



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



Tampa Shoreline, Florida
MacDill AFB
2008 "Water to Watch"



Chipola River, Florida
2013 "Water to Watch"

Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board

October 26-27, 2016



**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
October 26-27, 2016
Draft Agenda and Board Book Tabs**

Sunrise Beach Resort
14825 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

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

Web link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=meff108c4dc17a1fbdd1e7cff9fe0eaf>

Wednesday, October 26

8:00-8:15	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u>		Commissioner Adrian “Bo” Rivard (<i>FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
8:15- 8:30	<u>Housekeeping</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board action to approve draft agenda and draft June call meeting summary.• Board review of future meeting schedules and format.	Tab 1	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
8:30 - 9:00	<u>Joint Fish Habitat Partnership – Science and Data Committee Workshop Report</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of workshop outcomes and recommendations.	Tab 2	FHP Representative and Gary Whelan (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – MI Department of Natural Resources</i>)
9:00 - 10:00	<u>National Fish Habitat Assessment</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of Assessment history.• Board discussion and consensus on the following questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Why do we conduct a National Habitat Assessment?○ What is the expectation?○ How much do we continue to invest?	Tab 3	Gary Whelan (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – MI Department of Natural Resources</i>) and Peter Ruhl (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – USGS</i>)
10:00-10:15	<u>Break</u>		

10:15-11:15	<p><u>Document of Interdependence & Relationship Between the Board and FHPs</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of document purpose. • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does the Board support the FHPs, and vice versa? ○ What are the commitments from the Board to the FHPs, and vice versa? 	Tab 4 Bryan Moore (<i>Board Member – Trout Unlimited</i>) and Therese Thompson (<i>Coordinator – Western Native Trout Initiative</i>)
11:15 - 12:00	<p><u>Multi-state Conservation Grant Program</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the status of the 2016 grant. • Board understanding of the 2017 Multi-state Conservation Grant Program results. • Board discussion of Multi-State Conservation Grant for future years. 	Tab 5 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>)
12:00 – 1:00	<u>Lunch</u>	
1:00 – 3:00	<p><u>Beyond the Pond Fundraising and Marketing</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of fundraising and marketing progress to date and next steps. • Board discussion and consensus on the following fundraising questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the role of FHPs in raising money? ○ How do we engage Beyond the Pond in fundraising coordination, training, and support? • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why are we marketing? ○ What is effective marketing? ○ How much more branding and marketing do we want to do? ○ Should we continue to put emphasis on network of FHPs and connection to the National effort? 	Tab 6 Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
3:00–3:15	<u>Break</u>	
3:15 – 4:00	<p><u>Fishers and Farmers Presentation</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the accomplishments and challenges facing the Fishers and Farmers FHP. 	Heidi Kueler (<i>Coordinator – Fishers and Farmers Partnership</i>)

4:00 – 5:00	<p><u>Federal Caucus</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of parking lot items developed at the March Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the purpose of the Federal Caucus? ○ What is the work of the Federal Caucus (e.g. meeting tasks and charge)? ○ Who are the participants in the Federal Caucus? • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the current expectation of the Federal Caucus? ○ How can it be most helpful to the goals of the NFHP? ○ Does the Federal Caucus need to be reinvigorated? 	Tab 7 Dan Shively (<i>Board Member - USDA Forest Service</i>)
5:00	<u>Recess</u>	
5:30 – 6:30	<p><u>Happy Hour at Runaway Island Bar and Grill</u> 14521 Front Beach Rd. Panama City Beach, FL 32414 (.3 mile/5min walk)</p>	
Thursday, October 27		
8:00 – 9:00	<p><u>Committee Report-outs</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of committee accomplishments as they relate to 2016 Board Priorities • Board understanding of committee priorities and funding needs for 2017 	Tab 8 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board staff-AFWA</i>), Stan Allen (<i>Board Member-Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>), Mike Leonard (<i>Board Member – American Sportfishing Association</i>), and Gary Whelan and Peter Ruhl (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chairs-MI DNR and USGS</i>)
9:00-10:00	<p><u>Board 2017 Priorities and Draft Budget</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of the draft budget • Board understanding of 2017 Priorities with consideration of the budget 	Tab 9 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>) and Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff – NMFS-ERT</i>)
10:00 – 10:15	<u>Break</u>	

10:15 - 11:15	<u>Transition Checklist for the New Administration</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the AFS new administration check list• Board discussion and consensus on if it should develop a separate new administration checklist	Tom Bigford (<i>Board Member – American Fisheries Society</i>)
11:15 – 11:45	<u>SARP Presentation</u>	Jessica Graham (<i>Coordinator- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership</i>)
11:45 – 12:00	<u>Wrap-up</u>	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
12:00 – 1:00	<u>Lunch</u>	
1:00 - 5:00	<u>Field Trip:</u> local trip to unique dune lake habitat and/or natural springs habitat restoration projects addressing SARP objectives.	



Draft National Fish Habitat Board WebEx Summary: June 29, 2016

Members present:

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Mike Leonard (ASA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)
Mike Andrews (TNC)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Doug Beard (USGS)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Sean Stone (CCA)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Dan Ashe (USFWS)	

Members absent:

Doug Boyd (SBPC), Whit Fosburgh (TRCP), Kelley Myers (MAFWA), Ron Regan (AFWA), Ed Schriever (WAFWA), and Ron Skates (NAWS)

Approved by motion:

- Chris Moore moves to approve the June Board Meeting Agenda with noted revision; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Bryan Moore moves to approve the Finance Committee Charter and Bylaws; seconded by Chris Moore. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to add the Pacific Lamprey as a Fish Habitat Partnership; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to approve the March National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call/WebEx Summary; seconded by Ellen Gilinsky. No opposition noted; motion passes.

Updates and discussions:

- Housekeeping – It was made known that the Fall Board meeting will be held October 26-27 in Panama City, FL and a joint FHP and Science and Data Committee workshop will likely precede it (October 24-25). A potential field trip on either October 27 or 28 highlighting SARP shoal bass work on the Chipolla River is also being considered. The Beyond the Pond Board of Directors may also meet during that week.
- Executive Leadership Team – All Board members whose terms were up for review in 2016 were re-appointed for another term. The ELT has decided to keep the NFWF seat vacant for the time being.
- Executive Session Outcomes and Next Steps - Staff provided an overview of their recommendations for addressing the action items and parking lot items generated at the Board Executive Session in March. The focus of the overview was given to those items which will be discussed in greater depth at the October Board meeting, which include Topic 4 - Board Committees and Working Groups; Topic 6 - Board Funding; Topic 8 - Purpose and role of FHPs; Topic 9 - Relationship between Board and FHPs; Topic 10 - New FHPs; and Topic 12 - Marketing and Branding. With regard to topic 6 the Board discussed the need to conduct demand driven versus supply driven work and the need to survey the FHPs and their partners. The Board also discussed how photos can be shared with FHPs for their use.
- USFWS Funding Methodology – The Board was provided with a summary of the FWS-NFHP FY16 process and allocations, the details of which can be found in Tab 4 of the Board Book. It was noted that the funds for most FHPs have been provided to the regions, which will then move the funds out to the FHPs. NOAA is working to provide funds to the Southeast Alaska FHP for nearshore priorities.

- 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment – The Board was provided with an overview of the process, noting the members of the writing team, the number of comments received on the draft report and the desire for the Board to provide feedback on the beta website by July 15th. The Board was also provided with a brief demo for navigating the report.
- Legislative Update – It was noted that the NFHP legislation was included in the Sportsman’s Act within the Senate Energy Bill, but that it was not included in the House Sportsman’s Act and Energy Bill. The next step is to conference the two bills, and if it goes to conference, the NFHP bill will be in play. Advancement of the MOU has been paused until the legislation plays out, at which point how and whether to move forward will be decided.
- Budget and Finance Committee Update – An overview of the Budget and Finance Committee charter was provided to the Board, including its need and function, key objectives and responsibilities, and deliverables, the details of which can be found in Tab 7 in the Board Book. It was clarified that this Committee would not be taking final actions but rather would be making recommendations, and that the Committee would not have fundraising responsibility but rather strategy development responsibility.
- Pacific Lamprey Candidate Partnership – The Board viewed a presentation noting the Board staff’s recommendation that the Board recognize the Pacific Lamprey Candidate as an official Fish Habitat Partnership. The presentation also outlined specific places where additional clarification from the Pacific Lamprey group is needed -- either in a separate cover letter or when it updates its strategic plan. The Board discussed whether the FHP should be approved given that it would be considering whether or not to continue accepting new FHPs at the October meeting. It was also acknowledged that if it was approved as an FHP, it would not be eligible for USFWS-NFHP funds.
- Partnerships Committee Update – The Committee’s new membership and re-prioritized tasks were made known to the Board and are also available in Tab 9 of the Board Book. Comments on the draft document of interdependence are expected by the end of July.
- NFHP 10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee Update – The Board was made aware of the different components of the Anniversary plan which includes an infographic, advertisements, and other outreach materials, in addition to involvement at events such as a Capitol Hill briefing, the AFS Annual meeting, and the AFWA annual meeting. Further details and the associated costs of these items are available in Tab 10 of the Board Book. It was noted that NOAA had provided some funds to help cover costs and that AFS is assisting with the Capitol Hill briefing.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update – It was noted that several Partnerships had come together to submit an LOI, which also included some funds for 10-year Anniversary activities. Concern was expressed with regard to the fact that one FHP submitted its own LOI, separate from the joint-FHP LOI, and what that could mean for future rounds.

Action items:

- The Joint FHP-SDC workshop will be added to Tab 1c.
- FHPs and their partners will be surveyed regarding what they want from the national assessment, what products they want, and how they are using the existing products.
- The Communications Committee will work with FHPs to identify an avenue through which high quality pictures can be shared and used.
- At the Fall 2016 Meeting, the Board will develop a transition checklist for to the new Administration.
- Any comments with regard to the outcomes of the Board’s March executive session should be sent to Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov).
- The SDC will provide a navigation of the habitat assessment website on a monthly USFWS regional coordinator call.

Future Board meetings:

- October 26-27 in the Florida Panhandle
- No new Board members were approved in 2016, so an introductory summer call will not be held.

Board approved documents:

- March Board meeting summary
- Budget and Finance Committee Charter

Additional attendees:

Julie Carter (WNTI)
Karen Eldridge (USFWS)
Jessica Graham (SARP)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Julie Henning (USFWS)
Elsa Haubold (LCC Network)
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)
Pat Montanio (NMFS)
Joe Nohner (MGLP)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Bill Rice (USFWS)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)
Therese Thompson (WNTI)
Tim Troll (SWAK)
Jeremy Voeltz (USFWS)
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)

National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2016 -2018

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2016	October 26-27 (Wed-Thurs)	Panama City, FL	
2017	January 18 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 8-9 (Wed – Thurs)	USFWS – Falls Church, VA	
	June 28 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 18 – 19 (Wed-Thurs)	South Dakota	
2018	January 17 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 6-7 (Tues-Wed)	Washington, DC Area	Reserve room at TNC HQ
	June 27 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 17-18 (Wed-Thurs)	TBD	There are many places where the Board has not met (e.g. Ohio River Basin). Staff welcome suggestions for specific locations within these regional examples or beyond.

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
	January 15	Teleconference	
2010	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
	January 13	Teleconference	
2011	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
	January 12	Teleconference	
2012	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
	January 16	Teleconference	
2013	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
	January 15	Teleconference	
2014	March 9-10	Denver, CO	
	June 25	Tele/web conference	
	November 8-9	National Harbor, MD	Held in conjunction w/ RAE Summit
	January 14	Tele/web conference	
2015	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
	January 20	Tele/web conference	
2016	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 29	Tele/web conference	

Total: 44 meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date

Working Title: NFHP Document of Interdependence

Introduction

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is made up of three distinct components: the National Fish Habitat Board, the (20) individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, and partners which include federal, state, local, public, and private entities and individuals. While each of these distinct components have the freedom to act independently of one another, the actions of one affects the actions of another, and in this way the success of any one of these components is dependent upon the success of the other two – they are in fact -- interdependent. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of these relationships.

Purpose

This document is intended to acknowledge the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP, and to describe and clarify the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships between the major components of the NFHP. The document is intended to reflect current relationships; it does not articulate desired or anticipated roles, responsibilities, or relationships.

Definitions

National Fish Habitat Board –Also referred to as the "Board", is the governing body established to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) -- National Fish Habitat Board approved groups of state, federal, local, nonprofit, Native American Tribes, private individuals, or entities that coordinate to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. They are self-identified, self-organized, and self-directed communities of interest formed around geographic areas, keystone species, or system types. Fish habitat conservation projects proposed by many of these FHPs are eligible for funding as NFHP projects through a competitive proposal process. FHPs have governance structures that reflect the range of all partners and promote joint strategic planning and decision-making by the partnership.

Partner -- An individual or entity that engages with the National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership to promote its mission. Examples include but are not limited to: provision of funding, participation in a project, participation on a committee or working group, etc.

Federal agency -- Department, bureau, service, division, representative, or other component of the Federal Government that has direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation. The results of effective conservation contribute to the health and social and economic well-being of the American public that they serve.

State agency –The fish and wildlife agency of a State; any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

Non-Government Organization – A non-profit, tax-exempt entity established under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NGOs commonly serve as catalysts to bring together projects, funding for projects and partnerships, and advocate for the legislation and administrative policies which help Partnerships.

Beyond the Pond (National Fish Habitat Fund) – a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that was created to support the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Conservation action – Activities that protect, sustain, and, where appropriate, restore, and enhance populations of fish, wildlife, or plant life or habitat required to sustain fish, wildlife, or plant life or its productivity. Common examples include stream and riparian restoration projects.

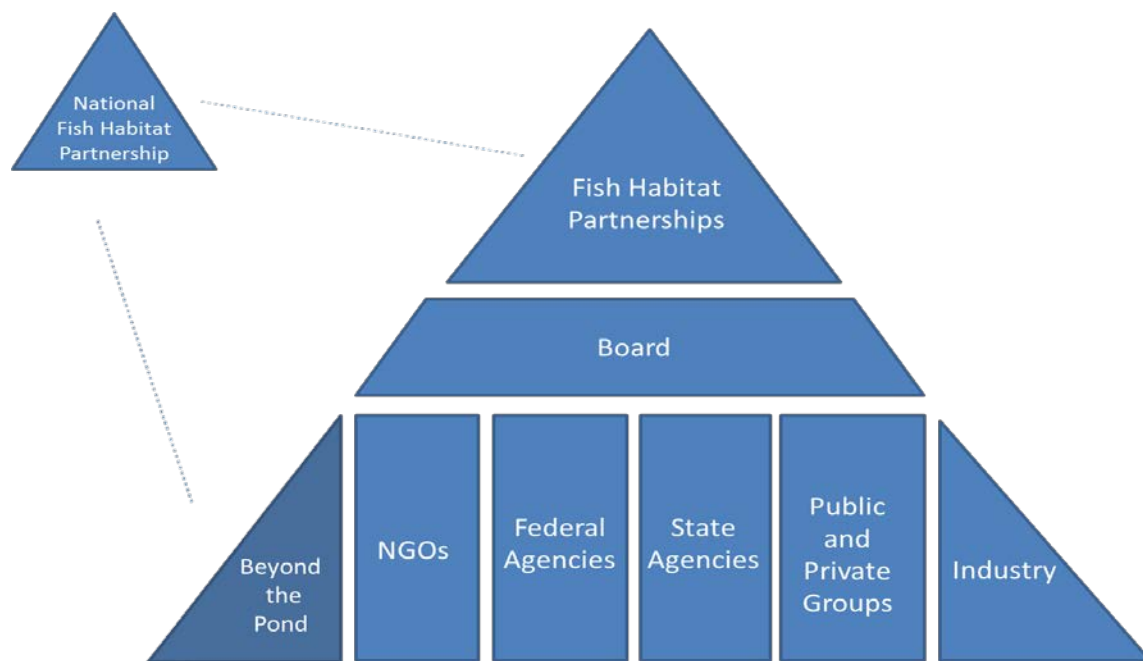


Figure 1. NFHP is made up of several different components (i.e. partners) that collectively form a solid foundation supporting the FHPs. Therefore, each component (i.e. partner) has an important role in supporting and facilitating implementation of the Action Plan.

Commitments

1 Habitat Assessments

1.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- The Board shall solicit information from the Science and Data Committee and incorporate that information, and other appropriate information, into the strategies and goals developed by the Board.
- The Board will support the Science and Data Team by providing necessary staff, funding, data and other resources needed to complete the national assessments and reports called for in the Plan.

1.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures
- Coordinate and compile scientific assessment information on fish habitats within their partnership areas to help determine and monitor the FHP's conservation goals and objectives.
- Provide this scientific assessment information to the national Science and Data Committee to support national assessments of fish habitats.

1.3 Federal Agency¹

- Collect, manage, analyze and share data and contribute information technology expertise to build or integrate databases to assess aquatic communities, habitat conditions and outcomes of projects.
- Coordinate and contribute technical assistance, services or funds for the science and data initiatives of the National Fish Habitat Board.

1.4 State Agency

1.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the review of habitat assessment data and provide constructive input to the process. Where beneficial, an NGO may also provide additional externally collected and reviewed scientific habitat data for consideration for inclusion.

1.6 Beyond the Pond

¹ Each of the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments [DOI, DOA, and DOC] with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection and restoration, shall as appropriate, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations:

2 Communications and Outreach

2.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Communicate with the Fish Habitat Partnerships regarding all policies and decisions made by the Board.
- Where appropriate and when possible, the Board should utilize its powerful network to communicate potential opportunities for advancement of national (NFHP) and FHP objectives to the FHPs so that the FHPs can take advantage of these opportunities.

2.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation.
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners.
- Develop regular newsletters, project overviews, and social media including websites and e-news clips.

2.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat and the Action Plan.
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within own agency with news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.
- Communicate across programs within own agency and to other related federal agencies.
- Communicate with the Federal Caucus.

2.4 State Agency

2.5 Non-Government Organization

- Provide outreach, education and engagement opportunities to local communities
- Increase overall public knowledge and awareness regarding the role of the NFHP as related to resource protection and enhancement.

2.6 Beyond the Pond

3 Coordination

3.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources to the Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of stakeholders and other interested parties, through its Partners Coalition, to increase involvement and support for coordinated fish habitat conservation at national and regional scales.
- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of Federal agencies through the Federal Caucus, a partnership of Federal agencies organized to coordinate Federal

participation in the implementation of the Action Plan, and make every attempt to expand the Federal Caucus to include all Federal agencies involved with fish habitat.

3.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Seek and encourage involvement by State fish and wildlife agencies, Native American governments and federal agencies that manage fish resources within their partnership areas, non-government organizations and businesses, and document these efforts. Commitment may be demonstrated through endorsement by regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies or similar entities, memoranda of understanding among jurisdictions, letters of support from agency directors, or other written evidence.
- As members of the grassroots NFHP, FHPs should generally be present at Board meetings (in person or on the phone) and participate in discussions where appropriate.
- Work with other regional habitat conservation efforts to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats.
- Collaborate with FHPs Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and other large landscape-scale collaborations where appropriate to carry out responsibilities.

3.3 Federal Agency [The Departments of DOI, DOA, and DOC]

- Promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus, and offices Federal agencies with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection, and restoration, support efforts to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations and subject to the availability of funds.
- Ensure their actions, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations, are consistent with and support the priorities of the Action Plan. In so doing, the Departments can improve the efficiency of Federal Government organizations and ensure effective coordination with state, tribal, and local agencies, non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals. Participate as members of the Federal Caucus at policy and technical levels to coordinate Federal participation in implementation of the Action Plan in support of state agency-led efforts to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.
- Coordinate activities in support of the Action Plan with other interagency efforts, including but not limited to America's Great Outdoors, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Coral Reef Task Force, the National Action Plan for Freshwater Resources, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.¹
- Coordinate its activities with states, territories, tribes, and local governments to meet the goals of the Action Plan.¹
- Encourage and support affiliated efforts by non-Federal partners to implement the Action Plan, including fulfillment of the Federal trust responsibilities to Native American governments.¹

3.4 State Agency

3.5 Non-Government Organization

- Non-profit land and aquatic resource conservation organizations are appointed to the Board to ensure a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and a balance of freshwater and marine interests. Non-profit conservation organizations support and compliment the interests and direction of the Board through on-the-ground organizing and partnerships, and in some cases through actions the Board and governmental organizations may not undertake.
- Build support with other partners with an interest in a particular project.

3.6 Beyond the Pond

4 Strategic Planning

4.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop and amend, as appropriate, specific national fish habitat conservation goals and objectives with the advice from the Science and Data Committee.
- The Board shall coordinate with the Federal agencies to develop and implement habitat protection and rehabilitation strategies at national and regional scales, to ensure that Federal agencies policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.
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4.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop collaboratively with regional stakeholders a strategic vision and achievable strategic or implementation plan that is scientifically sound;
- Establish strategic goals and objectives that define desired outcomes for fish species and habitats within their partnership areas.
- Identify priority places and/or issues to focus conservation action, and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects to meet goals and objectives.

4.3 Federal Agency¹

- Review policies, procedures, resources, and capabilities to further the goals of the Action Plan, and make revisions, where appropriate during regularly scheduled reviews of same, to support the goals.
- Incorporate the goals of the Action Plan in its own plans for managing Federal lands and water resources, during regularly scheduled reviews of such plans.

4.4 State Agency

4.5 Non-Government Organization

- Identify areas of mutual interest in the strategic plan and work to build and enhance the established goals of the plan through their individual operating strategies.
- Evaluate strategic alignment with individual FHPs to collaborate on implementation of regional goals where feasible.

4.6 Beyond the Pond

5 Funding

5.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop criteria for funding and related resources.
- The Board will develop and implement strategies to increase public and private funding for fish habitat conservation by the FHPs, provided that the responsibility for implementation of such strategies by any Board member shall be limited by any legal or administrative restrictions that may apply to the activities of any such member.
- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the FHPs and other efforts of the Plan.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver National Fish Habitat Action Plan funds to the FHPs.
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5.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.

5.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or matching funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and Fish Habitat Partnerships established under the Plan.
- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when awarding loans, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.
- Communicate with similar programs within own agency and other federal agencies to leverage funds.
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5.4 State Agency

5.5 Non-Government Organization

- Acquire funding from private or government agency sources to leverage funds provided by the Board to FHPs, resulting in larger scale projects providing a greater resource impact.

5.6 Beyond the Pond

- Charitable, educational, and scientific purposes related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish and aquatic habitats in the United States through the National Fish Habitat Partnership or the FHP chapters recognized by this corporation, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions.
- Conserve, protect, and restore fish and aquatic habitat in the United States by supporting the National Fish Habitat Partnership and regional Fish Habitat Partnerships.

- In all activities and respects, the Corporation will advance the National Fish Habitat Partnership and the regional Fish Habitat Partnerships. In no manner may the funds raised by the Corporation be used to support any organization that is not a member of the National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

6 Reporting

6.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop a strategy (including funding) to support development of a “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report to Congress, States, and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The report shall be completed in 2010, and every 5 years after.

6.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Coordinate and compile information on outputs (conservation activities) and outcomes (changes in habitat condition) for reporting to the Board and stakeholders.

6.3 Federal Agency

- Communicate with other programs within one’s own agency, with other federal agencies, and with state agencies.
- Report to the Federal Caucus on issues NFHP/FHPs are facing.

6.4 State Agency

6.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the distribution of report information to other parties and organizations for educational and potential funding purposes.
- Use the report as a reference for discussion with elected officials as evidence of the value realized from public funding for water resources.

6.6 Beyond the Pond

7 Partnership Recognition and Development

7.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Develop and amend, as appropriate, criteria for recognition of FHPs. The Board shall distribute the criteria, establish a process for parties to use in seeking recognition as a FHP, and maintain a publicly accessible registry of recognized FHPs. Such criteria shall include provisions to promote transparency and the highest standards of ethical conduct in the decision-making of the Board regarding recognition of FHPs.

- Develop and amend, as appropriate, a strategy to encourage the formation of FHPs. This strategy will be updated periodically to include new information on fish habitat status and the status of existing FHPs.

7.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

7.3 Federal Agency

- The Board shall include up to five federal agency representatives. These shall include the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who shall serve by virtue of their office..
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within their own agencies, including news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.

▪

7.4 State Agency

7.5 Non-Government Organization

- Selected NGOs shall participate as members of the National Fish Habitat Board.
- Work closely with FHPs on project development and implementation where feasible.

7.6 Beyond the Pond

8 Performance Evaluations

8.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for FHPs and facilitate Fish Habitat Partnership adaptation of these guidelines for their unique systems.
- The Board has responsibility to oversee and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan through the FHPs.
 - The Board will monitor the performance and needs of FHPs nationwide, and will update this Guidance as needed to address changing conditions.
 - Monitoring by the Board is intended to be supportive, not burdensome, to FHP operations, participation, and innovation.
 - Recognized FHPs will be re-evaluated by the Board, at an interval of every three years, to confirm that they continue to meet the criteria in this guidance.

8.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality.

8.3 Federal Agency

- Agencies will be informed about how FHPs perform in project completion and functionality by the NFHP Board.

8.4 State Agency

8.5 Non-Government Organization

- Participate by providing input to the evaluation process and the Action Plan. Assist in the re-evaluation process and work with individual FHPs as requested.

8.6 Beyond the Pond

9 Project Implementation

9.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Carry out such administrative, organizational, or procedural matters as are necessary or proper.

9.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Guide, facilitate, support, or implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

9.3 Federal Agency¹

- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when issuing permits to states or private entities when such permits may influence aquatic habitat.
- May help with implementation: project oversight, permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

9.4 State Agency

- May lead or help with implementation at the local or watershed scale: permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

9.5 Non-Government Organization

- The non-profit organizations, both directly and indirectly, work to develop, or support the development of projects selected and funded by the Board.

9.6 Beyond the Pond

10 Legislation

10.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Non-Federal members of the Board may educate or inform legislative process
- Non-Federal members provide support to the Legislative Team.

10.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Non-Federal members may educate or inform legislative process

10.3 Federal Agency

- Works with Federal Caucus, and other partners, but does not lobby.

10.4 State Agency

10.5 Non-Government Organization

- The Board, and governmental organization members, are significantly restricted in their ability to attempt to directly influence lawmakers or pending legislation that may be of vital interest. Non-profit organizations fill an important and necessary niche within the Board through their legally protected ability to more actively engage elected representatives regarding issues of interest, and to directly participate and influence legislative acts. These activities may occur at the national, state, or local levels.
- Non-profit organizations also have the opportunity in many cases to organize and mobilize grassroots support for issues of importance through guidance and training for actions such as writing letters, and contacting their elected officials to schedule a meeting to discuss a specific topic.

10.6 Beyond the Pond

Source Material

- Charter of the National Fish Habitat Board. Adopted by the National Fish Habitat Board on September 22, 2006. Revised April 19, 2007, and October 13, 2010.
- Draft language from Nation Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. Specifically, S. 659 –Crapo Amendment #1. Dated January 19, 2016.
- Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships. Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, October 8, 2008.
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC. 40 pp. 2012.
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the US Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce for Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Effective March 27, 2012 – March 27, 2017.
- Articles of Incorporation of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc., May 27, 2014.
- Bylaws of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc.

Title: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of 2016 Multi-State Grant
- Board awareness of 2017 Multi-State Conservation Grant Program Application
- Board discussion of Multi-State Conservation Grant for future years

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 first grant in this 3-year approach was awarded during the 2016 Grant cycle, at \$86,000. This is expected to receive an extension, as only one FHP has spent funding toward a project, (WNTI/DFHP) Weber River, UT collaboration.

The National Conservation Need (NCN) established by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee of AFWA for the 2017 Grant period is: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Two FHP LOIs were submitted under this NCN:

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

Application #1 (Regional FHP Application) received a request from the AFWA National Grants Committee to submit a full proposal and application #2 (Reservoir Application) did not receive a request for further application. The Regional FHP Application, however, was asked to request a lower amount of funding in the full proposal application period. The Regional FHP Application was originally seeking \$375,000 for the 2017 Grant period. The amount reflected in the full application was reduced to \$150,000 at the request of the National Grants Committee and staff, and the grant application was voted on and approved at a funding level of \$143,711.87.

The 2018 Grant cycle would be the final year of the three-year proposal that the FHPs agreed upon.

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 5b – 2017 NFHP Multi-State Grant Proposal

2017 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Grant Proposal

Executive Summary

(Limit – 2 Pages)

1. **Project Title:** Science and Conservation collaboration through the National Fish Habitat Partnership
2. **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
3. **Organization Information:**
 - a. Applicant Classification: 501(c)6
 - b. Nongovernmental Organization Classification (if applicable):
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: tom.champeau@myfwc.com
Phone Number: 850-556-7684
5. **Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigator(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable):**

Ryan Roberts (AFWA)
Gary Whelan (MI DNR)
6. **Project Length:** 3 years. Will re-apply for year 2&3 funding. (2017 marks year 2 of 3)
7. ***Funding Requested:**

\$143,711.87 (seeking in 2017)
Seeking in 2018 (\$300,000)
3 year total: (\$536,000)

*2016 funding granted at \$86,000 of \$300,000 requested.
8. **Estimate of Partnership Funds to be Leveraged (if applicable):** \$1,000,000
9. **Funding Source.**
 - a. Funding Source:
 - b. Percent WR:
 - c. Percent SFR: 100%

10. **State Benefit Requirement:** The scope of this grant award through our Fish Habitat Partnerships would cover 30 states.
11. **Primary National Conservation Need (NCN) Addressed:** NCN 2: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership
12. **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.

13. Summary Statement (200 words or less):

Project Narrative
(Limit – 10 Pages)

Title Science and Conservation collaboration through the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Objective(s)

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 West, this grant will strengthen capacity for the Western Native Trout Initiative and Desert Fish Habitat Partnership through construction of quality assessments and strategic planning helping 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. 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 by recent Multistate Conservation Grants awards.

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.

Problem Statement

Healthy waterways and thriving fish populations are vital to the well-being of American society, providing clean water, food, and recreation. They are important for less tangible reasons as well, as anyone who has fished a tranquil stream or paddled a salty bay can attest. Healthy waters sustain their ecological functions and resilience while meeting the social and economic needs of human society. Unfortunately, in many places around the United States, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline. This is a particular concern to the 48 million recreational anglers who pursue fish and to many others who depend upon fish and shellfish for sustenance and commerce. Revenue from recreational and commercial fisheries added more than \$125 billion to our nation's economy in 2006. Almost 40 percent of the nation's freshwater fish species are considered at risk or vulnerable to extinction. Habitat loss is the most common cause for extinction of freshwater fish in the United States over the past century. Many saltwater fish

are also in decline due to habitat degradation; Congress declared in 1997 that one of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats.

Experience

Since 2006, The Partnership has supported 599 projects benefiting fish habitat in all 50 states. The Partnership works to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, tribal, and private funding resources to achieve the greatest impact on fish populations through priority conservation projects of 20 regionally-based Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Approach

Galvanized into action by continuing losses of aquatic habitat, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies, and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in 2006. The Action Plan is an investment strategy for making the most effective use of habitat conservation dollars and achieving real gains in aquatic habitat quality and quantity by protecting, restoring, and enhancing key fisheries habitats.

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 provide the following deliverables:

- **(Western Native Trout Initiative/Desert Fish Habitat Partnership) (\$17,293.00)**
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. The Southern Rockies LCC has committed some funding to this assessment, but not enough to fully fund it, so MSG funds would be used to completely fund the project (\$8,800/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 declining funding at the national level, both partnerships need to strengthen strategic partnerships and promote public awareness of conservation efforts for western native trout and desert fish and their habitats, and to increase overall NFHP-based Western Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships project awareness and understanding of goals and accomplishments. With 2017 being the ten year “anniversary” of both FHPs, further effort to revisit and review strategic partnerships, priorities, successes, and continuing challenges is imperative. This effort will begin a process of strengthening strategic partnership development and setting goals for 2017-2027. (\$9,366/year)
- **(Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership) (\$23,057.75)**
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) (\$17,293.32)**

The 2 goals of this project are: 1) Continue collaboration with AKHydro to edit Alaska hydrography and update the NHD for Alaska (\$10,000/yr); and 2) Continue to enhance coordination between AK FHPs, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADFG), and the National Science and Data Committee (\$8,000/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 (\$11,528.88)**

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 project and 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.

- **Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership (\$11,528.88)**

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. This condition assessment will provide current information for prioritizing conservation and management of Hawaiian estuaries and will contribute detailed information to future revisions of the National Assessment of Fish Habitat. *Partners:* Hawaii DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH).

- **California Fish Passage Forum and Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership (\$23,057.74)**

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 (\$16,000)**

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.

Certification Regarding Fishing/Hunting

“By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (1) will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish; and (2) that the grant funds will not be used, in whole or in part, for an activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish.”

Certification Regarding Partnership Funds (if applicable)

“By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies : 1) understands that partnership fund contributions are assessed in the Association’s review and selection of its priority list of MSCGP projects, but are not considered by the USFWS to be an official non-federal match/cost-share; 2) will provide the partnership funds identified in order to complete the proposed project; 3) understands that if the promised partnership funds are not provided, and there is not a sufficient explanation, potential consequences could include a poor “quality assurance” evaluation by the National Grants Committee for the organization’s future MSCGP applications; the imposition of “special award conditions” on this proposed grant and/or future grants (pursuant to 43 CFR 12); and if the failure to provide partnership funds affects the scope/objective or deliverables or other terms and conditions of the grant, then the USFWS could take necessary enforcement and termination actions (pursuant to 43 CFR 12).”

Budget

	Fish Habitat Partnerships	MSCPG	P.F.*	
AFWA	Salary Benefits Travel \$8,000 Supplies \$8,000	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Eastern U.S.	Atlantic Coastal FHP, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	23,057.75		23,057.75
Midwest U.S.	Driftless Area	11,528.88		11,528.88
Western U.S.	Desert FHP Western Native Trout Initiative	17,293.32		17,293.32
Pacific Coast	Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership, California Fish Passage Forum	23,057.74		23,057.74
Alaska	Kenai Peninsula FHP, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southeast Alaska FHP	17,293.32		17,293.32
Hawaii	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	11,528.88		11,528.88

Travel	8,000.00
Supplies	8,000.00
Contract	103,759.89
Total	119,759.89
Indirect	23,951.98
Grand Total	143,711.87

Qualifications of Key Personnel

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). Mr. Roberts graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. in Telecommunications/Business (Minor).

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>

Title: Beyond the Pond Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of fundraising and marketing progress to date and next steps.
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following fundraising questions:
 - What is the role of FHPs in raising money?
 - How do we engage Beyond the Pond in fundraising coordination, training, and support?
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following questions:
 - Why are we marketing?
 - What is effective marketing?
 - How much more branding and marketing do we want to do?
 - Should we continue to put emphasis on network of FHPs and connection to the National effort?

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Fund, which was approved by the IRS in June 2015 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was established to help partnerships seek additional funding for on-the-ground projects and activities. The National Fish Habitat Fund is marketed under the title and logo, Beyond the Pond.

2016 Progress and Accomplishments:

- Launched the Beyond the Pond website
- ACFHP and the mid-Atlantic Council were successful in using the Section 501(c)(3) for a Black Sea Bass Grant program.
- Developed chapter recognition agreements
- Developed Beyond the Pond outreach materials (Fact Sheet, Ad Card)
- Finalizing a Donate Now Button for website
- Amazon Smile Account Created
- EIN and DUNS #'s secured.
- Trademarks secured for (Beyond the Pond) and (It Starts in Your Own Backyard)
- Working on Developing relationships

Next Steps:

- Tab 06b_BOD Draft Meeting Agenda Attached



Meeting of the Beyond the Pond Board

October 25, 2016

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Panama City, FL

Beyond the Pond Officers List:

Michael L. Andrews – (The Nature Conservancy, National Fish Habitat Board)

Tom Champeau – (Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, National Fish Habitat Board – Chair)

Kelly Hepler – (Secretary, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, Chair)

Jon Johnson – (University of Arkansas, Walton College – Professor of Sustainability, Vice-Chair)

John Land LeCoq - (Fishpond)

Dick Ludington – (Fay Ranches)

Steve Moyer – (Vice President, Government Affairs – Trout Unlimited)

Rich Rosengren – (The Nature Conservancy)

Board Meeting Agenda

1:00 PM – Introductions, Approve Agenda (Jon Johnson)

1:10 PM – Meet and Greet with Fish Habitat Partnership Representatives

2:30 PM – Framing Potential Projects to boost fundraising (Therese Thompson, Debbie Hart)

3:20 PM – Board/FHP roles and responsibilities discussion (Tom Champeau)

4:00 PM – Utilizing Beyond the Pond for grant opportunities (Ryan Roberts)

4:30 PM – Beyond the Pond Marketing and Website Update (Ryan Roberts)

5:00 PM – **Meeting Wrap-up**

Title: Federal Caucus

Desired outcomes:

- **Board understanding** of parking lot items developed at the March Executive Session:
 - What is the purpose of the Federal Caucus?
 - What is the work of the Federal Caucus (e.g. meeting tasks and charge)?
 - Who are the participants in the Federal Caucus?
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following questions:
 - What is the current expectation of the Federal Caucus?
 - How can it be most helpful to the goals of the NFHP?
 - Does the Federal Caucus need to be reinvigorated?

Background:

➤ **Purpose**

- From the Charter:

3. Federal Caucus—The Board shall coordinate with the broadest possible range of Federal agencies through the Federal Caucus, a partnership of Federal agencies organized to coordinate Federal participation in the implementation of the Action Plan, and make every attempt to expand the Federal Caucus to include all Federal agencies involved with fish habitat. The Board shall coordinate with the Federal agencies to develop and implement habitat protection and rehabilitation strategies at national and regional scales, to ensure that Federal agencies policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.

- From the 2015 Board Manual:

Several federal agencies contribute to the work of the Partnership, not just the agencies that are represented on the Board. The Federal Caucus was created in 2005 to facilitate interaction among federal agencies and with other partners by:

- *providing communication links among federal agencies cooperating under the National Fish Habitat Partnership;*
- *providing a mechanism through which federal partners can jointly identify strategies and resources to support goals of the National Fish Habitat Partnership;*
- *ensuring that the National Fish Habitat Partnership helps agencies achieve their missions by enhancing partnerships and improving measurement of results and performance; and*
- *enhancing networking and collaboration among federal partners, the National Fish Habitat Board, and other partners implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.*

The Federal Caucus meets every three months or as needed. In 2012, the Caucus was instrumental in achieving a Secretarial Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Partnership, signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior.

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Appendix 4: Strategies & Resources of Federal Agencies

➤ **Past Work of the Federal Caucus:**

- Development of the DOI, DOA, DOC Memorandum of Understanding (noted above).

➤ **Current Federal Caucus Members:**

First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Arthur	Coykendall	acoykendall@usbr.gov
Cathy	Cunningham	ccunningham@usbr.gov
Megan	Davidson	megan.davidson@boem.gov
Alan	Ellsworth	alan_ellsworth@nps.gov
Jason	Goldberg	Jason_Goldberg@fws.gov
Craig	Goodwin	craig.goodwin@wdc.usda.gov
Emily	Greene	emily.greene@noaa.gov
Julie	Henning	julie_henning@fws.gov
David	Hoge	david.hoge@wdc.usda.gov
David	Hu	dhu@blm.gov
Steven	Krentz	Steven_Krentz@fws.gov
Jake	Levenson	Jacob.Levenson@boem.gov
Cecilia	Lewis	cecilia_lewis@fws.gov
Callie	McMunigal	callie_mcmunigal@fws.gov
Doug	Norton	norton.douglas@epa.gov
Andrea	Ostroff	aostroff@usgs.gov
Bill	Rice	william_rice@fws.gov
Ryan	Roberts	rroberts@fishwildlife.org
John	Rothlisberger	jrothlisberger@fs.fed.us
Dan	Shively	dshively@fs.fed.us
David	Smith	david.l.smith@usace.army.mil
Gordon	Smith	gordon_smith@fws.gov
Susan	Wells	susan_wells@fws.gov
Gary	Whelan	whelang@michigan.gov
David	Wigglesworth	david_wigglesworth@fws.gov
John	Wullschleger	john_wullschleger@nps.gov

Title: Communications Committee Report

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the committee's 2016 work plan and consensus on Board's priorities for the committee in 2017.

Background: At its October 2015 Meeting, the Board tasked the communications committee with addressing the following priority issues during 2016:

2016 Priority Recommendations:

Task A - PR and Marketing Resources for the NFHP 2015 Status Report (Budget Need: \$2,000)

Task B - NFHP website re-development. (Budget need: \$20,000)

Task C - Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and re-branding efforts for the NFHP program and the FHPs.

Task D - Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

Task E - Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships. (Budget need: \$5,000)

Task F - Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Task G - Increase outreach of Waters to Watch Campaign for its Ten Year Anniversary (Budget need: \$3,000)

Task H - Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

2016 Priority Progress:

Task A – We will utilize a campaign in late 2016 to highlight the 2015 Assessment across Social Media. We will also have an article on the Assessment Report published in the January 2016 edition of Fisheries (AFS Publication).

Task B – We completed a relaunch of the fishhabitat.org website. This website is dynamic and has created the potential to expand the capabilities of what we can do with the content display on our website. This new platform utilizes a modern content management system and better integrates the NFHP Assessment Report into the website, which has been an outstanding need since 2010. The website affords the Partnership a much needed fresh look and has taken our website from a desktop-only friendly interface to making our website mobile and tablet friendly.

Task C – We were able to launch both of the websites for Beyond the Pond and the National Fish Habitat Partnership in 2016. Through Beyond the Pond, we have been able to highlight some success stories on the website and have tied in the National Fish Habitat Partnership Map on the Beyond the Pond website. We will continue working on this task.

Task D - We have implemented a new newsletter format through Mail Chimp and have increased our newsletter database by approximately 200 people through targeted events and sign-ups through our website in 2016. This new newsletter format will be a budget cost-savings as it is free, where our other newsletter through DJ Case cost approximately \$20 for every mailing.

Task E – In 2015 we saw similar results to 2014 for our Waters to Watch Campaign. We received 30 media mentions of our Waters to Watch National release projects and 4 individual projects received media placement in regional newspapers. We utilized Meltwater media to help send the releases out for 2015 and there was a bit of a learning curve for using the service the first time around. Activities for the NFHP non-profit took up some time to truly improve the campaign for 2015.

Task F - In 2016 we had completed an update to our National Fish Habitat Legislation Fact Sheet in preparation for the National Fish Habitat bill being reintroduced. We have been working closely with the Government Affairs team on monitoring the progress of the bill, which is included in the Sportsmen’s Package, which has passed the Senate. The bill is now part of the Energy Conference between the House and Senate. In 2017 we may need to focus more outreach efforts through our partnerships to help move the legislation forward.

Task G – In 2016 we saw similar results to 2015. We received several mentions across news and social media platforms as well as six mentions of individual projects by newspaper websites. We were able to utilize Meltwater News Service at no cost through AFWA to send out our press release.

Task H – The Communications Committee of the Board put most of their efforts in 2016 into developing a Ten-Year Anniversary Communications Strategy. The Communications Committee developed this strategy and endorsed and supported by the Anniversary Steering Committee. We were able to meet most of the expected deliverables in the strategy, and we will look to complete the expected deliverables by April 2017.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2017:

Task A - NFHP website services. (Budget need: \$3,000)

Task B - Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and improving connections to Beyond the Pond.

Task C - Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

Task D - Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships. (Budget need: \$5,000)

Task E - Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

Task F - Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

Task G - Continue marketing and communications efforts for the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Budget need: \$8,000)

Title: Legislative Update

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

Background:

Versions of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA), which will codify and strengthen the National Fish Habitat Partnership, have been introduced in the previous three sessions of Congress. Previous versions of NFHCA have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress, including bipartisan approval by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in two different Congresses.

2016 Legislative Priority and Accomplishments:

Board Priority Task A: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act; (assign to eligible Board members and legislative team)

Accomplishments: The NFHP legislative coalition includes representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the American Sportfishing Association, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Coastal Conservation Association and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. The primary focus of the coalition has been to introduce a bill that will achieve the legislative goals of the Board and advocate for its inclusion in the Sportsmen's Act, which is a package of various legislative provisions supported by the recreational fishing and hunting community. During 2015 and 2016, the coalition worked actively with Congressional staff who are overseeing the Sportsmen's Act in the Senate to introduce a streamlined bill that achieves the core goals of the legislative effort. Through these efforts, new language titled the "National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act" was included in S. 659, which is the portion of the Sportsmen's Act that passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thanks largely to the leadership of Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). This bill was included in the Senate Energy Bill, which passed the Senate in April. While companion language was not included in the House Energy Bill, it is still "in play" in the ongoing conference committee negotiations to rectify differences between the two chambers' Energy Bills. The coalition is optimistic that the NFHP provision will make it out of the conference committee, should such an agreement be reached in the lame duck session after the election.

2017 Legislative Priority and Approach:

Priority: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Approach: Should the Energy Bill conference not come through, or the NFHP legislation not be included in the final bill that gets signed into law, the coalition (TNC/TU/AFWA/ASA/TRCP) will continue to push for passage of NFHP legislation in the 115th Congress through whatever means possible.

Title: Partnerships Committee 2016 Report

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Partnerships Committee 2016 accomplishments.
- **Board review and input** on proposed 2017 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.

2016 Accomplishments:

- In response to a task from the Board at its March 2016 meeting the Partnerships Committee leadership and staff worked to revitalize and repopulate its membership and priorities for 2016. The Committees current membership, which includes FHP coordinators and Board members, can be found below.

Members:

Jeff Boxrucker (RFHP)

Doug Boyd (SBPC)

Jessica Graham (SARP)

Debbie Hart (SEAK FHP)

Lisa Havel (ACFHP)

Heidi Keuler (F&F FHP)

Ross Melinchuk (TX PWD)

Joe Nohner (MGLFHP)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

Tri-Chairs

Stan Allen (PSMFC)

Bryan Moore (TU)

Therese Thompson (WNTI)

Staff

Cecilia Lewis (USFWS)

Emily Greene (ERT-NMFS)

- 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 was 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 to further develop the document. A product for review was provided to the full committee in September.
- 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. It has been provided to the Board for review and input at its October meeting.
- On the Committee's September 16 call, Therese Thompson (WNTI) and Bryan Moore (TU) volunteered to chair the committee along with Stan Allen.
- The Committee was not able to achieve its 2016 priorities, however with a reinvigorated membership and additional leadership the Committee is confident it can achieve these outstanding tasks in 2017.

Proposed 2017 Priorities:

High Priority

- Complete the Document of Interdependence (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).

- Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.

Low Priority

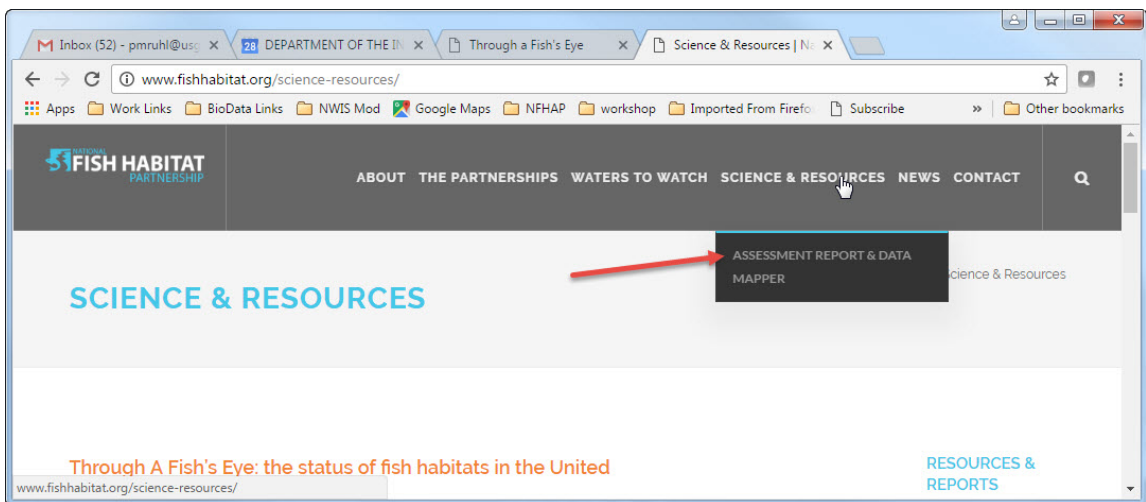
- Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies (Outstanding 2016 Board Priority).
- Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed. (Outstanding 2016 Board Priority)

Title: Science and Data Committee Report for FY2016 – 3rd quarter (January, 2016 – September, 2016).

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the Science and Data Committee’s 2016 work plan outcomes and Board concurrence for the Science and Data Committee’s proposed priority tasks for 2017. The briefing will include a preliminary FY2017 Board funding request for those tasks and an identification of external funding needs.

2016 Priorities and Outcomes: At the January, 2016 Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board the Board endorsed six priorities tasks to be led by the Science and Data Committee. 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. The Committee has been implementing these tasks as follows.

- 1) Complete and publish electronically the 2015 National Assessment (Priority L).
 - a) Status - The 2015 National Assessment was released as a web application on the NFHP website on August 29, 2016. The report is available from the NFHP web site (<http://www.fishhabitat.org>) under the *Science and Resources* tab, or directly at <http://assessment.fishhabitat.org>.



- 2) PR and marketing for the NFHP 2015 National Assessment (Priority E)
 - a) Status
 - i) Gary Whelan gave several presentations that previewed the report during the WAFWA meeting July 21 – 25. The draft report got very good reviews from participants. We received positive feedback about how the report describes the

- tradeoffs between national comparability and local/regional influences that cannot be defined at a national scale. It was recommended that the report separate analysis and presentation for intermittent and permanent streams. This enhancement is proposed as one of the FY17 priority activities of the Science and Data Committee.
- ii) Gary Whelan, Ryan Roberts, and Stan Allen gave many informal briefings and demonstrations of the Assessment web site at the NFHP booth at the AFS national meeting August 21-25. Daniel Wieferich also gave an oral presentation describing how the report incorporates interactive features for presenting information and data to a variety of audiences.
 - iii) Gary Whelan manned a booth at the AFWA meeting September 12 -14. The report was well received. Suggestions included making it easier to get the underlying data sets, not just the final scores, and to package the results by state. This improvement is proposed as one of the FY2017 Science and Data tasks.
 - iv) Ryan Roberts is preparing a press release that will be distributed as soon as some embedded links to the NFHP web site are fixed. At the same time the Assessment report will be moved to a more prominent location on the NFHP website. The USGS is also preparing an announcement that will be released concurrently.
- 3) Complete and implement the National Project Database (Priority M)
- a) Status – The Science and Data Committee request for \$37,000 for the first year of a three-year project to complete the database could not be funded in FY16. USGS has agreed to provide \$25,000 toward the database but contracting delays have prevented it being applied. In the interim the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has provided essential system maintenance. PSMFC has also done preliminary work to obtain baseline project data from the USFWS FIS system. USFWS has responded to our data request stating that at this time they can provide data for many, but not all data elements. Robin Carlson will work with Linda Andreason (USFWS FIS coordinator) to identify and obtain what is feasible. 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.
- 4) Reinststitute work on a set of evaluation standards for a range of habitat projects (Priority N)
- a) Status – tabled in lieu of completing 2015 Assessment
- 5) Ensure the functions of the Board’s Science and Data Committee (Priority O)
- a) Status – During FY2016 Science and Data Committee activities focused on finishing the 2015 National Assessment (See items 1 and 2 above). Other significant activities included (1) participation in the FHP performance assessment, and (2) reviewing the application of the Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP. The Science and Data Committee received the application June 22, 2016 and subsequently recommended approval. The Board approved the application during the June, 2016 board meeting with a request for further clarification of several issues. The Pacific Lamprey FHP responded to those

questions in a letter to the Board dated August 4, 2016.

- 6) Begin work on the 2020 Assessment (Priority P)
 - a) Status - Planning for the 2020 assessment will begin during the October, 2016 joint FHP/Science and Data Committee workshop. The workshop will include a retrospective on the 2010 and 2015 assessments. What was their purpose? How have they been used? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How did FHPs, the national assessment teams, and the Science and Data Committee interact during the process? The workshop will also look forward toward the future assessment work. What should be its' purpose? Are there additional or different needs the assessment should target? How should work be coordinated? What are the roles and expectations for FHPs, the Science and Data Committee, and the national assessment teams? What type of assessment will available data support?

Draft Science and Data Priorities for FY2017:

- 1) Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment
 - b) Several recommendations have been made by assessment stakeholders: (1) adding a map that displays assessment scores only for permanent streams, (2) making it easier to drill down and retrieve the underlying data sets on which analyses are based, and (3) packaging and presenting results by state.
 - c) Implement report versioning and revision history tracking
 - d) **Budget need** – uncertain at this time, under discussion with USGS
- 2) Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work
 - a) Planning will begin during the October 2016 joint FHP – Science and Data Committee workshop immediately prior to the October Board meeting. The goals of that meeting include broadly scoping future assessment work in terms of science, targeted audiences, intended uses, and product delivery. Scope and approach topics that merit particular attention include, (1) how to address regionalization concerns raised about the 2015 assessment, (2) whether it will be feasible to incorporate hydrologic, water quality, temperature, and other process-oriented habitat factors, and (3) how to address the desire to incorporate socio-economic factors in the assessment. Follow up meetings will further refine the data requirements, work packages, and deliverables for the Committee, national assessment teams, and Partnerships.
 - b) **Budget need** (figures are tentative at this time)
 - i) \$10,000 to support travel for FHP participants in a face-to-face planning meeting, tentatively planned for 1st quarter of calendar year 2017.
 - ii) \$163,000 for the inland assessment team for work related to (1) enhancements to the 2015 report and (2) beginning work on the 2020 assessment.

- iii) \$200,000 for the marine assessment team to begin work on future assessment work.
Please note, this budget need is based on previous year estimates and does not reflect need based on FHP-SDC Workshop (October 24-25) discussion. It does not imply NOAA commitment.
- 3) Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database
 - a) In 2015 the Committee recommended a 3-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database. Lack of funds prevented that project from commencing. The Committee recommends initiating that project during FY17. The first year would include:
 - i) Planning – to (1) establish and coordinate a database working group, (2) clarify data and reporting requirements, (3) define and prioritize FHP needs for improving the data entry workflow and user interface.
 - ii) Assisting partnerships with data entry/upload and data management planning and implementation
 - iii) System maintenance
 - b) **Budget Need** – a total of \$41,200 for FY17. USGS has committed \$25,000 that should become available during FY17, leaving an remainder requirement of \$16,200.
- 4) Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System
 - a) ongoing maintenance and hosting, minor improvements
 - b) add new data assets produced for the 2015 Assessment
 - c) add dynamic querying for FHP and state level data. For 2010 this was provided by pre-processing the data into these discrete chunks. This approach limits our agility in (1) rapidly updating or re-packaging data retrievals as new needs arise, and (2) constrains users to pre-defined subsets of the data. It will also allow us to track data-usage more efficiently.
 - d) Evaluate whether we want to make substantial changes for FY18. For example, (1) align the NFHP data assets with the USGS Biogeographic Information System, allowing for greater flexibility and integration with other data assets being developed externally to NFHP work.
 - e) **Budget Need** – currently anticipating in-kind support from USGS. Science and Data Committee chairs will meet with USGS in November to fully define FY17 level of support.

Report Prepared By:

Gary Whelan, MI Department of Natural Resources

Peter Ruhl, US Geological Survey

October 11, 2016

**National Fish Habitat Board
DRAFT 2016 Budget v1**

Cell: B4

Comment: John Bloom:

Half of the expected \$128,000 co-op agreement from USFWS. Funds are available over 12 months covering 2016 & 2017. Estimating half will apply ot 2016.

Cell: D4

Comment: Indirect not accounted for.

Cell: E4

Comment: Committed by USGS, contract in development. Indirect not accounted for.

Cell: B10

Comment: Ryan Roberts:

8 Board member trips at \$2000 ea.

Cell: B11

Comment: Ryan Roberts:

Roberts, Regan travel to Board Mtgs.

Cell: D35

Comment: This \$15k is expected to be spent by the end of CY2016 to pay for FHP & SDC Travel to the October 24-25 workshop.

Title: Proposed 2017 Draft Board Priorities

Desired outcome: Board understanding of proposed 2017 Priorities with consideration of the budget.

(+) Priority A: NFHP website services.

(+) Priority B: Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and improving connections to Beyond the Pond.

(+) Priority C: Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

(+) Priority D: Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

(+) Priority E: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

(+) Priority F: Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

(+) Priority G: Continue marketing and communications efforts for the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Budget need: \$8,000)

(+) Priority H: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

(+) Priority I: Complete the Document of Interdependence (FHP Forum discussion outcome).

(+) Priority J: 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

(+) Priority K: 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 2017.

(+) Priority L: Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.

(+) Priority M: Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies.

(+) Priority N: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed.

(-) Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment.

(-) Priority P: Planning and initiation of future assessment work.

(/) Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database

(-) Priority R: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System

KEY:

(+) : No funding needed or funding has been provided

(/) : Partial funding has been provided

(-) : Funding is needed and funding commitment has not been made