential funding sources to support Board and FHP activities.
3. Facilitate effective collaboration to meet these fiscal goals by:
 - a. Developing priorities and strategies for additional funding to recommend for Board action.
 - b. Serving as liaisons between the NFHB and staff.
 - c. Serving as liaisons between the NFHB and Beyond the Pond Board.
4. Review spending on each Board budget line item mid-year and at end-of-year and ensure products or services produced by each line item meet the Board expectations and needs.

Background and Needs: NFHP currently receives dedicated funding from the USFWS for Board and FHP activities. Additional funding and in-kind support is provided through the Multi-State Conservation Program, Federal agencies (e.g. USFWS, NOAA, USGS), NGOs (e.g. Trout Unlimited and TNC) and state agencies (Michigan DNR and AFWA). NFHB budget and fiscal management services are provided by the AFWA staff. The Board needs to evaluate options for expanding funding -- dedicated funding in particular. A plan to increase financial participation from other members of the Federal Caucus, NGOs, State Agencies, and other groups that are associated with and share the mission of NFHP needs to be developed (with clear goals and benefits). Coordination between the NFHB, FHPs, and the Beyond the Pond 501(c)(3) Board of Directors, in critical to effective fundraising and distribution as is documentation that all funds were expended as expected by Board on an annual basis.

Committee Structure: NFHP Board members interested in fiscal issues are invited to participate and it would be beneficial to have members from Regional Fish and Wildlife Associations, NGOs, and Federal agencies currently not providing dedicated funding or in-kind support. The Committee shall be composed of no more than 5 individuals and chaired by the Board's chairperson or vice-chairperson. Board staff will provide support to this Committee.

Responsibilities: The Budget and Finance Committee will report during each NFHB meeting on fiscal planning and progress. As part of this role, the Committee will work with NFHB staff to develop and present the annual budget to the Board, provide budget and fiscal planning updates during each Board meeting, and work on other projects at the direction of the Board.

Deliverables:

- An annual Board budget developed in coordination with NFHB staff and AFWA for the upcoming year.
- A realistic set of Board priorities for the upcoming year, based on the Board budget and other funding sources, and in coordination with NFHB staff.
- A three-year action plan which identifies short and long term fiscal goals (for the Board and FHPs), as well as recommended strategies to secure additional funding sources.
- An annual report highlighting short-term goals achieved and progress towards long-term goals along with a review of expenditures towards those goals.

Title: Partnerships Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Partnerships Committee make-up and priorities.

Background:

The Partnerships Committee serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships.

A recommendation was presented to the Board at its March 2016 meeting to task the Partnerships Committee leadership to work with staff to revitalize/repopulate its membership and priorities for 2016.

Update:

- The Partnerships Committee has been revitalized. The Committees current membership, which includes FHP coordinators, a USFWS regional coordinator, and Board members, can be found below. Since its revitalization, the Committee has met twice: May 6th and June 3rd.

Members:

Jeff Boxrucker (RFHP)

Chair

Doug Boyd (SBPC)

Stan Allen (PSMFC)

Jessica Graham (SARP)

Debbie Hart (SEAK FHP)

Staff

Lisa Havel (ACFHP)

Cecilia Lewis (USFWS)

Heidi Keuler (F&F FHP)

Emily Greene (ERT-NMFS)

Ross Melinchuk (TX PWD)

Bryan Moore (TU)

Joe Nohner (MGLFHP)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

Therese Thompson (WNTI)

David Wigglesworth (USFWS)

- On a kick-off conference call of the reinvigorated committee (May 6), the group prioritized its tasks and began identifying working groups and next steps. Task prioritization is as follows:

Higher Priority Tasks

- Develop a Document of Interdependence /Revisit the FHP Guidelines (FHP Forum discussion outcome).

- Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met (Board assigned March 2016).
- Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016 (FHP Performance Evaluation Review Team Recommendation – Board approved March 2016).

Lower Priority Tasks

- Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies (2016 Board Priority D).
- Development of a process that provides a priority ranking of multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source (2016 Board Priority C).

The Committee deleted the following task: *2016 Board Priority B: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed*, because the opportunity to revise the current NFHP National Conservation Need has now passed.

- On its second call (June 3), the Committee reviewed a staff prepared draft Document of Interdependence (working title), discussed the purpose and structure of the document, and established a working group that will further develop the document in July. A product for review is anticipated in August.

The Document of Interdependence is intended to address the relationship between the National Fish Habitat Board, FHPs, Beyond the Pond, and partners. It can be viewed as a guide that outlines how these entities can effectively work together. It is intended to be a high level framework document that is not overly prescriptive and allows for flexibility.

Title: 10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of Steering Committee establishment and membership
- Board awareness of 10-Year Anniversary Communications Strategy development

Background:

Following the March 2016 Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board, a steering committee was created to help look for opportunities to help promote and identify resources to celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (April 24, 2016). The Steering Committee recommended that a communications strategy be developed and include events where the National Fish Habitat Partnership could be recognized beginning in 2016 and through April 2017. Members of the steering committee are looking at ways to fund unmet needs detailed in the strategy. NFHP has identified about \$5,000 to meet the needs in the communications strategy.

Steering Committee Members:

Christopher Estes (Chalkboard, LLC)
Ross Melinchuk (TX) (SEAFWA Board Rep)
Chris Moore (MAFMC) (Chair of SC)
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Dan Shively (USFS)
Sean Stone (CCA)
Gary Whelan (MI DNR)

Staff:

Emily Greene (NMFS-ERT)
Ryan Roberts (AFWA)

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 10b - 10-Year Anniversary Communications Strategy



Communications Plan – 10 year anniversary

Purpose:

- April 24, 2016 marks the 10th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan being signed by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- This Anniversary provides an opportunity to tout the accomplishments of NFHP, increase public awareness, attract additional resources for the Partnership and Beyond the Pond (501c3 Organization for the National Fish Habitat Partnership), and promote the future of program.

Messages:

- Fact sheet and infographic developed for progress over the last decade
 - Fact Sheet will highlight, funding leveraged for the program and conservation outcomes.
- Presentations developed for Board or chosen representatives at events
 - Presentations on NFHP Success and where program is focused for the future.
- Collateral developed for Beyond the Pond
 - Fact sheet and card developed for Beyond the Pond 501c3
- Press Release

Developed Materials:

- Advertisements
 - Logo Advertisement in Angling Trade Magazine (**Cost: \$1,200 - \$1,875 (Purchased)**)
 - Info Cards developed for State and Fishpond booths at I-Cast event (**Cost: \$350**)
 - USA Today Advertising Regional (**Cost: \$85 - \$220**) 3-days

- Bass Master Classic Sponsorship and B.A.S.S. Times Advertising (**Cost: \$8,000 - \$10,000**)

- Outreach materials
 - Use existing (new) websites to highlight anniversary / accomplishments.
 - Re-use videos (Already completed)/may have budget to do a new one or may use FHP video that is being produced in 2016. (**Cost: \$5,000**)
 - Waters to Watch Campaign will incorporate updates on our historic projects.
 - Podcast production to promote Fish Habitat Partnerships (**Cost: \$3,000**)

- Social media
 - Use existing video and photos to deliver messages to targeted groups via social media
 - Creation of a # (Hashtag)
(**Cost: \$350**)

Events:

August 21-25, 2016

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting:

- NFHP Marketing Booth,
 - Meeting usually attracts 3,000 – 4,000 fisheries professionals

Costs: Already Funded within NFHP Board Communications Budget

September 11-14, 2016

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting:

- Marketing table, base sponsorship
 - Meeting Attendees include, State Fish and Wildlife Agency Personnel and State Director's, Federal Agency and NGO representatives. Attendance is usually around 700.
(**Cost: \$500**)

NFHP Representative(s): NFHP Staff, FHP representatives

October 4-7, 2016

ASA Sportfishing Summit:

- Mention in Sportfishing Summit Program, Short write-up in program, short address to attendees
 - Meeting includes fishing industry professionals, conservation community members
(**Contribution proposal: \$2,000**)

NFHP Representative: Tom Champeau

4. Capitol Hill briefing

Work with legislative committee/AFS staff to arrange a presentation for staffers at a brown bag or breakfast meeting.

Include Representatives from partnerships (possibly associated with legislatively significant states) to make presentations that include all the associated benefits of the partnerships (enhanced / recovered habitat, jobs, etc.)

2 Options: (1 Briefing through NOAA, 1 stand alone)

Timeline: Fall 2016

(Cost: \$600, plus travel for NFHP representatives - TBD)

5. Events for Fish Habitat Partnerships - TBD

(Cost: \$5,000 - \$12,000)

(Total Campaign Cost: \$35,000)

Title: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of 2016 Letters of Intent (LOI) from FHPs

Background:

In 2015, the FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership agreed to a 3-year collaborative approach to applying for Multistate Grant Funding through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

The National Conservation Need (NCN) established by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee of AFWA is strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Two FHP LOIs were submitted under this NCN:

- 1) a regional application from 13 FHPs
- 2) an application from the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership

Both LOIs will be reviewed by the National Grants Committee in mid-July and successful applicants will be asked to submit full proposals for consideration for funding with a deadline of August 5, 2016. Full applications will be reviewed for funding at the AFWA Annual Meeting in September 2016.

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 11b - FHP Regional Application LOI
- Tab 11c - Reservoir FHP LOI

**2017 Multistate Conservation Grant Program
Letter of Intent**

Executive Summary

Applicant Information

1. **Full Legal Name of Organization:** National Fish Habitat Board. If awarded, the grant will be administered on behalf of the National Fish Habitat Board by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1100 First Street NE, Suite 825, Washington DC, 20002
2. **Brief Description of Organization:** The 22-member Board was established to promote, oversee and coordinate the National Fish Habitat Partnership and implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (Association) represents North America's state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies to advance sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. The Association provides member agencies with coordination services, as well as species-based programs that range from birds, fish habitat and energy development to climate change, wildlife action plans, conservation education, leadership training and international relations.

3. **Organization Website URL:** www.fishhabitat.org
4. **Lead Applicant's Contact Information:**
Mr. Tom Champeau, Chief (Inland Fisheries), Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Chair, National Fish Habitat Board
c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Email: Kelly.hepler@state.sd.gov
Phone Number: 850-556-7684
5. **Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigators(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable):**

Gary Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Ryan Roberts, National Fish Habitat Board Communications Coordinator
6. **Have you applied for MSCGP funding before?** Yes
7. **If yes, was/were your previous proposal(s) funded?** Yes, most.
8. **Date(s) of Previous Applications(s) (if applicable):** 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007

Program Eligibility

9. Organization Information.

- a. **Applicant Classification:** Nongovernmental Organization
- b. **Nongovernmental Organization Classification:** 501(c)(6)

10. State Benefit Requirement: The outcomes of this project will benefit all 50 states

11. States Benefitted:

- a. States: 50 States

12. Primary National Conservation Need (NCN) Addressed: NCN 2: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership

13. Terms and Conditions. *Use of MSCGP Grants - All applicants must ensure that their proposed project does not fund, in whole or in part, an activity that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or taking of sport fish.* "I agree with the above terms and conditions."

Project Information

14. Project Title: Advancing the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through regional and collaborative science and priority setting.

15. Project Length: 3 years. **Will re-apply for year 2&3 funding. (2017 marks year 2 of 3)**

16. Funding Source: 100% Sport Fish Restoration Fund

17. *Funding Requested: \$375,000 (seeking in 2017)
Seeking in 2018 (\$300,000)
3 year total: (\$800,000)

*2016 funding granted at \$86,000 of \$300,000 requested.

18. Estimate of Partnership Funds/Existing Assets to be Leveraged (if applicable)

It is estimated that this grant will likely leverage \$100,000 of in-kind services provided by states and federal agencies in collaboration on this grant.

19. One Paragraph Description of Project (main objectives and anticipated outcomes)

Through regional collaboration, Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) will compile biological and watershed process-level information on fish habitats to meet FHP needs and supplement the National Fish Habitat Assessment; establish new or improved strategic goals, objectives, and

priorities for conserving fish species and habitats; expand the scope of partners complementary projects; and develop best management practices for implementing fish habitat conservation actions across the U.S.

Project Narrative and Budget

Objectives/Goals

Priority information needs identified by FHPs vary across regions, several of which this project will help address. In Hawaii this grant will support improving hydrography data, building upon an assessment of island estuaries and developing freshwater flow and sediment yield variability on nearshore coastal habitats. In the Midwest, this grant will help launch a basin-wide mussel initiative in the Ohio River Basin incorporating this key group of aquatic species into existing habitat assessment work. In the East, this grant will help achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of the Eastern 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 angling opportunities through habitat improvement projects implemented by the regional fish habitat partnerships. Overall, this grant will substantially improve data resources that are required set restoration and protection priorities for aquatic habitats across the U.S. This project would address several of those needs, ensuring the continued progress that the FHPs are making on the ground and enhanced greatly recently by Multistate Conservation Grants.

Through regional collaboration among FHPs, this grant will:

- Collectively advance FHP habitat assessments through identification of mutual data needs, data acquisition and landscape-level analysis for the benefit of fish, mussels, and other aquatic animals;
- Provide region and system-specific fish population, habitat, and human impact data to fill regional data gaps and to assist the Board's Science & Data Committee in the continual improvement of the National Status of Fish Habitats Report;
- Help achieve conservation results through strategic actions that improve the ecological condition of intact systems, rehabilitate natural processes in systems currently degraded, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions, increased numbers of self-sustaining fish populations, and increased fishing opportunities; and
- Allow further critical collaboration to occur among FHPs on projects and initiatives, especially in regions with shared habitat and species interests amongst partners.

Outcomes/Benefits

The National Fish Habitat Partnership brings a focused and coordinated approach to conserving, rehabilitating, and enhancing the nation's aquatic habitats under the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This proposal strengthens that approach by linking the oversight responsibility of the Board and the operational responsibility of the FHPs to achieve national and regional science and data driven conservation goals.

In general, this project will support activities of the Fish Habitat Partnerships that will help to achieve four of the objectives in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition:

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. *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 well-being of local communities.
3. *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.
4. *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.

More specifically, the project will:

- **(Western Native Trout Initiative/Desert Fish Habitat Partnership) (\$60,000)**
Continue the successful MSG collaboration between WNTI and Desert FHP to complete an integrated aquatic assessment in the Rio Grande Basin in FY17. Siglo Group/The University of Texas has assembled data on and completed predictive distribution models for all fish species in the Rio Grande Basin (in the United States), including projected distribution under climate change. These models and data are key components to integrated aquatic assessments. The Rio Grande aquatic assessment will use these available species models, and integrate them with information on aquatic habitat conditions and riverine connectivity to rank all watersheds in the basin for conservation, which, in turn, will be available for use in WNTI and DFHP decision-making processes, including cross-partnership coordination. This outcome will substantially improve the quality of the 2020 National Fish Habitat condition assessment data for this basin. Subsequent years of funding will be used to complete integrated aquatic assessments for other basins, such as the Bonneville Basin or Lahontan Basin where native trout species and subspecies overlap in distribution with non-salmonid species. These aquatic assessments will strengthen WNTI/DFHP strategic planning and help each FHP identify conservation priorities, including those that overlap between the partnerships. The assessments will also elevate the use of science information in project selection by enhancing science and data coordination and information sharing among the two partnerships and between the two partnerships and the NFHP National Science and Data Committee and support the 2020 assessment of fish habitat. (\$40,000/year).
Goal 2: Both WNTI and DFHP were original NFHP partnerships and both are operating under a strategic framework that was developed with extensive input from all partners in 2006/2007. Both partnerships have completed interim updates to their strategic plans and

strategic priorities in recent years, but a large-scale in-depth review has not been possible with available resources. With 2017 being the ten year “anniversary” of both FHPs, a substantive effort to thoroughly revisit and review strategic and implementation plans, focus areas, priorities, successes and continuing challenges is imperative. This effort will update strategic and implementation plans and set goals for 2017-2027 and define FHP capacity needs to strengthen strategic partnership development and outreach to well-established public, private and non-governmental conservation partners. (\$20,000/year)

- **(Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership) (\$80,000)**

In three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships, continue to develop and work with connectivity teams in participating FHPs. Collectively define and communicate the scientific basis of river restoration through connectivity improvement throughout the Eastern U.S. Develop, update, and share connectivity assessment tools and resources specific to FHP state needs.

- **(4 Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships) (\$60,000)**

The 2 goals of this project are: 1) Continue collaboration with AKHydro to edit Alaska hydrography and update the NHD for Alaska (\$40,000/yr); and 2) Continue to enhance coordination between AK FHPs, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADFG), and the National Science and Data Committee (\$20,000/year). A lack of adequate hydrography mapping and other habitat-related data sets makes it difficult to fairly evaluate Alaska in the National Fish Habitat Partnership’s 5-year fish habitat condition assessment. The lack of good hydrography data also impacts individual Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) as they work to achieve conservation objectives including: designing and prioritizing fish passage projects, implement actions to inform efficient sampling for additions to the Anadromous Waters Catalog to protect fish habitat, assessing current and future thermal regimes for guiding climate change adaptation planning, designing water quality monitoring sampling programs, and better monitoring and planning for sustaining sport fishing, subsistence resource uses. This project will build upon accomplishments to improve and update NHD in Alaska and by the end of this two-year grant period we anticipate completing 2 NHD+ pilot-projects for the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership and Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. This project will also support collaborative efforts by ADFG that helps ensure that Alaska FHPs are successful when implementing projects designed to conserve fish habitat or protect and restore Pacific salmon, trout and char. ADFG provides not only the support, field expertise, and scientific capacity necessary to advance fish habitat conservation goals but also provides engagement and collaboration through its involvement with the network of Alaska FHPs.

- **Driftless Area Restoration Effort (\$40,000)**

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort-fish habitat partnership will be hiring a full-time Stream Restoration Specialist to do long term planning and installation of stream restoration projects with landowners, cooperating agencies and our partners. Additional funding is being raised through foundations and state grants to support this new specialist position, but additional dollars are needed. This position will do all aspects of a stream restoration projects...project planning, surveying, design and over-site of installation. The Driftless Area recently received two multimillion federal grants to be administered by DARE (Driftless Area Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant and a Kickapoo Mississippi River Basin Initiative). These two grants over the next five years will provide millions of additional dollars to partner on to do stream restoration in the Driftless Area. The Driftless Area Restoration Effort respectfully requests up to \$40,000 to support this new position with part of this funding going toward Indirect Costs.

- **Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership (\$40,000)**

Hawaiian Estuary Habitat Assessments – approximately 50 semi-enclosed waterbodies are found throughout the main Hawaiian Islands where freshwater from the land mixes with seawater. These highly-productive aquatic systems are not well characterized despite acting as important nursery and refuge habitat for numerous species of recreationally and commercially-important marine fish species. This project will support benthic and littoral habitat surveys, document physical-chemical water quality characteristics of important estuaries in Hawaii, and contribute toward development of a hierarchical spatial classification of coastal data for assessment and management of Hawaiian nearshore and estuarine habitats. *Partners:* Hawaii DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH), Michigan State University.

- **California Fish Passage Forum and Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership (\$80,000)**

In California, the CA Fish Passage Forum will continue to refine APASS Optimized Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization Tool. This will further describe habitat quality attributes, document unknown barriers and develop improved cost criteria to enhance the utility and reliability of APASS barrier optimization algorithms and support maintenance and operation of California's Fish Passage Assessment Database. The Forum will advance developing a stream temperature network database for California as well as using a temperature-based stream habitat estimation methodology to understand current conditions and model scenarios with variable temperature regimes, an issue that has become increasingly important with long-term drought.

- The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership will continue to work with scientists and managers to create a robust estuarine and nearshore spatial framework for the West Coast

with information on habitat types, species use, estuarine habitat loss and other stressors. A West Coast-wide classification and inventory of fish and habitat databases will be improved, including the collection, attribution and assimilation of fish and habitat datasets for the West Coast, and chart the course for next steps in achieving FHP strategic plan goals associated with identifying and prioritizing juvenile fish habitat on the West Coast.

- **Board Support for 10-year Anniversary of National Fish Habitat Partnership (\$25,000)**

April 2016 – April 2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan being signed by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This Anniversary provides an opportunity to tout the accomplishments of NFHP, increase public awareness, attract additional resources for the Partnership and highlight State involvement in the program. The National Fish Habitat Board has identified some key meetings and conferences that they would like to highlight the National Fish Habitat Partnership program through and would utilize this funding to make it a reality. This request would cover meeting sponsorship and involvement, as well as supporting communications efforts for the Anniversary and for 2017 overall. This funding request will also help out with promoting our National Fish Habitat Assessment Report on behalf of the NFHP Science and Data Committee.

Budget

Region	Fish Partnerships Habitat	MSCPG	P.F.*	
AFWA	Salary Benefits Travel \$8,000 Supplies \$8,000 Other \$9,000	\$25,000		
Eastern U.S.	Atlantic Coastal FHP, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	80,000.00		75,000.00
Midwest U.S.	Driftless Area	40,000.00		40,000.00
Western U.S.	Desert FHP Western Native Trout Initiative	60,000.00		60,000.00
Pacific Coast	Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership, California Fish Passage Forum	80,000.00		40,000.00
Alaska	Kenai Peninsula FHP, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southeast Alaska FHP	60,000.00		60,000.00
Hawaii	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	40,000.00		40,000.00

Travel	8,000.00
Supplies	8,000.00
Contract	360,000.00
Other	9,000.00
Total	<u>385,000.00</u>
Indirect @ 20%	5,000.00
Indirect @ 9.5238095%	<u>34,285.71</u>
Grand Total	<u><u>424,285.71</u></u>

Qualifications

Tom Champeau, Chairman, National Fish Habitat Board

Mr. Champeau became chair of the National Fish Habitat Board in 2015. Tom has spent 34 years with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. While working in the field, Tom led major lake habitat restoration projects, worked with the local communities and the mining industry on lake design and management for phosphate mined pits, and defining fish community metrics for establishing minimum flows for rivers in Southwest Florida. Tom holds degrees from the University of Michigan and University of Nebraska.

Ryan Roberts, Program Manager, National Fish Habitat Partnership

Ryan Roberts is the Communications Coordinator for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Mr. Roberts has 10 years of experience in public relations/communications and has worked on the National Fish Habitat Partnership since 2008. Mr. Roberts created several communications toolkits for use by National Fish Habitat Partnerships and created an overall communications strategy for the partnership. Mr. Roberts' contributions were key in the development and release of the Status of Fish Habitat Partnership 2010 Assessment and the 2nd Edition of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012).

Gary Whelan, NFHP Board Science and Data Committee Co-Chair

Gary Whelan is one of the two co-chairs of the NFHP Board Science and Data Committee and has worked on NFHP since its inception. Mr. Whelan is a Program Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division where he manages the Research Section and a Habitat Management Unit. His fisheries career has spanned over 32 years and he has worked in nearly every aspect of fisheries in the State of Michigan. In his role for NFHP, he has been responsible for all of the Board's Science and Data efforts including the development and release of the Status of Fish Habitat Partnership 2010 and 2015 Assessments. He was also deeply involved in the development of the 1st (2006) and the 2nd Editions of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012). Mr. Whelan holds a B.S. in Zoology (Fisheries Management focus) from the University of Wyoming and a M.S. in Fisheries Management from the University of Missouri.

Staff level leadership and management support of the work of the Board group will be provided by AFWA, USFWS, NOAA, state agencies and other partners such as NGO's.

National Fish Habitat Board Members <http://fishhabitat.org/contacts/board>

LETTER OF INTENT
For
MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT

Project Title

Effects of Adding Supplemental Brush Structure on Fish Population Dynamics
~~Evaluation of brush and artificial structure density needed to increase fish production at the reservoir scale~~

Applicant

Name: Jeffrey C. Boxrucker
Affiliation: Coordinator, Friends of Reservoirs Foundation/Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
Contact: Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
9321 E. State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73026
(405) 659-1797
jboxrucker@sbcglobal.net

Co-Investigators

Dr. Steve Miranda, MS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; Dr. Brian Graeb and Dr. Katie Bertrand; SD State University; Gene Gilliland, Conservation Director, B.A.S.S.; Chris Cantrell; Chief of Fisheries, AZ Game and Fish Dept.; Chris Racey, Chief of Fisheries, AR Game and Fish Commission; John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries, GA DNR; Doug Nygren, Chief of Fisheries, KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Ron Brooks, Chief of Fisheries, KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Larry Pugh, Chief of Fisheries, MS Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Brian Canaday, Chief of Fisheries, MO Dept. of Conservation, Christian Waters, Chief of Fisheries, Don Gabelhouse, Chief of Fisheries, NE Game Fish and Parks; NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries, OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation; John Lott, Chief of Fisheries, SD Game Fish and Parks; Craig Bonds, Director of Inland Fisheries, TX Parks and Wildlife Dept., Gary Martel, Assistant Director, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Roger Wilson, Chief of Fisheries, UT Division of Wildlife Resources

MSCGP Requirements

- Primary NCN Addressed: Subject 2 – Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership
- Project Length: 3 Years
- States Benefited: All states using structure addition as part of the overall fisheries management program; All Regional Associations of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (*RFHP Regional Workgroups selected by Regional Associations*)
- Estimated MSCGP Funding Request: \$
- Funding Source: Sport Fish Restoration

Brief Summary

Our ultimate goal is to identify how supplemental structure can be used to improve fish production structure in reservoirs. Because it is difficult to achieve the necessary treatment control in large reservoirs, parts of this study will be conducted in small impoundments and

hatchery ponds. The MSCGP grant, leveraged by other funds, will be used to (1) identify appropriate reservoirs and treatment and control coves within target reservoirs; (2) select small impoundments (40-80 acres) appropriate for the study; (3) conduct pre-treatment surveys; (4) add structure as specified to treatment coves, small impoundments and hatchery ponds; (5) conduct post-treatment surveys (2 years); (6) publish results and make recommendations to agency staff of level of structure needed to elicit positive fishery response; and (7) strengthen the ties between state fisheries management agencies, the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

How will this project meet the needs of the NCN?

- “Lack of Structure” was identified as one of the top three reservoir habitat impairments in the national reservoir habitat assessment conducted by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. “Brush-pile projects” are part of the fisheries habitat management programs of many state fisheries agencies but few of these efforts have been evaluated. This project will build upon a previous MSCG awarded to RFHP (2013) to compile existing BMPs for reservoir habitat restoration efforts and identify gaps in existing BMPs. The age-old question “do brush structures attract fish only or does addition of structure increase the number of fish” remains unanswered in both freshwater and marine systems. This project, along with the collaborative studies being conducted simultaneously South Dakota State University are intended to address this question
- This Letter of Intent and proposal to follow (if LOI is accepted) meets NCN 2: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership by meeting the following objectives of desired proposals:
 - a. Build upon a previous MSCG that promotes strategic fish habitat conservation through regionally-coordinated science and conservation efforts
 - b. Build upon a MSCG in assisting FHPs with development, growth and management
 - c. Increase FHP capacity to implement habitat-related projects and identify priority watersheds; and
 - d. Coordinate between the Board, FHPs, state fish chiefs, AFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy and Ocean Resources Policy Committees on fisheries issues effecting state fish and wildlife agencies.

What States are targeted?

RFHP is a system-based FHP that targets all 50 States. RFHP has signed formal MOUs with 30 States. RFHP is structured around the four geographic divisions of AFWA, and relies on each regional association to establish RFHP Regional Workgroups. Thirteen AFWA-member state agencies and two universities have expressed a desire to actively participate in and help fund this study.

What are the goals of this project?

Goal One – Measure productivity and fish community response (abundance, growth, survival) in lined hatchery ponds, following structure addition using established water quality and complete fish census.

Goal Two – Measure fish community response (abundance, growth, survival) in small impoundments (40-80 acres) and treatment coves in large reservoirs (>1000 acres) using standard sampling methods (electrofishing) following addition of structure to littoral areas. Measure productivity in select small impoundments before and after addition of structure.

Goal Three – Conduct pre- and post-treatment structure surveys of littoral areas in small impoundments and reservoir study sites to determine amount of structure added (targets are 20-40% coverage of the littoral zone (3-10 feet in depth));

Goal Four – Coordinate among RFHP, university and state agency staff to ensure that standard methods are being followed so that results among states can be compared to make recommendations on Best Management Practices for the use of structure in impoundments.

What Activities or actions will this project undertake to achieve the stated goals?

Goal One – MS Dept of Fish Wildlife and Parks will supply lined hatchery ponds for the study. Levels of structure will vary (10-50%) among treatment ponds with control ponds being sampled simultaneously. Primary productivity will be measured in all ponds by sampling selected water quality parameters, phytoplankton, periphyton, zooplankton and photosynthetic active radiation. Ponds will be drained and fish harvested at the end of the growing season. Survival and growth will be measured. Years (3) will be used as replicates. This portion of the study will be conducted by a Ph.D. student at MS State University.

Goal Two – Small impoundments and control and treatment coves within selected reservoirs will be identified by state agency personnel participating in the study. Historical CPUE data will be evaluated to determine optimal sample sizes to ensure statistically reliable results. Pretreatment fisheries data will be collected in small impoundments and control and treatment coves in Year 1 prior to structure addition. Structure will be added, at predetermined densities in Year 2 followed by an evaluation of fish community response using accepted standardized fish sampling methodologies. Procedures will be repeated in Year 3. Potential impacts of structure addition on productivity will be evaluated in select small impoundments using same methodology as in hatchery ponds. Inferences will be made from measurements in the small systems to the reservoir scale.

Goal Three – Pretreatment levels of structure will be measured using side-scan sonar to determine existing littoral coverage of structure. Post-treatment structure levels will be measured using side-scan sonar. If state agencies do not have the capability of conducting the sonar surveys arrangements will be made through to coordination staff to accomplish that task.

Goal Four – Coordination staff include PI's at MS State and SD State Universities, Ph.D. student at MS State and RFHP Coordinator. Conference calls and site visits will be conducted and coordinated to ensure standard protocols are being followed.

Timeline (By % Completed), Budget (by MSCG Category), and Revenue Sources

TIMELINE	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	TOTAL
Goal 1 Activities	33%	33%	33%	100%
Goal 2 Activities	33%	33%	33%	100%
Goal 3 Activities	33%	33%	33%	100%
Goal 4 Activities	33%	33%	33%	100%

PROJECT BUDGET	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	TOTAL
Salary/Benefits – Student	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$120,000
Salary – RFHP Coordinator	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000
Travel	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$45,000
Project Related Expenses	\$50,000			\$50,000
TOTAL	\$125,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$275,000

REVENUE BY SOURCE	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	TOTAL
MSCGP (Sport Fish Rest.)	\$125,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$275,000
Partner FTE Contributions	\$600,000	\$750,000	\$600,000	\$1,950,000
Partner Cash Contributions	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
Friends of Reservoirs	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$785,000	\$935,000	\$785,000	\$2,505,000

What Are the Measurable Outcomes or Products of Project?

- Science-based recommendations on quantity of structure needed to elicit measurable fisheries response
- Improved efficiency of state management agency habitat programs
- Increased incentive of public and private partners to assist with and help fund agency habitat programs
- Expanded reservoir-based partnership capacity to better implement NFHP and RFHP goals

Actions to Enhance Usefulness, Quality, and Communication of Projects' Results

- Multiple presentations and scientific publications communicating project results
- Local media coverage of individual states' projects
- Fully coordinate and collaborate with NFHP and FHP science and data committees
- Education and engagement of public in addressing reservoir fisheries habitat degradation

Summary of Projects' Strengths

RFHP provides a scientific and strategic approach to conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems. State fisheries and water management staff, university personnel, and local reservoir habitat conservation groups are the core constituency and source of expertise and project implementation for the RFHP. The large number of state fish and wildlife management agencies wanting to actively participate in the study indicates its importance to said agencies and strengthens the relationship among state agencies, the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The question addressed by this study is one that concerns biologists and administrators alike. Because of the complexity of the relation between

structure and productivity it takes a large effort on multiple water bodies to address the question; a perfect fit for a MSCG.

QUALIFICATIONS

Principal Project Lead and Administrator

Jeff Boxrucker – M.S. Zoology, University of Wisconsin; Assistant Chief of Fisheries, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (retired); 30 years of experience in reservoir fisheries research; Coordinator Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (5 years).

Dr. Steven Miranda – Ph.D. Fisheries/Statistics, Mississippi State; Professor, Mississippi State University; practicing fisheries biologist since 1981 and educator since 1986; graduate student to be hired upon project approval

Project Team

Gene Gilliland – M.S. Fisheries, Oklahoma State University; Conservation Director of Bass Angler's Sportsman's Society; Former reservoir biologist and Assistant Chief of Fisheries for Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (retired)

Dr. Katie Bertrand – Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Natural Resource Management, SD State Univ.

Dr. Brian Graeb – Ph.D. Fisheries, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Natural Resource Management, SD State Univ.

Agency researchers and managers serving as project leaders from individual states (AR, AZ, KS, KY, MS, MO, NE, NC, SD, OK, TX, UT, VA) participating in the study.

Title: Communications Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of the Communications Committee's 2016 work plan progress

Background:

At the March 2016 Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board endorsed a communications strategy for 2016 – 2019. Progress towards deliverables and goals that were identified for 2016 are listed below.

2016 Deliverables/Campaigns

- March – Release of the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment Report
 - *Delayed until June/July*
- April - 2015 Annual Report
 - *Beginning to put copy together for the report, including updates from all 19 FHPs. Report to be completed by Mid-July*
- May – 10th Anniversary of Waters to Watch
 - *Waters to Watch Announcement - June 14*
- June/July – Video campaign celebrating ten years of the Partnership and Accomplishments
 - *Supporting a WNTI project for this year. Emphasis is being placed on other parts of the Anniversary effort.*
 - *Communications Committee will repackage some existing video.*
- October – National Fish Habitat Fall Board meeting
 - *NFHP Awards*

2016 Events

A few events that NFHP will have a presence at in 2016, which have been formalized since we last met, are as follows:

1. American Fisheries Society – (NFHP Marketing Booth) (August 2016)
2. AFWA Annual Meeting – (NFHP Marketing Booth) (September 2016)

Briefing Book Materials:

None

Title: Science and Data Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of the Science and Data Committee's 2016 work plan progress

Background:

At the January, 2016 Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board the Board endorsed several priorities to be led by the Science and Data Committee.

- Priority E: PR and Marketing Resources for the NFHP 2015 Status Report
- Priority L: Complete and publish electronically the 2015 National Assessment
- Priority M: Complete and implement the National Project Database
- Priority N: Reinstigate work on a set of evaluation standards for a range of habitat projects
- Priority O: Ensure the function of the Board's Science and Data Committee
- Priority P: Begin work on 2020 Assessment

In addition, at the October, 2015 Board meeting the Science and Data Committee was given the lead on reviewing application materials provided by the Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP

Several activities related to meeting 2016 priorities M, O, and P were identified as being unfunded:

- \$37,000 for completing the National Project Database (Priority M)
- \$20,000 to ensure the function of the Board's Science and Data Committee (Committee) by supporting an in-person meeting of the Committee to include attendance by additional FHP science and data experts (Priority O)
- \$200,000 to begin work on the 2020 Marine Assessment and \$100,000 to incorporate FHP datasets and process information in support of the 2020 Assessment (Priority P).

2016 Progress

- Priority E: PR and Marketing for the NFHP 2015 Status Report
 - A roll-out plan has been developed and will be implemented when the 2015 Assessment is complete. See Tab 5a for the report completion timeline and roll-out plan.
- Priority L: Complete and publish electronically the 2015 National Assessment
 - See Tab 5a
- Priority M: Complete and implement National Project Database
 - USFWS has responded to our data request stating that they can provide data for many, but not all data elements at this time. Robin Carlson is working with Linda Andreason (USFWS FIS coordinator) to identify and obtain what is feasible at this time. USFWS is beginning a process to update FIS and will be including Robin in discussions about how to improve data integration and interoperability with the NFHP Project Database.

- Priority N: Reinstigate work on a set of evaluation standards for a range of habitat projects
 - Work on completion of an MOU with AFS and AFS Habitat Section is on hold pending completion of the 2015 National Assessment report
- Priority O: Ensure the function of the Board's Science and Data Committee
 - Overviews of the Assessment were provided at Board Meeting, AFS Administration and AFWA Meetings by the SDC Co-chair
 - A joint workshop of the FHPs and Science and Data Committee with a focus on habitat assessments is under consideration. A combined workshop of FHP coordinators and key members of the Board's Science and Data Committee members would be used to review and analyze the 2015 National Assessment process and to generate insights on how to improve coordination and implementation of future assessments.
- Priority P: Begin work on 2020 Assessment
 - On hold pending completion of 2015 report
- Activity: Review Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP application materials
 - Week of June 13th : Invitation and application provided Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP
 - Week of June 20: Board staff reviews application

Briefing Book Materials:

None