



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board

October 21-22, 2020
Webinar

National Fish Habitat Board Webinar Agenda October 21-22, 2020 • 1:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Items shifted to Board Book *only*:

NFHP Science and Data Committee Report	Tab 5
NOAA Announcement of funding opportunity for Coastal FHPs	Tab 6
2021 Multi-State Conservation Grant update	Tab 7
Communications Committee update	Tab 8

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

GoToWebinar registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/879150116028376587>

Conference line: 866-721-0811

Password: 3048695

***NOTE:** green text in the agenda is clickable and will take you to the corresponding Board Book tab

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Topic	Book Tab	Lead(s)
1:00 – 1:15	Attendance & Welcome <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff action to take attendance. • Board action to approve summary from the June Board Meeting. • Board action to approve the October meeting agenda. • Board awareness of future meeting schedule. 	Tab 1	Ed Schriever (<i>Board Chair, Director – Idaho Department of Fish and Game</i>) & Board Staff
1:15 – 1:35	Key Questions from FHP Workshop <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of key questions that FHPs are asking regarding implementation of the changes defined in the ACE Act. 		FHP Representative
1:35 – 2:00	Legislative Team Update <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the status of the ACE Act, the next steps in the process, and the role moving forward of the NFHP Legislative Team in implementation. 	Tab 2	Christy Plumer (<i>TRCP, Legislative Team</i>) & Mike Leonard (<i>ASA, Legislative Team</i>)

2:00 – 3:00	Overview of NFHP Changes in ACE Act & New Board Membership	<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Tab 3 </div>	Ron Regan (AFWA) & Bryan Moore (TU, Legislative Working Group)
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the changes to NFHP outlined in the ACE Act. • Board discussion of any questions about the legislation (Board staff to add new questions to existing questions list). • Board discussion and agreement on a recommended process to identify new Board members to fill 6 new Board seats. 		
3:00 – 3:15	BREAK		
3:15 – 3:30	Legislative Working Group Presentation	<div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Tab 4 </div>	Bryan Moore (TU, Legislative Working Group)
	<i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of suggested changes to the NFHP Charter given the passage of the ACE Act. • Board discussion of NFHP governance changes. • Board discussion of the where the Legislative Working Group should focus their implementation guidance development efforts. 		
3:30 – 4:30	Open time for Board discussion		All

Thursday, October 22, 2020

GoToWebinar registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4116159627201055755>
 Conference line: 866-721-0811
 Password: 3048695

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Topic	Lead(s)
1:00 – 1:15	Attendance & Welcome	Ed Schriever (Board Chair, Director – Idaho Department of Fish and Game) & Board Staff
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff action to take attendance and refresh what was discussed yesterday. 	

1:15 – 2:15 NFHP Funding under ACE Act

Desired outcomes:

- **Board discussion** of funding under the ACE Act.
- **Board recommends** a list of funding-related questions for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Ed Schriever (*Board Chair, Director – Idaho Department of Fish and Game*)

2:15 – 2:30 BREAK

2:30 – 3:30 NFHP National Priorities & Evaluation Metrics

Desired outcomes:

- **Board begins discussion** of process to develop new or revamp existing national priorities for Fish Habitat Conservation to satisfy requirements of the ACE Act to be socialized with FHPs.
- **Board begins discussion** of potential approaches to develop evaluation measures to be explored further by the SDC, socialized with FHPs, and discussed in more detail at the next Board meeting.

Gary Whelan (*MI DNR, SDC Committee*), **Doug Beard** (*USGS, SDC Committee*), & **Daniel Wieferich** (*USGS SDC Committee*)

3:30 - 4:00 Open time for Board discussion

All

Draft June 24, 2020 NFHP Board Meeting Summary

Board Members Present:

Chair Ed Schriever (At-Large State Seat)
Vice Chair Bobby Wilson (SEAFWA)
Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)
Scott Barndt *for* Rob Harper (USFS)
Doug Beard (USGS)
Alison Bowden (TNC)
Chris Cantrell (WAFWA)
Kim Dibble (AFS)
John Goodin (EPA)
David Hoskins (USFWS)
Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Bryan Moore *for* Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited)
Doug Nygren (MAFWA)
Christy Plumer (TRCP)
Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Ron Regan (AFWA)
Adam Ringia (SWTFC)

Mike Bailey (USFWS)
Eric MacMillan (USFWS)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)
Alex Atkinson (NOAA Fisheries)

FHP & FWS Coordinators Present:

Jennifer Graves (Desert FHP)
Debbie Hart (Southeast Alaska FHP)
Lisa Havel (Atlantic Coast FHP)
Heidi Keuler (Fishers and Farmers Partnership)
Alicia Marrs (CA Fish Passage Forum & Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative)
Steve Perry (Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture)
Therese Thompson (Western Native Trout Initiative)
Karen Eldridge (USFWS Legacy Region 2)
Callie McMunigal (USFWS Legacy Region 5)

Board Staff Present:

Ryan Roberts (AFWA)
Gary Whelan (MI DNR)

Other Meeting Attendees:

Richard Mitchell (EPA)
Moe Nelson (NOAA Fisheries)

Future Board Meetings:

- October 19-20 FHP Workshop – hosted by Idaho Department of Fish & Game in Nampa, ID*
- October 21-22 NFHP Board Meeting – hosted by Idaho Department of Fish & Game in Nampa, ID*

**Note: Both the October FHP workshop and Board meeting planning are continuing as if meetings will occur in-person. However, the situation with COVID-19 is dynamic and varied across the country. The Board staff will be surveying Board members and FHPs in July to gauge who would be able to and/or is comfortable traveling in October if the situation in Idaho permits an in-person meeting. A decision about whether the meeting will proceed in-person or be shifted to virtual will occur in August.*

Approved by Motion:

- April 1 NFHP Board Meeting Summary with an amendment to include Adam Ringia in the attendees list: motion by Doug Nygren, seconded by Chris Moore.

Notes and Discussion

Attendance & Welcome (*Ed Schriever, Board Chair, Idaho Department of Fish and Game*)

The Board Chair, Ed Schriever, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their patience with continued virtual meetings and participation in today's webinar. The Board voted to

approve the April Board meeting notes with one amendment to add Adam Ringia's name to the Board member attendees list. Ed welcomed Dr. Mike Bailey as the new USFWS NFHP National Coordinator who has been in the position for 6 weeks. Mike introduced himself to the Board, shared a bit about his background of 10 years at a USFWS field office, and expressed an interest in continuing to learn and connect with all those involved in NFHP. The Board Chair discussed the state of the October FHP workshop and Board meeting. As noted above, the Board staff is proceeding with meeting and workshop planning, but will be surveying Board members and FHPs in July to determine if we have sufficient attendees to warrant planning an in-person meeting. Ed informed the Board that although Idaho was set to advance to their final stage (Phase 4) of reopening next week, there have been recent increases in COVID-19 cases in Ada County (Boise, ID) and leadership is considering regressing back to or remaining in Phase 3. Either way, the October meeting and workshop would offer a way to participate remotely and planning for both events will progress as we have more information.

USFWS Update (*David Hoskins, USFWS*)

David expressed that the USFWS is glad to have Dr. Bailey join the strong team in support of NFHP at USFWS headquarters. He shared that the USFWS has allocated \$4.3M to the FHPs which includes \$85k in operational support for each of the 20 FHPs and \$2.6M in project funding. David highlighted how the USFWS has greatly reduced (>\$1.1M since 2018) the funding they retain to allow more funding to directly support FHPs. FY20 funding allocations occurred in early May and the USFWS regions are in the process of getting funding to individual FHPs. David noted that, despite the pandemic, the USFWS is ahead of schedule. Ed conveyed a thank you to the Service for their response to the Board's requests to shift more funding in support of FHP projects and operational support. About two thirds of the USFWS funding supports FHP operations or on-the-ground projects with about one third retained by the Service for their support services to the Partnership.

Legislative Team Update (*Christy Plumer for Mike Leonard, Legislative Team, TRCP*)

Christy Plumer informed the Board that the legislative team continues to track America's Conservation Enhancement Act (HR 925) that was approved by the full Senate and sits on the House calendar awaiting a vote. She mentioned that there is a chance in the next month or two that HR 925 could move forward for a vote. The team is also tracking the Great American Outdoors Act that will likely go to a full floor vote at the end of July and advance separately from the NFHP legislation and the contents of HR 925. In terms of appropriations, Christy shared that the team expects a continuing resolution for all appropriations bills through November 2020 with a potential extension through January or February 2021 depending on the outcome of the election. The team is also monitoring stimulus packages as they are proposed and is advocating that funding for NFHP be considered as a program that will generate jobs and stimulate the economy via conservation and restoration. Ed asked whether the next stimulus package could incorporate increases to budgets of existing programs - Christy explained that the team is hearing that a future stimulus package would likely follow a model similar to the America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 meaning agencies would submit their requests to OMB and CEQ.

Legislative Working Group Update (*Bryan Moore, Legislative Working Group, Trout Unlimited*)

Bryan Moore updated the Board about the plans of the Legislative Working Group to proactively identify and draft revisions for sections of the NFHP Charter that would require revising if the legislation were to pass. Bryan highlighted that the NFHP Charter was last updated in 2010 and there are other needed revisions, beyond those involving the legislation, that are needed. A subset of the Working Group is drafting the minor changes to the Charter for the Board to consider if the legislation were to pass or at the October Board meeting.

Multistate Conservation Grants Update (*Ryan Roberts, NFHP Staff, AFWA*)

Ryan Roberts reminded the Board that a small review team (Adam Ringia, Alison Bowden, Kim Dibble, and Mike Leonard) was formed during the April Board meeting to review and provide AFWA feedback on the revised grant application guidance as the grant undergoes a transition year while they update their strategic plan. Due to the accelerated release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity and guidance, the NFHP small team did not have an opportunity to provide feedback in advance of the release. The small team will, instead, be reviewing the guidance for full proposals to provide AFWA feedback later this fall for use in future years. Ryan informed the Board that NFHP submitted a pre-proposal to this year's process that contained 10 remaining, high priority, outreach-themed FHP needs from last year's application. NFHP will be informed if they are invited to submit a full proposal in the next 3 weeks.

Science and Data Committee NFHP Data Catalog (*Daniel Wieferrich, NFHP Staff, USGS*)

Daniel Wieferrich shared a high level overview with the Board of an ongoing effort by the Science and Data Committee (led by USGS) to further develop and visualize the NFHP Data Catalog. The NFHP Data Catalog is a centralized catalog of data products coming from the NFHP community that was designed to help Board members, partners, and staff better understand our data products, communicate our accomplishments, and prioritize our efforts. Currently, the NFHP data catalog is lightly populated and Daniel has been leading an effort to expand the products in the catalog by working with FHPs and the NFHP Project Tracking Database team. Daniel has been working with a map viewer (supported by USGS) to visualize, sort, and display the data housed within the catalog. FHP coordinators discussed the data catalog briefly on the June FHP bi-monthly call, but it is clear that the group will need a call dedicated to the NFHP data catalog to further discuss ideas and provide Daniel with feedback as it develops. Daniel would like to continue to get feedback from FHP and FWS coordinators, NFHP Board members, FHP Steering Committee members, Board Committee members, and staff leading up to a more in-depth demo on the catalog in October. Board members raised questions about integrating disparate data sources and whether this is a voluntary effort for FHPs to participate in. Richard Mitchell (EPA) offered it may be helpful to include data from the EPA National surveys in this resource. Ed thanked Daniel for his initiative with this work since this has great potential to be helpful to a wide variety of audiences.

NFHP Action Plan Revisions (*Gary Whelan, Science and Data Committee, MI DNR*)

Gary Whelan updated the Board on the status of the NFHP Action Plan revisions. He informed the Board that the writing team did not construct the revised plan with consideration for what the NFHP legislation would change – and noted that the Action Plan would only require minor changes if the legislation were to pass. The Plan will also need to be formatted beyond the version Board members reviewed in May-June. Gary shared the Action Plan revision timeline and that the Board should expect to see one last final draft of the Plan in August in advance of the October Board meeting. The writing team received 7 sets of comments on the Plan which contained mostly minor comments. He previewed some of the more substantive changes that resulted from comments and highlighted that the FHP vignette portions of the Plan can be swapped year to year to freshen the plan and highlight other FHPs. The Board had one last opportunity to raise any major concerns with the Plan before the writing team proceeds with finalizing a draft for Board approval in October. David Hoskins noted that the USFWS is working to get comments cleared through the Director's office and would like to see the definition of partners be enhanced and the Science and Data committee section revised to reflect current approaches. With regard to printed or digital Plans, most Board members prefer the option to print the plan themselves if needed. Although the Action Plan remains a Board-level document, FHPs expressed an interest in reviewing the revised Action Plan and will be provided the opportunity for review in advance of the October Board meeting.

NFHP Work Plan Update (*Doug Nygren, Work Plan Working Group, KS Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism*)

Doug Nygren updated the Board on the status of the NFHP Board Work Plan that is under development to rollout with the 3rd edition of the Action Plan. This work plan outlines specific ways to increase Board member involvement in NFHP to advance the high level Action Plan objectives. The Working Group plans to draft a work plan by the end of July for review by the Board in August and action by the Board in October. The Working Group has drafted sections that would accompany each item in the work plan including: title, short description, narrative description, narrative justification, and sub-task list. Doug highlighted that the Board Work Plan would operate on calendar years and be effective January 2021 – December 2022. The work plan items will be S-M-A-R-T and the Working Group has discussed reporting options with a midway check-in planned at 1 year. It was clarified that the items within this work plan will be Board Action items and not outline duties or actions for FHPs beyond what FHPs are already engaged in. FHPs will also have an opportunity to review the draft Board Work Plan in advance of the October Board meeting.

Bass Pro Shops Small Grants Program Update (*Ryan Roberts, NFHP Staff, AFWA*)

Ryan Roberts updated the Board on the results from the Bass Pro Shops small grant program. 17 applications were submitted to this small grant opportunity resulting from a \$50k donation from Bass Pro Shops at the end of 2019. A small review team (Johnny LeCoq, Ryan Roberts, Gary Whelan, and Bobby Wilson) evaluated all proposed projects. Funding was to support on-the-ground FHP projects that were already in progress to be completed in 2020. The 3 projects that were selected for funding were: Reservoir FHP – woody debris habitat improvements (\$15k), Fishers and Farmers Partnership – habitat improvements for trout (\$15k), and Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership – spawning habitat improvements for salmon (\$12k). Beyond the Pond is currently working to get Memoranda of Agreements in place to transfer funds to FHPs. NFHP will keep Bass Pro Shops updated as to the progress of these projects, some of which are located in close proximity to a Bass Pro Shops store location. Ryan indicated that some of the \$8k leftover will be used to cover overhead and any remaining funds may be used to produce a video to highlight NFHP projects and achievements.

Final Announcements – Awards (*Kim Dibble, AFS & Doug Nygren, KS Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism*)

Kim Dibble shared that the [Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award](#) is accepting nominations through **July 31, 2020**. This award highlights individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and dedication to coastal and marine habitat conservation. Board members are encouraged to submit a nomination and share this with others.

Doug Nygren shared with the NFHP Board that this year's AFS Stan Moberly Award for Outstanding Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation will be awarded to NFHP's very own Jeff Boxrucker, coordinator for the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership. He will receive the award in the fall during the virtual ceremony at the AFS meeting. Tom Lang will be delivering Jeff his award in person. AFS's Rising Star Award for Outstanding Early-Career Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation has been selected and will be presented at the virtual AFS meeting.

Master List of Questions re: S. 3051

Funding & Match

1. Will there be any FHP exclusions from coordination or project dollars like currently exists (for SEAKFHP and Lamprey FHP), or will this be up for discussion/decision by the Board?
2. There are concerns about the **timing of the coordination funds** even if they are available. If the annual funding process is longer, some may run out of funds for their coordinator before the next set of projects are funded.
3. How are the funds going to be administered? Will we still work through the USFWS, will the Board use some operational funding to get the grants out, is it going to be up to the individual FHPs, or are they planning on a different strategy? Some FHPs don't have to operational capacity to take on this task.
4. How is the funding allocation going to be determined? Currently we're scored on our USFWS report. Will it stay the same for FY2021 and then change? Will it change for this year? What will the changes be, if any?
5. I am concerned that the FHPs are flying our **RFPs** right now with possibly the wrong criteria in them and/or that the partners who are ultimately successful will not receive their funding until next October. I think that issue will require a conversation with each successful applicant to see if the timing would still work for them or would come too late to support on the ground implementation. We already requires a 1:1 match for each project, but we do not specifically say it has to be non-federal funding. Many of our successful applicants provide a 5 or 6:1 match, but again I would have to go back and examine the proposals to tally up how much of that match funding was federal versus non-federal. Obviously, we also may need to change the timing of our RFPs based on when project funding would ultimately come out of the other end of the process.
6. Re: scientific and technical assistance funds \$400K - If FHP partners with one of these federal agencies on assessments can this be funded from the allocation above and be separate from project funding?
7. 1:1 federal to non-federal match required. The legislation states "may not include other federal grant programs" **Does this include federal funding from current federal agency annual budgets?** (e.g. USACE often provides 6 figures in funding (largely in-kind)) What about State Fish and Wildlife Agency SFR funding?
8. Will **state agency** in kind services will be allowed to count as **match**? Many state biologists salaries come from WSFR funds.

Staffing and Support

1. How does this affect those of us coordinators who are USFWS employees, as opposed to contractors?
2. If the funding shifts from the USFWS receiving the overhead to each of the 4 agencies receiving \$400K each, how does that impact the FHP coordinators who are USFWS employees?

Timing, Interpretation, and Logistics

1. Is a **transition year** still planned?
2. **When will the legislation kick in?** The legislation creates new requirements for FHP Projects such as requiring a 1:1 non-federal match. FHPs are already soliciting projects for FY21 without

those instructions to applicants. Will they have to start over and issue a new RFP for FY21? If so, they need to start that process now as they will each have to take time to revamp their project application and rating system and run those changes through their Steering Committees before they advertise the RFP again. And some of the new requirements may not be quick edits for them. Some make take them some to figure out (measuring socioeconomic impact or biological impact on recreational fishing).

3. Project development timeline - Projects to Board by March 1; Board to Secretary (Dept of Interior) by July 1; Project approval decisions by October 1. Currently have to wait until FWS has budget (or Continuing Resolution) before FHP Allocation can be awarded. **Given that the \$7.2 million is earmarked annually can the project solicitation process can begin earlier?** Solicit projects for Fiscal Year x+1 in Fiscal Year x. Approval of projects on October 1 would be for the current Fiscal Year.
4. How will Section 212 affect Beyond the Pond and Friends of Reservoirs or other FHP-associated 501(c) (3)s?

Projects & Reporting

1. How is the Board going to **prioritize projects** among the 20 FHPs (to be submitted to Secretary by July 1)?
2. Will the **FHP Evaluation** would be used to allocate funds?
3. How is the funding allocation going to be determined? Currently we're scored on USFWS report. Will it stay the same for FY2021 and then change? Will it change for this year? What will the changes be, if any?
4. Would we have the opportunity to **overhaul the scoring process**?
5. How does the **timeline work for project solicitation**? Any projects FHPs recommend to the Board for funding (by March 31, 2021), will be reviewed by the Board and then routed to the Secretary of DOI by July 1, 2021 for funding decisions by October 1, 2021. October 1 is the start of the next fiscal year (FY22). FHPs are already in the RFP solicitation phase for the FY21 cycle. So will the applications submitted to the FHPs now for FY21 not receive funding prior to October 1, 2021? This is a much longer process for project funding and **it crosses fiscal years**.
6. How will Board prioritize projects among FHPs?
 - a. Will the third priority project of FHP x be a higher priority than the first priority project of FHP?
7. Should the FHPs continue drafting their **annual performance reports** that are usually due to FWS the beginning of January? Some are already starting this process so it is complete before the holidays. They need guidance soon if this is still expected or if there will be a different process.
8. *(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian Tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects under this title.*
 - a. This one raised a red flag with me because FWS is only requiring information contained in the SF-425; If ACE requires additional documentation this will be a major change in the way partners are reporting

Assessment

1. *a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by designated Partnerships; and*

- a. Does this mean that the National Assessment will be reprioritized and if so, will it deplete FHP project funding? or
- b. Will individual FHP Assessments meet this requirement?



Charter
National Fish Habitat Board
As established under the
“National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”

I. BACKGROUND

The National Fish Habitat Board (hereafter “Board”) is responsible for carrying out a cooperative nationwide program to conserve (protect, restore and enhance) the habitats of the Nation’s marine and freshwater fish populations, and to increase public fishing opportunities. The Board is a voluntary association of public and private sector entities that serves as the body overseeing the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

II. MISSION and GOALS

The purpose of the Board is to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the Plan. The Board’s mission is to conserve (protect, restore and enhance) the nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, provide fishing opportunities, and improve the quality of life for the American people.

This mission will be achieved by:

- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.
- Approving and supporting Fish Habitat Partnerships and fostering new efforts.
- Establishing interim and long-term national fish habitat conservation goals and supporting regional fish habitat conservation goals.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for fish habitat conservation.
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats.

The Board’s goals are to:

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.
- Increase fish and therefore fishing opportunities.

In furtherance of the Plan’s mission, the Board’s role is to:

- Coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level.
- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver National Fish Habitat Action Plan funds to the partnerships.



- Develop criteria for funding and related resources.
- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the Fish Habitat Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
 - Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for Fish Habitat Partnerships and facilitate Fish Habitat Partnership adaptation of these guidelines for their unique systems.
- Report to Congress, States and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- Carry out such administrative, organizational, or procedural matters as are necessary or proper.

III. BOARD BYLAWS

A. Appointment – The Board will be appointed by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The membership of the ELT shall consist of: the President and Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The ELT will have final responsibility for appointment and, if necessary, removal of all Board members, except those serving by virtue of their office.

Commented [BM1]: This section was removed. No provision in legislation other than certain duties.

A. Membership

1. Members – The Board shall consist of up to 26 members. The initial Board shall consist of representatives as described in the following subparagraphs (i) through (vi)

Commented [BM2]: New number of Board members up from 22.

- (i) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;
- (ii) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;
- (iii) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;
- (iv) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;
- (v) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;
- (vi) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

Remaining Members:

- The initial Board members will appoint the remaining members.



- The transitional chairperson will be the representative of AFWA, or their designee.

(vii) 2 shall be a representative of either—

- (I) Indian tribes in the State of Alaska; or
- (II) Indian tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

Commented [BM3]: New number up from one.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and each shall nominate a representative for approval by the ELT

Commented [BM4]: No direct provision in legislation. Removed.

(viii) 1 shall be a representative of either—

- (I) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or
- (II) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—
 - (aa) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;
 - (bb) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and
 - (cc) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(ix) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council;

1. The remaining eight members shall be appointed to ensure the Board includes representation from the following range of interests: sportfishing, commercial fishing, sportfishing industry, academic, and land and aquatic resource conservation organizations. In addition, these members shall be appointed to

ensure the Board includes a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations and a balance of freshwater and marine interests.

Commented [BM5]: This descriptive language was removed and replaced with bullet list below.

(x) 7 shall be representatives selected from each of—

Commented [BM6]: New number of members in this section, was 8 members.

- (I) the recreational sportfishing industry;
- (II) the commercial fishing industry;
- (III) marine recreational anglers;
- (IV) freshwater recreational anglers;
- (V) habitat conservation organizations; and
- (VI) science-based fishery organizations;

(xi) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(xii) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(xiii) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(xiv) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

- (I) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;
- (II) natural resource user industries; and
- (III) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(xv) 1 shall be in a leadership position in the private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

Commented [BM7]: This is all new language from legislation identifying specific new Board members not in previous bylaws.

B. Terms of Service

1. Normal Term—Except as provided in this section, a member of the Board described in paragraphs vi through xv of Subsection A.1, shall serve a term of 3 years.
2. Members whose terms have expired shall serve until replaced by a successor.
3. Transitional Re-appointment – Of the members appointed under subsection A.1.(x) initially appointed to the Board ---
 - (i) two shall be re-appointed initially for a term of one year;

(II)two shall be re-appointed for a term of two years, and;
(iii)three shall be re-appointed for a term of three years.

Commented [BM8]: New number, previously four.

Vacancies—Any vacancy among the Board members shall be filled through appointment by the ELT, and any Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term for which his or her predecessor was appointed.

Commented [BM9]: Language removed, replaced as below from legislation.

4. Vacancies—In general, any vacancy among the Board members described in subparagraphs (vii) – (xv) of Section III.A.1 shall be filled through appointment by the remaining members of the Board, and any Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term for which his or her predecessor was appointed.

Commented [BM10]: Combined statement from legislation.

(i) Tribal Representatives – Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph III.A.1.vii, the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than 3 Tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

5. Continuation of Service – An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

Commented [BM11]: New language inserted from legislation.

6. Removal – If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (vii) – (xv) of Section III.A.1, misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may vote to remove that member, and appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph 5 above. Acceptable participation in a Board meeting may include in-person attendance, or phone and/or video services.

Commented [BM12]: New language inserted by BM.

C. Procedures

1. Selection of Board Chair—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed under subsection A.1.v shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

2. Term of Chair—The term of any Chair shall be three years, provided that any Chair may serve successive terms. No Chair shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

Commented [BM13]: Previous bylaws prescribed three terms of two years.

Commented [BM14]: Varied from legislation to more closely match historic practices.

3. Meetings—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair at least twice a calendar year. The Chair shall endeavor to establish a proposed meeting schedule identifying potential meeting dates within the twelve-month period following each meeting of the Board. Except as provided below, the Chair must give Board members at least two months’ notice of a Board meeting and shall provide a draft agenda at that time. Notice must be provided in writing but may be delivered by email or facsimile to each Board member. The Chair with due cause may call the Board for emergency meetings, provided, however, that business of the meeting must be restricted to the reasons for which the meeting is called.

Commented [BM15]: Removed, does not meet legislation.

Board meetings shall be open to the public, provided, however, that the Board may meet in executive sessions closed to the public to discuss personnel, legal matters, or any other matter of a private or

necessarily confidential nature. These closed sessions shall be clearly identified in the meeting announcement. Notification of Board meetings shall be made to members of the Fish Habitat Partnerships and other interested parties.

Commented [BM16]: Adjusted from term Partners Coalition in original bylaws.

4. Quorum-- A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. Participation and Attendance-- **If a Board member is not able to attend a Board meeting, he or she may appoint a designee provided an official proxy is signed and presented to the Board Chair. A Board member may designate another Board member to hold his/her proxy, but no Board member may hold more than 1 proxy. A Board member may participate in a Board meeting by conference call/video with the prior approval of the Chair.**

Commented [BM17]: New language added.

Commented [BM18]: New language inserted by BM.

1. **If a Board member, other than a Board member who serves by virtue of office, fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair, in consultation with the ELT, may remove that person from the Board and request that the ELT appoint a replacement. A Board member may participate in a Board meeting by conference call with the prior approval of the Chair. If a Board member, other than a Board member who serves by virtue of office, regularly scheduled meetings by conference call, the Chair, in consultation with the ELT, may remove that person from the Board and request that the ELT appoint a replacement.**

Commented [BM19]: Language removed, does not reflect legislation.

6. Voting--The Board should strive to achieve consensus on all actions proposed. If consensus cannot be achieved within the time frame allotted to the action on the agenda, all actions must be approved by the vote of two-thirds of all members present and voting. Each Board member shall have one vote. All voting shall proceed under Robert’s Rules of Order. Proxy voting is permitted with written notification of the change to the Chair from the member being absent in advance of the meeting. The Board may extend the discussion period for items on the agenda or consider items not on the proposed agenda for a meeting, provided that such changes to the agenda must be approved by a vote at the time they are proposed.

7. Other Procedures--The Board shall establish other procedures as needed to schedule meetings, develop agendas, and otherwise facilitate and conduct business, including those procedures or matters required to comply with any requirements resulting from incorporation of the Board under law.

8. Chair’s Responsibilities—In addition to such duties established elsewhere in these bylaws, the Chair shall:
- a. Prepare a written agenda of all matters to be considered by the Board at any meeting;
 - b. Prepare and issue all notices, including notices of meetings, required to be given to the Board and public;
 - c. Preside at all meetings of the Board and, unless otherwise directed by the Board, present items

- of business for consideration by the Board in the order listed on the agenda for the meeting;
- d. Conduct all meetings in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and these bylaws;
- e. Appoint committees as required; and
- f. Perform other duties as requested by the Board.

9. Appointment of Vice-Chair—The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair from among the Board membership. In the absence of the Chair, or in the event of the Chair’s inability to act, or a conflict of interest for the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chair or by the members III.A.1.i - vi. The term of the Vice-Chair shall be the same as the term of the Chair.

D. Board Responsibilities

1. Coordination - The Board will coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level and establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources to the Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
2. Conservation Goals and Objectives - The Board will develop and amend, as appropriate, specific national fish habitat conservation goals and objectives with the advice from the Science and Data Committee established pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subsection E of this Section.
3. Partnerships - The Board will develop and amend, as appropriate, a strategy to encourage the formation of Fish Habitat Partnerships (“Partnerships”). This strategy will be updated periodically to include new information on fish habitat status and the status of existing Partnerships.
4. Recognition of Partnerships - The Board shall develop and amend, as appropriate, criteria for recognition of Partnerships to be approved by Congress. The Board shall distribute the criteria, establish a process for parties to use in seeking recognition as a Partnership, and maintain a publicly accessible registry of recognized Partnerships. 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 Partnerships.
5. Evaluation Criteria- The Board will establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for Partnerships
6. Funding - The Board will develop and implement strategies to increase public and private funding for fish habitat conservation, 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.



7. Report - The Board will 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. The report shall be completed in XXXX, and every 5 years after.

E. Coordination and Support

1. Staff--The Board shall accept staff support provided by The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Chair, in consultation with the contributing entities, shall act on behalf of the Board in directing the activities of the staff. The Chair, in consultation with the Board, may accept additional staff or other support from other entities. The contributing entities shall use their best efforts to provide common office space for all Board staff and take such other measures as they deem appropriate to facilitate communication, cohesiveness, and efficient operations for the benefit of the Board.
2. Science and Data Committee --The Board shall establish a Science and Data Committee chaired by a State representative or another entity recommended by the Committee and approved by the Board, and consisting of at least two State agency representatives, two Federal agency representatives, two non- governmental organization representatives, and two academic representatives. All Committee members will have demonstrated knowledge of the Plan's science foundation. 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.
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.
4. Partners Coalition--The Board shall coordinate with the broadest possible range of stakeholders and other interested parties to increase involvement and support for coordinated fish habitat conservation at national and regional scales.

F. Committees

The Board may establish and otherwise manage committees as needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Board. Such committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board.

G. Board and Committee Expenses

Board and Committee members will not be compensated for their time working on Board or Committee business or traveling to meetings. Travel expenses generally should be borne by the agency or other entity that employs the Board or Committee member, but reimbursement arrangements may be made if



funds for this purpose are available.

IV. Procedure to Amend Charter

The Board may decide to amend this charter by consensus, or a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, and following the guidance as stated in Roberts Rules of Order. Any proposed change to this charter must be noted on the draft agenda that is sent out at the time the meeting is scheduled and include the proposed language changes by section

Commented [BM20]: Added language.

Commented [BM21]: Added language under Roberts Rules.

NFHP Legislative Working Group Timeline of Required Actions from S. 3051 January 2020

: one time action

: action on a 5 year basis

: annual action

***bolded actions** represent “new actions” (not currently done) that will require a procedure to be developed.

Deadline	Action (in text)	Action (simple)	Who
Not later than 60 days after enactment	Representatives of initial Board shall appoint the remaining members of the Board.	Reconstitute the rest of the Board.	Initial Board
Not later than 60 days after enactment	The Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than 3 Tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint 1 representative.	Secretary recommends 3 potential Tribal reps, 1 is appointed.	DOI Secretary & Board
Not later than February 1st of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act	Board shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report to be entitled, “Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnerships and Modifications” that identifies each entity that meets the requirements, Partnership designation recommendations (with purpose and how requirements are fulfilled), proposed modifications to Partnerships.	Write an annual report to Congress.	Board staff and subset of Board members
Not later than March 31 of each year	Each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.	Partnerships request funding from Board.	FHP coordinators and Board
Not later than July 1 of each year	Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes a description (including costs) of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title for the following fiscal year.	Board recommends projects to be funded.	Board
Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act (and every 5 years thereafter)	The Director, in cooperation with NOAA, EPA, USGS, and other heads of Federal departments, shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes – (i) The functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this title; and (ii) Any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.	Federal agencies will develop an operational plan	Federal agencies of Board
Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act (and every 5 years thereafter)	Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this title.	Submit a progress report to Congress.	Board staff

Title: Science and Data Committee Report

Desired Outcome:

- **Board understanding** of Science and Data Committee accomplishments as they relate to 2020 Board Priorities
- **Board understanding** of Science and Data Committee 2021 work priorities that are based on the draft 2021-2022 Board Workplan.

2020 Priorities and Outcomes:

Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations

- Updating Science and Data Committee (SDC) membership following SDC Terms of Reference. The co-chairs have surveyed the current membership to determine interest and have added addition FHP members to the committee.
- The SDC met on August 14, 2020 via Teams conference and updated SDC membership on NFHP progress and Board actions including likely Board Workplan items. Another call is likely in October once the Board Workplan is further along.
- Outreach
 - National Fish Habitat Partnership approach was an example of how collaborative efforts are the strategy of the future for fisheries work in the September 2020 AFS Fisheries publication entitled “Tracking fisheries through time: The American Fisheries Society as a historical lens”. Science and Data Committee Co-Chair was the lead author on the paper.

Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work.

- Inland
 - No progress has been made on the Board’s new Inland Fish Habitat Assessment as funding is currently not available. New funding sources are being sought at this time. The delay in funding has created the following outcomes at this time:
 - No new work has been done on improving and updating the inland component of the National Fish Habitat Assessment although some data maintenance was done by USGS (e.g. create map services).
 - National Fish Habitat Assessment staff are not available to assist FHPs in their assessment work or to facilitate needed coordination between the National and FHP Assessment products. The loss of funding also will mean that new core staff would need to be hired when efforts resume.
 - The Board planned update to the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment will not be available until 2024 at the earliest assuming funding is available in the near term.
 - New hydrology information from USGS for the Lower 48 states that will support the approved National Inland Fish Habitat Assessment strategy that was published in 2018. The SDC has requested funding through the Multi-States Conservation Grant process to

start incorporating these data into the National Assessment Data System using a select group of regions and watersheds but this request could not be accommodated by the grant proposal. This initial work would have greatly sped up the incorporation of the rest of this dataset into our data system. SDC co-chairs have initiated conversations with dataset coauthors to leverage USGS knowledge about the dataset and to see if opportunities are available to align these efforts with existing USGS priorities and activities. The dataset was published in:

- Miller, M.P., D.M. Carlisle, D.W. Wolock, and M. Wiczorek. 2018. A database of natural monthly streamflow estimates from 1950 to 2015 for the conterminous United States. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 54(6): 1258-1269.
- Coastal
 - Work continues on the Northeast Regional Coastal Habitat Assessment using the Board approved assessment direction, and facilitation by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Jessica Coakley and Chris Moore). The overall assessment guidance document is completed, initial inshore and offshore project teams have been populated and making progress, potential model approaches are under review, and funding continues to be acquired to work on the assessment.
 - Work continues on the West Coast Assessments. Examples of these products are on the Pacific Marine & Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP, www.pacificfishhabitat.org) website with part of the West Coast Assessment work displayed as an estuary viewer and explorer that includes information on current and historical estuary extent, estuary points, biotic habitat, tidal wetland losses, and eelgrass habitat.
 - The Great Lakes Assessment strategy using the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Framework (www.glahf.org/framework) is developing a long-term operation system in concert with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and project partners. This system is being viewed as a key tool for evaluating how Great Lakes Committees will track progress with environmental objectives being developed for each Great Lake.

Priority O: Continue work on the NFHP Project Tracking Database

Kate Sherman (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, PSMFC) continues to improve the NFHP Project Tracking Database using NOAA (FY2018) and MSCG (FY2019) funding.

Project Summary

The NFHP project tracking database includes data on projects funded by the 20 regional fish habitat partnerships through the National Fish Habitat funds, including projects funded beginning in 2006 through 2019. Projects in the database range from on-the-ground restoration, partnership coordination, outreach and education events, and species distribution and habitat assessments.

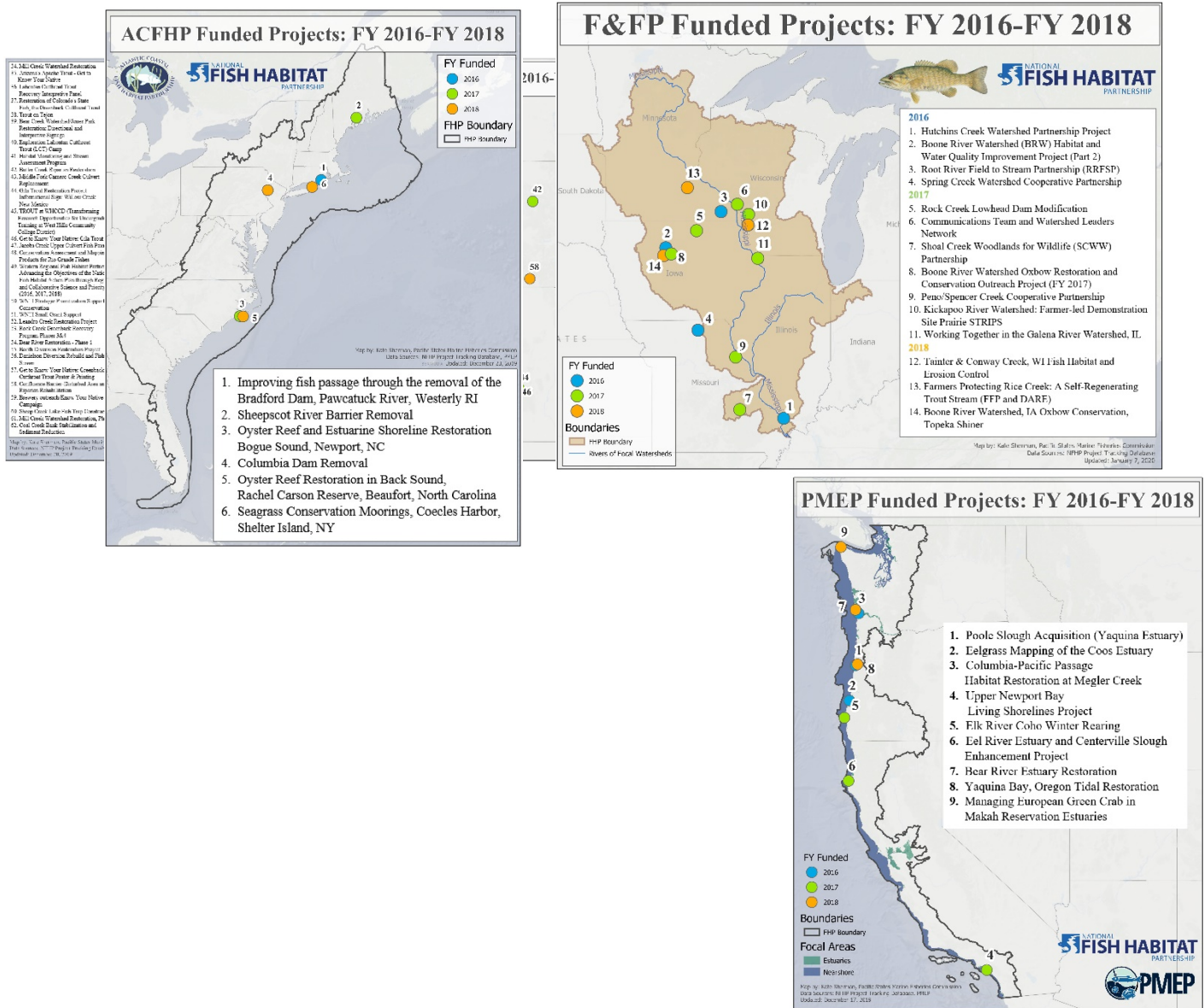
Work completed for the NFHP Project Tracking Database included the ongoing task of maintain NFHP Project Tracking Database on PSFMC servers, including managing system logins and database security.

Maps and data tables were provided to FHP coordinators for use in end of the year USFWS reporting. Updates to the database were made, including QA/QC of data and ensuring that all projects have location information tied to them. In addition, PSMFC provided web services to USGS for use in the NFHP Data System application that is under development. Web services distribute available information about funded projects and NFHP supported projects.

Progress and Results

Table 1: Tasks completed for the NFHP Project Tracking System	
<i>Task</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. Maintain the NFHP Project Tracking Database on PSMFC servers, including server maintenance, server updates, and data backups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained servers, including maintenance, updates and server backups (an ongoing task). • Managed system logins and database security.
2. Assist Partnerships with data management plans and maintain a help service for Partnerships working with their data on the system;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained and distributed guidance documentation. • Tacked and responded to system bugs, FHP coordinator challenges and needs for the system for future improvements.
3. Work directly with FHP coordinators to get their project specific information loaded into the database, conduct quality control and develop report templates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked directly with FHP's to enter and update data in the system. • 100% of records now have location information • Database up to date through FY 2019 • QA/QC data
4. Work directly with Partnership coordinators to assist with USFWS end of year reporting for projects funded FY 2016-2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • Provided tables and maps for use in USFWS end of year reports (see Figures 1-3 for example).
4. Work with National Science and Data Committee to integrate NFHP projects into the NFHP Data System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created updated web services of project information for inclusion in the NFHP Data Catalog and Viewer.

Figure 1: Examples of maps created for FHPs for inclusion in USFWS accomplishment reports.



Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System (Daniel Wieferich, USGS In-kind support)

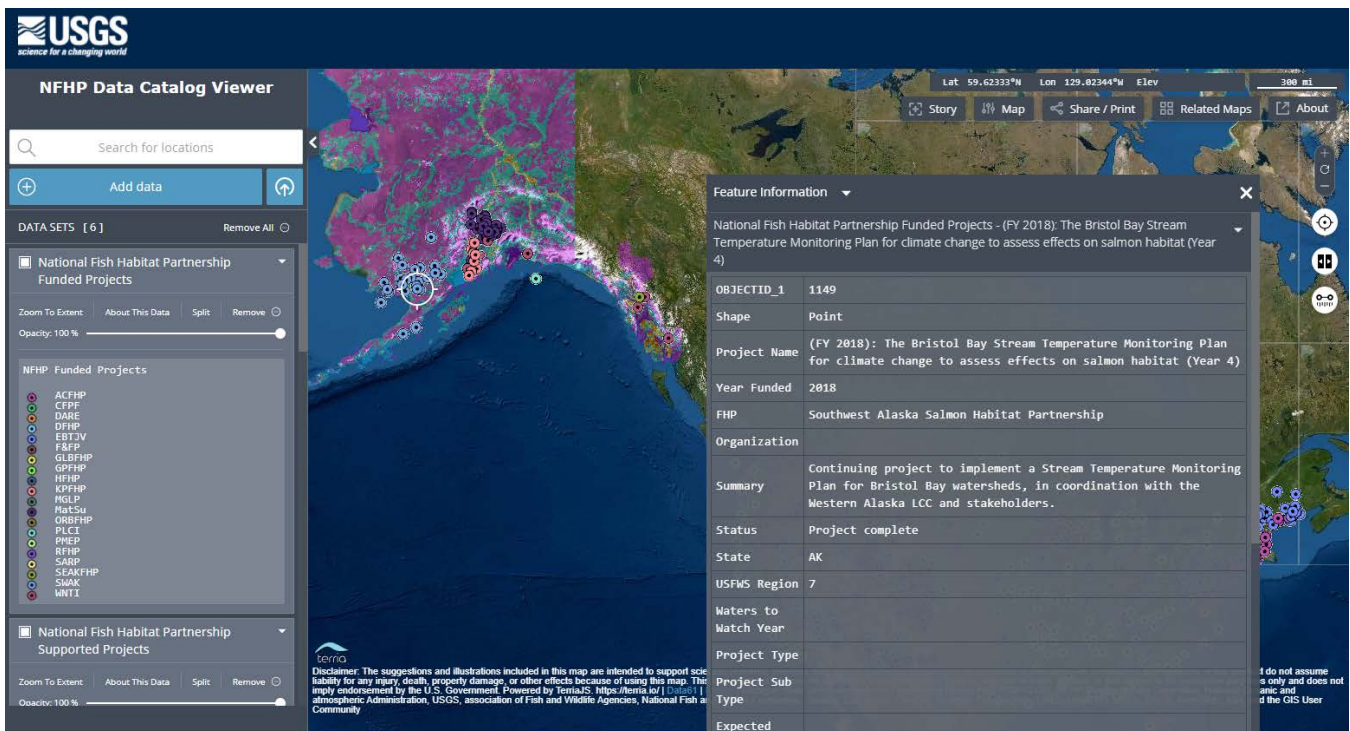
The Science and Data Committee, led by the U.S. Geological Survey, is actively working with NFHP partners to update the [NFHP Data Catalog](#) and develop the [NFHP Data Catalog Viewer](#). The Data Catalog is a centralized catalog of all NFHP data products and is intended to help the Board, partners and staff: 1) Understand data product availability; 2) Communicate accomplishments and value of

NFHP; 3) Prioritize efforts based on available science and data products; and 4) provide FHPs with data support and services.

Prior to 2020 the data catalog fully documented National Assessment products but had little representation of FHP data products aside from FHP boundaries. The following progress has been made in 2020 to better represent all data products.

- 16 Data products newly represented from FHPs
- 19 New data products from FHPs drafted for review
- Building understand of additional FHP data products to include
- Added map services to help access and visualize 2015 National Assessment data
- Added FHP Projects from the Project Tracking Database

In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey has worked with the Science and Data Committee to develop a web application to help categorize, search and visualize data products within the NFHP Data Catalog. For the time being USGS will be hosting the NFHP Data Catalog Viewer at <https://maps.usgs.gov/nfhp>. In its current state the viewer categorizes products by contributor and by theme and allows users to visualize and interact with multiple geospatial data products from the catalog on a common map. The viewer has built in features such as share a map, export data, and story capabilities to help users share and report information. The following screenshot shows an example of visualizing and exploring FHP projects in the web application alongside 2015 national assessment results.



Proposed Science and Data Priorities for FY2021, implementing the Board Workplan:

1) Implement the Board's 2021-2022 Workplan for Science and Data Actions (Seven tasks)

a) FHP Assessment Review and Project Performance Measure Development

- i) **Task 1** - Develop a full catalog of FHP assessment products by March 2021 to facilitate SDC review of FHP assessment products
 - (1) Send out survey instrument in January 2021 to request a list of assessment products, short description of the product, and location of information from all FHPs
 - (2) Summarize survey results in February 2021
 - (3) Provide report on survey results at March 2021 Board meeting
 - (4) To ensure survey information remains relevant, provide previous survey results to FHPs and request revisions or updates each January
- ii) **Task 2** - Conduct peer reviews of 2 FHP assessment products in 2021
 - (1) SDC will develop an assessment product review process by April 2021 in consultation with FHPs.
 - (a) Development of a draft review process will be started in 2020 to allow FHP consultation to occur in the first quarter of the year.
 - (2) SDC examines available FHP assessment products in March 2021 and selects 2 for review in 2021.
 - (a) This lower number in 2021 will allow the SDC to work out the process fully and allow increased review ability in subsequent years.
- iii) **Task 3** – Develop project performance measures in collaboration with FHPs
 - (1) Send out a survey instrument in August 2021 to request each FHPs methodology to examine project performance.
 - (2) Summarize results by October 2021 and provide an initial report at the Board meeting.
 - (3) Review survey results and determine/develop best options to examine project performance by March 2022 with a progress report provided at the Board meeting.
 - (4) Conduct a workshop with FHPs to discuss and improve draft recommendations by May 2022.
 - (5) Complete and provide the Board with a report on findings by June 2022 including an opportunity for FHP review.

b) Project Tracking Database

- i) **Task 4** - SDC to set a goal of 90% of all NFHP projects being represented in the Project Tracking Database annually and the remaining 10% by the first quarter of the following year. Improve access to the Project Tracking Database.
 - (1) SDC to develop and implement needed links between Project Tracking Database and NFHP Data Catalog
 - (2) Continue refinement of Project Tracking Database to improve data updates and reporting

c) NFHP Data Catalog

- i) **Task 5** - By December 2021, SDC to determine which data products from the FHP assessment survey should potentially be added to the NFHP data catalog

- (1) Report to the Board at January 2022 meeting
- (2) Add identified FHP data products by second quarter of 2022

d) FHP Species and Theme Identification to allow development of Board FHP support products

- i) **Task 6** – By January 2022, SDC to determine what the current species and habitat focus is of each FHP and summarize and make available for NFHP.
 - (1) By October 1, 2021 develop and implement a FHP survey on current species and fish habitat focus areas. Develop geospatial data products to help identify overlaps and leverage opportunities between partnerships.
 - (2) Build workflow to capture species and habitat focus areas in project tracking database (related to Task 3).
 - (3) Report findings to the Board at January 2022 meeting
 - (a) Develop plan for updating FHP focal areas by September 2022.
 - (b) Summarize and report FHP focus area efforts including FHP overlaps and project summaries.
- e) **Task 7 - When funded - Oversee and ensure completion of MSCG work by December 2022 to determine how to incorporate USGS synthetic hydrographs into 2-4 selected watersheds of the NFHP data catalog.** This regional exercise will develop a framework that can be used for national implementation and will pave the way for summarizing key hydrologic information into a usable format for future regional and national habitat assessment efforts.

2) Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work, if funding becomes available.

- a) Implement NFHP Board approved National Fish Habitat Assessment direction by initializing scoping with FHPs and conduct trial work on selected watersheds.
 - i) Conduct initial scoping on hydrology and connectivity processes with FHPs.
- b) Update existing national data layers as new information is received.
- c) **Budget Needs** – To fully implement the National Fish Habitat Inland Assessment development, \$180,000 for the inland assessment is needed annually. To facilitate coastal assessment development, NOAA is asked to continue to provide \$50,000 annually for development of regional coastal assessments along with technical support from NOAA staff. The National Inland Fish Habitat Assessment funding will also support efforts in Task 1. While unsuccessful in FY2020, SDC members will work to find additional new Inland Fish Habitat Assessment funding sources in FY2021.

3) Continue Outreach Efforts on the Existing Assessment Products, if funding is made available

- a) Implemented recommendations made by assessment stakeholders as identified which will include:
 - i) Making it easier to drill down and retrieve the underlying data sets on which analyses are based – Initial work completed, and very limited improvements continue to be made to allow better data downloads.
 - ii) Packaging and presenting results by state – This task remains to be completed.

- iii) Continue to implement report versioning and revision history tracking – This task remains to be completed.
- b) Continue to implement outreach and education efforts to improve understanding and use of all existing Assessment products including developing new analyses using existing information.
- c) **Budget needs** – Detailed below in Science and Data Committee operations.

4) **Ensuring Science and Data Committee Operations**

- a) Science and Data Committee will meet quarterly by conference call on Assessment direction, Board actions, and Board assignments.
- b) Review FHP science and data work with an emphasis on Board Workplan products as these are the core of current Board science efforts.
- c) Have one Science and Data Committee in-person meeting to examine and review progress on Board Workplan Science and Data assignments with an emphasis on FHP assessments.
 - i) **Budget Need** - \$15,000 to support travel for members who require it to attend.
- d) Science and Data Committee Co-Chair support for Board work and provide outreach and education on Board Science and Data products.
 - i) **Budget Need** - \$12,000 to support travel expenses for Science and Data Committee Chair.

Report written by: Gary E. Whelan (MI DNR Fisheries Division) and Daniel Wieferich (USGS)
Board Science and Data Co-Chairs
September 18, 2020

Title: NOAA Announces FY21 Funding Opportunity for Coastal FHPs

Desired Outcome: Board awareness of FY21 NOAA funding (*contingent upon appropriations*) in support of Coastal FHP projects that engage the recreational fishing community and benefit fish habitat.

Background: NOAA’s Office of Habitat Conservation and the Recreational Fisheries Initiative are looking to identify and support projects within coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships that protect or restore habitat **AND** engage recreational fishing partners. The goals of this informal funding opportunity are to raise the visibility of NOAA and its partners’ habitat work and to enhance collaboration with the recreational fishing community. The recreational fishing community understands that healthy habitat leads to more recreational fishing opportunities, and they have expressed continued interest in collaborating on habitat projects. The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and individual Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) provide strategic opportunities to advance priority habitat conservation projects while also engaging recreational anglers.

Funding Available: Approximately \$135k is available, and will be used to support several FHP projects (up to ~\$75k per project). *Funding is contingent upon appropriations.*

Timeline:

October 21-22, 2020	Notify NFHP Board of funding opportunity for Coastal FHPs
Early November 2020	Send call for ideas to coastal FHPs, NOAA-NFHP group, and NOAA rec coordinators (and ask to distribute to partners)
Early December 2020	Webinar to answer questions and discuss ideas
February 1, 2021	Proposals due to NOAA
February 2021	Proposal review
Spring 2021	Move funds to FHPs for use in 2021 summer field season

Title: 2021 AFWA Multistate Grant Update

Desired outcome: Report to the Board on the final NFHP application to the FY21 Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

Background:

The AFWA Multistate Conservation Grant Program has changed its format for the 2020 application year, for projects funded in 2021. An AFWA taskforce was created to help set a future course for the program, as AFWA is working towards developing a new strategic plan that was finalized in September. Principles and priorities for the Multistate Conservation Grant were approved by the AFWA National Grants Committee in March at the North American Wildlife Natural Resources Conference and were voted on by the AFWA Directors at the Business Meeting of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. In May, AFWA solicited pre-proposals for the 2021 AFWA Multistate Grant Awards. The National Fish Habitat Partnership submitted a proposal through the Board that was relatively unchanged from the application that was put forward in 2020 and was not selected for funding. The window for applications was narrow, and based on the needs of the partnerships, this was our best approach.

In July, Board staff received notification that their pre-proposal was successful, along with guidance and recommendations for submitting a full proposal for funding. Through the partnerships and Board staff's work, we successfully submitted a full proposal with some slight modifications to the National Grants Committee. In early September, board staff learned that the grants committee was seeking to fund additional projects and requested that we reduce our funding by 50%.

Board leadership and staff worked with Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) to identify which parts of our collective grant application were scalable and could be reduced. The FHPs were helpful in this request to turn our application around with a reduced funding request.

The 2021 Grant application contains provisions that will help fund FHP marketing and outreach needs and help support the National Fish Habitat Board and staff operations.

Moving Forward:

The National Grants Committee of AFWA is looking at ways to formalize the National Grants program for future years. The National Fish Habitat Multistate Grant Board working group will have an opportunity to re-engage this fall to provide some input to AFWA once their process is announced and input is solicited.

****Submission Deadline: 5:00pm Eastern Time on August 14th, 2020 ****

1. Project Title.

Expanding the community of support for Fish Habitat Partnership conservation efforts

2. Full Legal Name of Organization.

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board/Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

3. Organization Information.

Applicant Classification:

- 1) A State or a group of States,
- 2) A State instrumentality (such as a State university),
- 3) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to carry out the National Survey, or
- 4) Nonprofit
 - i. 501(c) status,
 - ii. Public or Private Institution of Higher Education.

4. Lead Applicant's Contact Information.

Ed Schriever, National Fish habitat Board Chair

5. Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigator(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable).

Ryan Roberts, National Fish Habitat Partnership Program Manager (AFWA)

Gary Whelan, MI DNR

Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators

6. Project Length.

1 year

7. Funding Requested. Total Amount for 2021 \$ 176,240.00

8. Funding Source. Funding Source. \$ SFR 100% **\$**
WR _____

9. Beneficiary Information. Please choose one of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:

- a. Project benefits all 50 states.
- b. Project benefits at least 26 states.
- c. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States in a [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region](#) that will benefit and list the States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
- d. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each of the Associations for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)).

10. The Strategic Priority Addressed – Please refer to 2021 Strategic Priorities (3C)

11. 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. If you accept these terms, please state “I agree with the above terms and conditions.”*

I agree with the above terms and conditions.

12. Summary Statement (200 words or less)

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is a state-led effort to conserve fish habitat through partnerships across the United States. Funding through this grant will significantly improve and expand elements of our collective work, including enhancing outreach efforts with the improvement/construction of websites for our Fish Habitat Partnerships for outreach. These websites will help Fish Habitat Partnerships showcase on-the-ground conservation projects to attract additional project partners and produce materials for events such as partner meetings, events, and trade shows. This grant would also support staffing for the National Fish Habitat Board to help support Board initiatives, including management of revising the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and development of work plans for the Board and associated committees of the Board, including; Communications, Science and Data, and Partnerships Committees. This grant will also help to provide Board management and support logistical planning of Board meetings, both in-person and virtual meetings for the Board. This grant will also focus on building in a new USGS national hydrology layer (Miller et al. 2018) on unimpaired conditions for the lower 48 states to include in the National Fish Habitat assessment database for use by all FHPs, which will be built into any future assessment work, addressing a key identified data gap in the National Fish Habitat Assessment. Building this new hydrology layer will be a useful tool for states in making decisions about aquatic conservation priorities and project planning. The National Fish Habitat Assessment database has been a valuable tool for partners including, Fish Habitat Partnerships and federal, state, and local government agencies, for informing conservation decisions for waterways across the U.S.

Title

Expanding the community of support for Fish Habitat Partnership conservation efforts

Problem Statement (350 words or less)

Funding for fish habitat restoration projects is woefully inadequate and is beyond the scope of any single agency/organization to address adequately. Government funding for these restoration efforts is unlikely to keep pace with the need. Consequently, public/private partnership development is key in successfully meeting the challenge of restoring aquatic habitats to ensure that the ecological function and economic benefits are secured. The ability to leverage partner funds to successfully complete strategically-prioritized habitat restoration efforts is critical for the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) to achieve its mission. NFHP Board visioning sessions and subsequent discussions have consistently identified challenges associated with developing and increasing the

organizational capacity of its 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) as a key limiting factor to partnership development. Stable funding for FHP operations is currently limited and minimal staff to assist in implementing strategic partnership development. Individual FHPs have identified factors limiting their partnership-development activities and those needs and related costs are presented herein. Additionally, the National Fish Habitat Assessment has acknowledged unfunded data gaps, in particular on hydrology and connectivity. These are key habitat processes where FHPs have indicated that information is needed to increase their effectiveness in conserving fish habitat. Supporting outreach initiatives has been and remains an overwhelming need for Fish Habitat Partnerships, as funding and capacity to support outreach efforts are limited due to most funding supporting FHPs needing to be provided for partnership management and operations.

Project Goals and Objectives (400 words or less)

NFHP's 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships are varied in scope and stage of development but have identified a common need to increase organizational capacity both to continue to build the community of individuals and organizations that care about fish habitat restoration and to develop new partners who may bring significant technical and financial resources to bear. Outreach strategies and priorities are varied by FHP but are a primary unmet need under the current level of operational funding. Conservation messages and delivery strategies need to be tailored to individual audiences to best inspire action. Effective delivery of these messages requires a multifaceted approach based on the specific needs of the individual FHPs and the targeted audience. Unlike state or federal agencies who have broad responsibilities for all fish and wildlife, FHPs can focus messaging specifically on fish and fish habitat conservation to target potential supporters and new partners. Conservation messages will be developed via:

- Redesigned websites which will expand and update content delivery and facilitate ease of site navigation by the public in order to showcase ongoing FHP habitat restoration efforts and needs and delivery of fish habitat conservation message.
- Development of trade show booth display material targeted to introduce new partners to NFHP and attract additional partners, including materials to promote the ability of FHPs to offer technical assistance to partners.
- Workshops to facilitate partner development.
- Expanded meeting facilitation funding to explore additional partnership opportunities.
- Development of visual media for use on social media to include films and videos that showcase NFHP and FHP conservation efforts and depict the social and economic value of these efforts.
- Printing of materials promoting Best Management practices for fish habitat conservation (living shoreline guidance) for lakefront home and landowners.

This grant will also be used to help support operations of the Board as well as management of National Fish Habitat multistate conservation grant applications. This grant will also be used to improve hydrology data in Board's National Fish Habitat Assessment Data System. This hydrology data will set the stage for future habitat protection and rehabilitation work by the Board, state and federal agencies, and individual FHPs.

Program Methods and Design (600 or less)

Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) within NFHP serve as the nexus between scientists, managers, outreach professionals and stakeholders in their regions. This role requires clear, compelling information that engages current partners, develops new and non-traditional partners and ultimately inspires all partners to champion fish habitat conservation that achieves partnership goals. Nationwide, FHPs serve vast and unique geographies, investing millions of dollars in funding to support projects related to fish habitat conservation. This broad-scale strategy has proven successful and is reinforced through national, state and regional collaboration among stakeholder groups facilitated through the individual FHP activities. However, FHPs face outreach and communication challenges, exacerbated by serving such large geographies with limited organizational and staffing capacity. Support through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program will bolster FHP coordination and activities by developing more targeted and focused outreach to help bring more awareness and understanding of the goals, objectives and accomplishments of FHP work.

Expanding outreach and increasing communication efforts are a critical need for all FHPs. This NFHP proposal will meet this challenge by:

- Expanded and improved communication through updated FHP websites
 - Branding of FHP websites more closely with the NFHP brand to promote the NFHP program and grow the partnerships
- A series of video productions highlighting FHP habitat restoration activities for use on social media
 - The creation of short videos or a series of videos highlighting FHP actions is a proven means of better communicating a compelling story of what partnerships do to a broader audience.
- Expanded partner development through:
 - Directed outreach materials;
 - Expanded presence at scientific and regional partner-sponsored events;
 - Hosting workshops to present habitat restoration Best Management Practices and expanding partnership opportunities; and
 - Providing Best Management Practices to residents and landowners in critical habitat areas
 - Partnerships will develop and initiate a broad scale education campaign to elevate key messages and reach underrepresented partners and members of the general public who many are not familiar with the fish habitat issues in their communities or the importance of local conservation activities. Materials and formats will include quarterly radio announcements, sound bite and short video format that highlight the importance of fish habitat, as well as project work of our partnerships. Other promotional materials would include 1- page handouts, banners, stickers etc.) that would be used by partnerships on their individual websites and engagement activities.

This grant will go to support science outreach and technical assistance for the National Fish Habitat Board Science and Data Committee, as well as the management of work plans for the committees of the National Fish Habitat Board.

Deliverables and Benefits (450 or less)

Through this grant proposal, individual FHPs will use their support network to develop and deliver more compelling, effective, and targeted outreach material. Strategies to accomplish this include:

WEBSITE:

MSCG support is requested to consolidate contracting for updating website design and functionality, improve and update branding and usability for partners and the public, and provide easier website back end management for FHP Coordinators to be able to manage their websites. This support will also enable improved project information sharing, searchable project maps, and the provision of science and other informational links with the public. Partnerships utilizing these new website services include the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

VIDEOGRAPHY:

FHP videos will be developed and shared widely and distributed locally, regionally, and nationally as well as on FHP websites and social media. FHPs requesting funding for video development include: Hawaii FHP, and the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative.

FHP OUTREACH MATERIALS:

FHPs need more targeted outreach materials that highlight the need for, and benefits received from fish habitat projects along with the strength of FHPs in leveraging conservation resources that no one partner can provide alone. Outreach materials that will be developed include: brochures, graphic and logo development, factsheets, and workshop and/or conference exhibit displays. Funding is also needed to coordinate workshops and information exchange opportunities. FHPs requesting funding for outreach materials and opportunities include: The Driftless Area Restoration Effort, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership; Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships (Kenai, Mat-Su Basin Southeast Alaska); and the California Fish Passage Forum.

Additionally, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) wishes to develop printed materials to educate non-traditional stakeholders about ACFHP on why fish habitat is important. The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership will also use this grant to print [Shoreline Living](#), which was developed through funding from a previous Multistate Grant. Printing of this book will

promote natural shorelines for healthy fish habitats, addressing a major conservation challenge on over 70,000 Midwest lakes.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HYDROLOGY DATA FOR NFHP:

Coding will be developed that will enable distilling the new USGS hydrology data into individual, reach-specific files within the NFHP Assessment Data System. Upon completion of the needed coding, USGS hydrology data will be integrated into the NFHP Assessment Data System for 3-10 selected watersheds/basins, selected in consultation with FHPs.

STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD:

This grant will support operations of the Board as well as management of National Fish Habitat multistate conservation grant applications. This grant will support in-person meetings of the National Fish Habitat Board as well as the management of Board initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation (250 or less)

All FHPs conduct short and long-term monitoring for projects that are implemented through this grant program. Reports on outcomes and specific deliverables from this grant will also be provided to the National Fish Habitat Board throughout the year and updates regarding the grant are provided to relevant AFWA committees. Outcomes and produced materials through funding from this grant will also be presented at national and regional meetings across the U.S. through our FHPs. The outcomes of projects are evaluated by the Partnerships Committee for relevance to the mission of the Action Plan and strategic plans of the partnerships, which include considerations for positive conservation impacts and climate adaptation.

Experience (200 or less)

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, which was revised in 2012 and is again being revised at this time. 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.

Since 2006, NFHP has supported over 1,000 projects benefiting fish habitat across all 50 states. NFHP 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 FHPs that were formed around specific species, geographic regions, or habitat types. NFHP has a proven long-term track record of producing conservation actions and is overseen a Board that has experienced high-level administrators from state, federal, and non-governmental organizations with 100s of years of combined management experience.

Certification Regarding Fishing/Hunting

All proposals must include a fishing/hunting certification as required by law (16 U.S.C. 669h-2 and 16 U.S.C. 777m). It is recommended that you use the following certification statement: “By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the (insert name of organization) (1) will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity 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 Grant Activity Overlap and Duplication

By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the (insert name of organization)

- There is **no overlap** between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated projects in terms of activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel.
- The proposal submitted for consideration under this program is **not duplicative** of a proposal that was or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source (Federal or non-Federal).

Budget

Indirect Cost: The best source to calculate Indirect Cost is 2CFR200. *The MSCGP program has traditionally asked applicants to voluntarily cap their overhead at 20% in order to make more funds available for programmatic activity. Please contact the Association if you any questions or concerns about this.*

The Indirect costs is calculated based on Modified Total Direct Cost for the MSCGP.

- Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000.
- MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of \$25,000 (See 2 CFR 200 for more details).

In order to charge indirect costs higher than 10%, a copy of your most recent Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) is required (at the Full Grant Proposal phase). If your organization never had a NICRA, you can charge 10% De Minimus on MTDC

Sample Budget Outline for Multistate Conservation Grant Proposals

PLEASE NOTE: This table represents the Association’s preferred budget format. However, applicants are not required to use it. If an applicant wishes to use it, they may modify it to meet their needs as long as they include the budget categories required by the Federal Forms.

Budget Breakdown:

Contract Budget:

Fish Habitat Partnership/AFWA	MSCG Request	P.F.*	Total Request
Pacific Marine and Estuarine FHP	\$8,642.00		\$8,642.00
Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP	\$12,000		\$12,000

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	\$7,500		\$7,500
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	\$10,000		\$10,000
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	\$7,000		\$7,000
Atlantic Coastal FHP	\$11,681		\$11,681
Pacific Lamprey Partnership	\$10,643.67		\$10,643.67
CA Fish Passage Forum	\$10,000		\$10,000
Alaska FHPs (Kenai Peninsula FHP, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southeast Alaska FHP)	\$25,000		\$25,000
Hawaii FHP	\$11,000		\$11,000
Total	\$113,466.67		\$113,466.67

2021 Proposed Budget

Salary	15,000.00
Benefits	3,100.00
Travel	13,000.00
Contract	113,466.67

Supplies	1,400.00
Other	900.00
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Total Direct	146,866.67
Indirect on Contracts	22,693.33
Indirect on Other	<u>6,680.00</u>
Grand Total	<u><u>176,240.00</u></u>

*** Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate** – If you have an agreement please attach a copy of the agreement

Qualifications of Key Personnel

(Limit - one paragraph per individual or if attaching resumes or CVs, maximum one page per individual)

Instructions: Succinctly describe the qualifications of key personnel working on the project. A one-paragraph summary per person is ideal.

Ed Schriever, Director Idaho Fish and Game, National Fish Habitat Board Chair

Ed Schriever was named Director in January 2019 serving as Fish and Game’s Deputy Director of Operations since 2015. Mr. Schriever was the Fisheries Bureau Chief from 2008 to 2015. He held various other positions within the agency, including Clearwater Regional Fisheries Manager, fish biologist and hatchery manager during his 35-year career with Fish and Game. Mr. Schriever was named NFHP Board Chair in October 2018.

Ryan Roberts, Communications Coordinator, National Fish Habitat Board

Ryan Roberts is the Communications Coordinator for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Mr. Roberts has 8 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 communication strategy for the partnership. Mr. Roberts’ contributions were key in the development and release of the Status of Fish Habitat Partnership 2010 Assessment and the 2nd Edition of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012).

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

Gary Whelan is one of the two co-chairs of the NFHP Board Science and Data Committee and has worked on NFHP since its inception. Mr. Whelan is a Program Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division where he manages the Research Section, Fish Health Program, and parts of a Habitat Management Unit. His fisheries career has spanned over 35 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>

Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators are fisheries professionals that vary in their professional background, but all are experienced in fisheries science in addition to partnership development.

Strategic Priority	Organization	Application Title	WR	SFR	R3	FGP Request
1/B Conservation & Science - Climate	American Fisheries Society	Communicating the effects of climate change on fish and fisheries		\$111,870.00		\$111,870.00
1/C Conservation & Science - Wildlife Disease	Cornell University	Surveillance Optimization Project for Chronic Wasting Disease Dashboard: A Web Application for Disease Visualization and Data-Driven Decisions	\$244,946.00			\$244,946.00
1/C Conservation & Science - Wildlife Disease	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources	Online Platform for Chronic Wasting Disease Data Sharing Management in North America	\$225,000.00			\$225,000.00
1/D Conservation & Science - Data	American Fisheries Society	Fisheries Gray Literature Database State Agency Expansion and Support		\$105,191.00		\$105,191.00
1/D Conservation & Science - Data	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program	Coordination Component for the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation	\$132,777.50	\$132,777.50		\$265,555.00
1/F Conservation & Science - Human Dimension and Social Science	University of Georgia Research Foundation	Preventing the spread of rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHDV2) in the United States by engaging key stakeholders in collaborative management solutions	\$149,797.00			\$149,797.00
2/A Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation - Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement	Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Wildlife Viewer Survey: Enhancing Relevancy and Engaging Support from a Broader Constituency	\$65,300.00	\$65,300.00		\$130,600.00
2/A Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation - Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement	Wildlife Management Institute	An Agency Path Forward: Designing Effective Engagement and Building Capacity for Relevancy	\$149,721.50	\$149,721.50		\$299,443.00
2/A Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation - Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement	Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (SAF)	Making Us More Relevant – State-Level Economic Impacts of Hunting and Target Shooting	\$100,308.00			\$100,308.00
2/A Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation - Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement	Wildlife Management Institute	Ensuring the viability of the American System of Conservation Funding: Improving the understanding of excise-tax based funding for conservation.	\$85,932.50	\$85,932.50		\$171,865.00
3/A Coordination, Capacity Building & FWA Support - Leadership Development	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Management Assistance Team (MAT) and the National Conservation Institute	\$277,638.69	\$277,638.69		\$555,277.37
3/B Coordination, Capacity Building & FWA Support -Conservation Education	Instream Flow Council Inc.	Instream Flow and Water Level Conservation Training and Research Center		\$119,325.00		\$119,325.00
3/B Coordination, Capacity Building & FWA Support -Conservation Education	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Maintaining Relevancy of the AFWA North American Trapper Education Program for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00
3/C Coordination, Capacity Building & FWA Support - Coordination of International, National & Regional Conservation Efforts & Policies	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Coordination of Farm Bill Program Implementation to Optimize On-the-Ground Fish and Wildlife Benefits to the States	\$84,819.60	\$56,546.40		\$141,366.00



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
 October 21-22, 2020
 Tab 7

3/C Coordination, Capacity Building & FWA Support - Coordination of International, National & Regional Conservation Efforts & Policies	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Coordination of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Authority to Manage Wildlife Resources in Concert with Federal Actions Required by International Treaties, Conventions, Partnerships, and Initiatives.	\$64,800.00	\$64,800.00		\$129,600.00
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Title: Communications Committee Update

Desired outcome: Inform the Board on the latest communications activities of NFHP including updates on a new partnership with Wildlife Forever, Bass Pro Shops small grants program, and the American Fisheries Society's Stan A. Moberly Award.

Proposal/Request for the Board: We have committed \$1,000 to support the Wildlife Forever State-Fish-Art National Fish Habitat Award for 2021, however we would like to provide a commitment to State-Fish-Art for the next three to five years. If any Board member or their organization would be interested in supporting NFHP's involvement in State Fish Art, we would like to know. Please visit, <https://www.wildlifeforever.org/home/state-fish-art/award-categories/fish-habitat-award/> for more information on the National Fish Habitat Award.

Background:

Wildlife Forever State-Fish-Art Program (National Fish Habitat Award):

In August, the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Wildlife Forever formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the National Fish Habitat Partnership to sponsor and support a national award for creative writing. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award winners in four age categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

The contest was inspired in 1997 by a 5th grader's homework assignment. She discovered there was little information on all the different state-fish in the U.S. The annual international contest has been around for over 20 years educating kids, teachers and parents on aquatic resources, conservation and fish. Participate today and incorporate STEAM education into your learning.

The State-Fish Art Contest is open to all youth in grades K-12 (Ages 5-18). To compete Participants will submit an entry consisting of a completed entry form, an original illustration of a fish from the Official Fish List and a one-page creative writing submission (required for grades 4-12). The 2021 contest deadline is March 31st, 2021.

The Western Native Trout Initiative has also worked with Wildlife Forever to support a Western Native Trout Award that to celebrate the diversity and raise awareness of the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring native trout and char species in the western United States.

Bass Pro Shops Small Grants Update:

Two of the Bass Pro Small Grant MOA contracts have been signed as of September 2020. Once we have all of the contracts signed, NFHP will be issuing a press release to promote the following projects.

Gilbert Creek Trout Habitat Improvement Project, WI (\$15,000)

Scope of Project: Conduct 3,000 feet of stream trout habitat improvement on Gilbert Creek in Dunn County, Wisconsin. The expected outcomes of this project include: a reduction in streambank erosion and resulting sedimentation within the stream, an increase in amount of instream habitat available to brook and brown trout, increase in adult trout abundance and survival, increase in trout reproduction, increase in habitat available to other aquatic and terrestrial species, increased angler access, and to improve fishability of the stream within the project site.

Elephant Butte Reservoir, NM (\$15,000)

Scope of Project: Elephant Butte, is an old irrigation reservoir on the Rio Grande River, one of the top ten endangered rivers in the world. The primary purpose of the reservoir is to retain and release water for agricultural and municipal uses. As a result, irrigation releases managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) cause annual lake level fluctuations on the range of 30 vertical feet, destroying all terrestrial vegetation, eroding soils and preventing establishment of aquatic vegetation. The lake has essentially no fish habitat structure except rock outcrops below a lake elevation of 4,350 feet (USBR Datum). A project is needed to install artificial habitat and to restore shoreline and aquatic vegetation. The primary fish habitat impairments are extreme water fluctuations, excessive nutrients, siltation/turbidity, extremely limited littoral structure and shoreline erosion. Bureau of Reclamation plans to address the impairments that are outlined in the 2003 Resource Management Plan. This project proposal supports and substantially implements that plan https://www.usbr.gov/uc/library/envdocs/pdfs/eb_cab_rmp.pdf.

Managing/restoring reservoir fisheries habitat in the desert southwest is challenging given the ever-increasing demands on water for municipal water supply and irrigation. Recent wildfires have dramatically increased sedimentation rates. Fluctuating water levels (~30 feet annually) render “traditional” reservoir habitat restoration, i.e., littoral woody structure augmentation, native vegetation restoration, shoreline-stabilization, efforts marginally effective. Innovative practices must be developed, evaluated and implemented to accomplish aquatic habitat restoration objectives.

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership funded two projects previously on Elephant Butte (FY 2014 and FY2018). Elephant Butte was named as one of the National Fish Habitat Partnership’s (NFHP’s) Waters to Watch in 2019. The Elephant Butte Adapt-a-Cove objective is to facilitate partnerships among state and federal agencies and volunteer organizations to improve littoral fish habitat.

South Fork Toutle-Bear and Little Cow Creek Restoration (\$12,000)

Scope of Project: In coordination with the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group is submitting this project proposal to the National Fish Habitat Partnership - Beyond the Pond Small Grants Program to complement our ongoing salmonid habitat restoration work in the South Fork Toutle River watershed in Washington State.

The project title is South Fork Toutle-Bear and Little Cow Creek Restoration. We are requesting \$12,000 to help us purchase large wood to improve habitat complexity and floodplain roughness at these project sites.

The Daily News Article: <https://bit.ly/2FUTdX4>

Jeff Boxrucker receives 2020 Stan A. Moberly award from the American Fisheries Society

The 2020 Stan A Moberly award was presented to Jeff Boxrucker, Coordinator for the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership. The award ceremony was held virtually on September 21st, as part of the American Fisheries Society virtual Annual Conference. A video of Jeff's acceptance speech has been uploaded to the NFHP YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/eRxMrjQuh08>

The Stan A. Moberly Award is sponsored by The National Fish Habitat Partnership, The American Fisheries Society, and NOAA Fisheries.

Bio for Jeff Boxrucker:

Jeff earned BS and MS degrees in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1977 he began his illustrious career with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation as a fisheries technician at the Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory. He was soon promoted to fisheries biologist and in 2000 became the senior biologist at the OFRL. During his career with



Jeff Boxrucker accepting award from Tom Lang (TPWD) at Lake Texoma.

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Jeff coordinated the habitat enhancement projects on Lake Thunderbird for many years (brush piles, rock reefs, artificial structures). He also helped with early efforts in native aquatic plant introductions. For much of his career Jeff was involved in research directed toward more effective management of impounded waters. To that end he authored or coauthored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and gave numerous presentations before professional and lay groups.

In 2007 he became Assistant Chief of fisheries for the Department. As Assistant Chief, he supervised regional staff who implemented habitat projects across Oklahoma. He also served as the agency liaison to the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Jeff was active in the development of the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership. He served on the

Science and Data Subcommittee that provided key information for the development of organizational strategies. He retired in 2010 after 33 years of distinguished service.

Since 2010, Jeff has been in a national leadership role as the coordinator for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP). Jeff's leadership has resulted in one of the most robust

partnerships in the National Fish Habitat Partnership system. The RFHP is the only partnership that encompasses the entire nation. Now in its eleventh year under Jeff's leadership, the Friends of Reservoirs effort has grown to 125 Chapters and Group members in 30 states. Further, Jeff guided the efforts of the Science and Data Committee to develop a national assessment of reservoir habitat impairments. The assessment serves to aid partners in determining how to be strategic in their approach to habitat restoration efforts. Jeff shepherded a partnership with Mississippi State University to produce a Best Management Practices (BMP) text entitled "Reservoir Habitat Management". The BMP manual is intended to be used as a teaching aid and as a source of the best science available for use in reservoir habitat restoration efforts.

Jeff is widely viewed as a leader within the fisheries profession in part because of his dedicated leadership service in the American Fisheries Society. He has served as President at the Chapter, Division, and Section levels and served on the Governing Board and Management Committee.

One of Jeff's greatest contribution to the fisheries profession is his mentoring of students and young professionals. In his career at ODWC he supervised the graduate research of nine MS students and provided them a valuable role model of a fisheries professional. Likewise, he supervised many technicians and biologists who benefitted from his scientific knowledge and insights, as well as his professionalism. Within all levels of AFS Jeff has positively influenced the lives and careers of students and young professionals through formal presentations and informal, individual discussions for which he is seemingly always available. Jeff has always emphasized to young professionals the importance of habitat in fisheries management, especially in the face of aging man-made lakes. Jeff's outstanding efforts for fish habitat restoration and conservation will undoubtedly pay dividends for generations.

Jeff's coordination of the RFHP has resulted just over \$800,000 in project funding through NFHP. Those funds were used to partially fund 42 projects in 19 states. Partners provided over \$6.25 million toward those projects which amounted to over \$7 in partner funds for every \$1 in NFHP funds.

In summary Jeff Boxrucker is deserving of the award both by virtue of his career long impact that has greatly advanced fish habitat management and by virtue of his influence on future fisheries managers through his mentoring and his professionalism.