

**Minimum Benchmark Set of Fish Habitat Conservation Project Prioritization Criteria  
Recommended by the Partnership Committee**

The minimum benchmark set of Fish Habitat Conservation Project prioritization criteria are intended to ensure core tenets of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan are considered by Fish Habitat Partnership when ranking projects for funding.

1. Direct linkages of project to specific Fish Habitat Partnership strategic plan/framework priorities and/or National Fish Habitat Partnership action plan (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)/priority conservation strategies.
2. Project alignment/compatibility with other conservation plans (e.g. State Wildlife Plans; Biological Opinions, Land Management Plans).
3. Project identification of specific habitat measures of success and performance targets that are observable and amenable to pre- and post-project monitoring and include social, economic and biological benefits such as enhanced recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing opportunities, increased public visitation, or innovative project designs that address specific fish conservation challenges.
4. Capabilities/experience of project proponents to complete what is proposed.
5. Well-defined budget linked to clear deliverables and outcomes.
6. Leveraging of funds.
7. Project protects aquatic habitat or addresses the causes and processes behind aquatic habitat decline.
8. Project has an outreach/education component in the local community.