National Fish Habitat *Action Plan*

NATIONAL
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April 24, 2006

The United States is blessed with a remarkable abundance and diversity of waterways and fisheries. Their health is vital to our well-being as individuals and as a nation. Unfortunately, our collective efforts to conserve aquatic habitats have not kept pace with their decline. Without prompt and effective conservation action, our waters will continue to suffer, as will the opportunities they provide.

Galvanized into action by the threat of aquatic habitat losses, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The plan's principal aim is to better protect, restore and enhance fish habitat through partnerships that foster conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

The plan encompasses all of the nation's waters that provide fish habitat. It is science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory and offers a carefully wrought nationwide strategy

Cover photo: Mountain Visions.

JOHN NAUGHTON/NOAA

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JOHN AND KAREN HOLLINGSWORTH/USFWS

Exhibit 1: Sample of Partners Coalition Members

*as of April 2006***

FEDERAL/TRIBAL

American Heritage Rivers Initiative*

Coastal America*

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Council on Environmental Quality

Department of Agriculture
- *Farm Service Agency**
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- *U.S. Forest Service**

Department of Defense*

Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Department of the Interior
- *Bureau of Land Management**
- *Bureau of Reclamation**
- *National Park Service**
- *Office of Surface Mining**
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- *U.S. Geological Survey**

Department of State

Department of Transportation
- *Federal Highway Administration**

Environmental Protection Agency*

Federal Emergency Management Agency*

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish & Water Comm.

Lac Courte Oreilles Fisheries

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*
- *National Marine Fisheries Service*

National Science Foundation*

Nisqually Tribe

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fisheries

U.S Army Corps of Engineers*

INTERSTATE/STATE/CITY/UNIVERSITY

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services

Allegany Soil Conservation District

Arizona Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

California Resources Agency

California State University

Central Valley Project

Chelan County Public Utility District (WA)

Chickaloon Village, Alaska

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Cornell University

Delaware Department of Natural Resources

District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration

Elkhart, Indiana, City of

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation (PA)

Grant County Public Utilities District (WA)

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Holyoke Gas & Electric Department (MA)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Natural History Survey

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

International Boundary & Water Commission, US Section

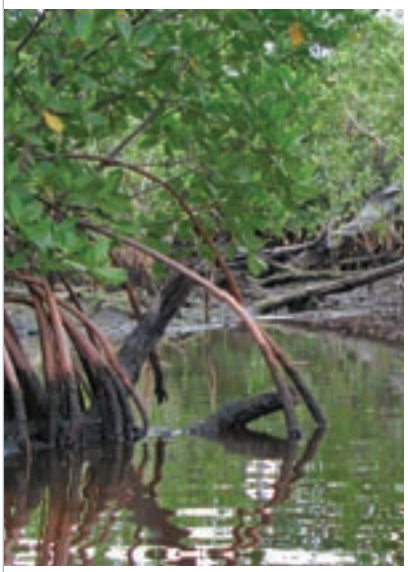
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Lake Champlain Basin Program



NOAA

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Louisiana Sea Grant College Program

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Maryland Deptartment of Natural Resources

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (CO)

Michigan Deptartment of Environmental Quality

Michigan State University

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

NOAA

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Mississippi Interstate Resource Association

Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit

Missouri Department of Conservation

Mono County (CA)

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Montgomery County, Maryland

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Nevada Department of Wildlife

New England Fishery Management Council

New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

North Central Educational Service District (WA)

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Northwest Indian College

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon State University

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Penn State University

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Plattsburgh State University

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

South Burlington High School, VT

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

South Dakota Deptartment of Game, Fish and Parks

St. Croix International Waterway Commission

State University of New York

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Tehama County Resource Conservation District (WA)

Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Texas Wildlife Deptartment

Trinity Management Council (CA)

University of Georgia

University of Houston Clear Lake

University of Kentucky

University of Maine

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

University of Massachusetts

University of Minnesota

University of Rhode Island

University of Southern Mississippi

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Virginia Tech
Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wyoming Game & Fish Department

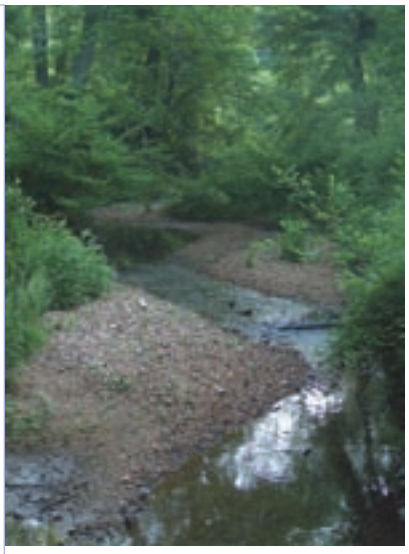
PRIVATE

Adams County Trout Unlimited
Alabama B.A.S.S. Federation
Allegany Soil Conservation District
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
American Fisheries Society
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Land Conservancy
American Rivers
American Sportfishing Association
Anglers Unlimited
Ann Lake Sportsman's Club
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society
B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Inc.
B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Washington
Bass Pro Shops
Bass Federation Nation of Washington
The Bay Institute
Beaver Creek Watershed Association (MD)
Blackhawk Bassmasters
Blue Hill Hydraulics Incorporated
BOAT/U.S.
Botanical Developments
Brightwood Improvement Group
Buckeye Angler Multimedia
Bucks County Chapter of Trout Unlimited
California BASS Federation
California Trout
Canaan Valley Institute
Catoctin Land Trust
CH2M HILL Inc.
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clark-Skamania Flyfishers
Coastal Conservation Association
Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program
Collegiate Bass Anglers Association
Colorado Bass Federation Nation
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Common Ground for Conservation Inc.
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Conservation Fisheries Inc.
The Conservation Fund
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Crappie Unlimited
Dauphin Wildlife Rescue
Denver Trout Unlimited
Desert Fishes Council
Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Eastern Buckeye Crappie Club
Ecosystem Solutions Inc.
ENSR
Federation of Fly Fishers
Federation of Fly Fishers, Mid-Atlantic Council
Fish America Foundation
Fisheries Forever
FoodSource Lure Corporation
Friends of Big Hunting Creek
Friends of the Rappahannock
Friends of the River
Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services
Front Range Anglers
G.Loomis Inc.
Garcia and Associates
Georgia Power Company
God's Green Earth
Gomez and Sullivan
Granite Ecological Services
Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
HandMade in America
Hatchmatcher Guide Service
HDR/LMS Engineering
Hoh River Trust
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Horizons Engineering

MOUNTAIN VISIONS

Hudson River Foundation
Icicle Creek Watershed Council
Idaho BASS Federation
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
Idaho Power Company
Idaho Rivers United
Idaho Salmon and Steelhead United
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance
Indianapolis Flycasters
Inland Aquaculture Group LLC
International Paper
Iowa BASS Federation
Iowa Conservation Alliance
Izaak Walton League of America
James River Association
Jersey Shore Trout Unlimited
Kansas Bass Chapter Federation
Kaplan Associates
Katmai Fishing Adventures LLC
Kenai River Sportfishing
Kimley-Horn
Kinzua Fish & Wildlife Association
Knik River Watershed Group
Kooskooskie Commons (WA)
Lake Champlain Walleye Association
Lake Gaston Striper Club
Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Partnership
Land Trust Alliance
Loftus Associates
Luhr Jensen
Little Juniata River Association
Long Live The Kings
Louisiana B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center
Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Maine Pulp & Paper Association
Maine Wood Products Association
Management Systems International
Marine Fish Conservation Network
Maryland Saltwater Sportfisherman's Association
Maryland Waterman's Association
Michigan Natural Features Inventory
Mid-Atlantic Council-Federation of Fly Fishers
Minnesota B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation
Mississippi B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Missouri Smallmouth Alliance
Moldy Chum
Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance
Montana B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Montana Council of Trout Unlimited
Montana Watershed Coordination Council
Muskies Inc.
National Aquarium in Baltimore
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Audubon Society
National Energy & Gas Transmission Inc.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Native American Fish & Wildlife Society
Native Fish Conservancy
Native Fish Society
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy-
Eastern U.S. Freshwater Program
The Nature Conservancy in Alaska
The Nature Conservancy of Montana
NatureServe
NEIWPCC
New Hampshire Bass Federation
Nooksak Salmon Enhancement Association
Normandeau Associates Inc.

Northeast Generation Services
Northeast Utilities
Northeast-Midwest Institute
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
North American Lake Management Society
Northwest Marine Technology Inc.
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited
The O'Neal School
O.N.E.W.I.L.D.W.O.R.L.D.
The Orvis Company
Outdoor Heritage Education Center
Outdoor Specialty Products
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Pacific Rivers Council
The Pantagraph
Patagonia
Pennsylvania Bass Federation
Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education
Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters
Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited
Pheasants Forever Inc.
Pizzo & Associates Ltd.
Potomac Fly Fishers
PPL Corporation
Professional Anglers Association
Pure Fishing
Pyramid Lake Fisheries (NV)
QEA LLC
Quail Unlimited
REC Components
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
Restore America's Estuaries
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Sacramento River Discovery Center
Samuel Tisdale Society
Shenandoah Valley Pure Water Forum
Sierra Club
Silver Steep Partners
Simms Fishing Products
Smith River Advisory Council
South Burlington High School, Vermont
South Dakota Bass Federation
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Southeast Watershed Forum
Southern Company
Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition
Southwest Walleye Anglers of Arizona
Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Steward and Associates
Streamside Systems Inc.
St. Croix Rods
Texas B.A.S.S. Federation
Texas Black Bass Unlimited
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
ThorpeWood
Trout Unlimited
Trout Unlimited, Arizona Chapter
Trout Unlimited-Forks of the Delaware Chapter 482
Trout Unlimited-Long Island Chapter 069
Truckee Tahoe Trout Fund
Trust for Public Land
Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance
Utah BASS Federation
Utah Council of Trout Unlimited
Washington Trout
Waterbody Builders
WDawsons Inc.
West Virginia B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Western Maryland RC&D
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Wild Fish Habitat Initiative
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wolftree Inc.
World Wildlife Fund



M. WEIMER/USFWS

*Member agencies of the Federal Caucus

**Partners list as of April 4, 2006. This list provides an illustration of the variety of partners who pledge their interest and energy to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This list is anticipated to grow into a large and diverse conservation coalition.

Exhibit 2: National Fish Habitat Action Plan Milestones

The National Fish Habitat Initiative, which preceded the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, began in 2001 when an ad hoc group, initially led by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, explored the concept of developing a partnership effort for fish habitat on the scale of what was done for waterfowl in the 1980s through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Since its creation in 1986, the waterfowl plan successfully has forged partnerships and invested more than $3.2 billion to protect, restore and enhance more than 13.1 million acres of waterfowl habitat.

MARK LISAC/USFWS

By 2004, after a series of meetings around the country, fisheries professionals and stakeholders were discussing a partnership-driven, non-regulatory, science-based, landscape-scale fish habitat conservation effort. Hundreds of individuals from the fisheries management community, conservation organizations and angling groups attended regional meetings and unanimously supported action. Subsequently, momentum for developing a National Fish Habitat Action Plan surged. Milestones include:

- The Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership begins work on developing comprehensive habitat plans in 2001. Regional fish partnerships such as the White River Fisheries Partnership and Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture also begin to emerge at this time.
- In 2004, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (then the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) votes to take the lead role in the initiative and applies for a multistate conservation grant to develop and begin implementation of the plan.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private partners, such as Bass Pro Shops, pledge funds and align grant-making in support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan to ensure that the plan's conservation priorities and innovative approaches result in on-the-ground actions.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service convenes a Federal Caucus comprised of major federal agencies to coordinate federal efforts to develop and implement the plan.
- Beginning in 2004, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council works with a variety of industry, conservation and agricultural groups to expand a partnership coalition dedicated to helping develop and ensure the success of the plan.

- A website, www.fishhabitat.org, provides a communication link between plan working groups and a growing list of partners and stakeholders, which currently numbers more than 250 organizations.
- In 2005, the United States Geological Survey provides $100,000 to fund fish habitat data collection efforts at the IAFWA.
- In 2005, five Multistate Conservation Grants are awarded to fund about $1.8 million for on-the-ground projects and continue development of the plan.
- In 2005, IAFWA initiates the National Fish Habitat Initiative Project with multistate grant funds. The National Fish Habitat Initiative Core Work Group and supporting teams are created and charged with leading development of an action plan by March 2006.
- Congress appropriates $1 million in FY 2006 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for five recognized pilot partnerships to implement fish habitat initiative projects and to further develop the plan. The five recognized pilot fish habitat partnerships are: Southeast Aquatic Resources Plan, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Western Native Trout Initiative, Midwest Driftless Area Restoration Effort, and Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership.
- The Bush Administration requests $3 million for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in the President's formal budget proposal to Congress for Fiscal Year 2007 to support fish habitat partnerships envisioned under the plan.
- Plan approved for implementation by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on March 24, 2006.
- Plan endorsed by the secretaries of Commerce and Interior along with Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies leadership on April 24, 2006.

DAVE WITTING

Exhibit 3: Science & Data Strategy

The science and data strategy is built on four associated activities conducted cooperatively with partners:

1. Identify causative factors for declining fish populations in aquatic systems.
2. Utilize an integrated landscape approach that includes the upstream/downstream linkages of large-scale habitat condition factors.
3. Assess and classify the nation's fish habitats.
4. Provide partners easy access to science and data information.

The plan will assist all partners in understanding the causative factors behind the decline in fish and aquatic resources in both freshwater and marine systems. It will work with partners to focus on process-level issues and work to reverse the decline in fisheries and aquatic resources by directly addressing controlling factors. The key larger-scale causative agents that will be included are:

- Connectivity of habitats that can be thought of as whether fish can reach all of the habitats they need to complete their life cycle and maximize their production.
- Hydrologic alteration that refers to how the annual and daily flow cycles that many aquatic organisms key in on and need to maximize production have been changed by our actions.
- Direct habitat alteration that examines the amount of aquatic habitat that has been physically changed on a large scale by our actions.
- Riparian zone alteration that is the amount of land adjacent to our waters no longer intact or in a natural state[3].
- Water quality alteration that is the change in key water quality parameters from system norms that result in reduced aquatic productivity. These are all process-level factors that are the underpinning of most of the fisheries and habitat problems we see today but are and have been unable to address by just treating local habitat conditions.

The plan will use an integrated landscape approach that will allow appropriate linkages to occur between upland and marine systems. Thus, what happens upstream in connected systems will affect downstream systems to the sea. To facilitate this approach, a map-based interactive data system will be built using web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) technology so any partner can see what the current status of their local waters is, what is impairing their local waters, possible approaches to improve their waters, who has similar restoration approaches so they can learn from them, and to learn how their waters are changing in response to activities of the plan.

To properly determine the condition of the nation's waters, all waters will be classified into similar groups based on published landscape classification systems from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Aquatic GAP Programs for upland systems and from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, TNC and NatureServe for

[3] The riparian zone protects aquatic systems from many impairments and when altered often result in lower fish and aquatic production.

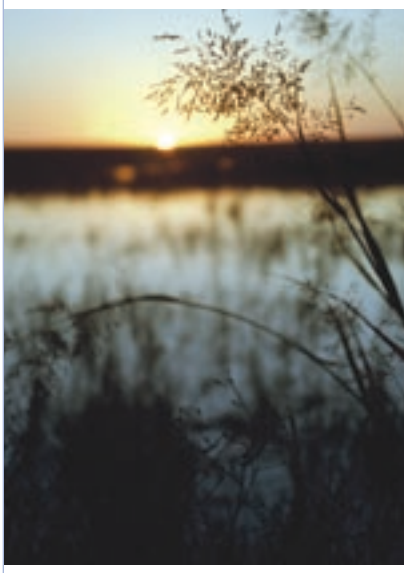
marine systems. All waters will be assessed with respect to their habitat condition using a suite of factors that address the process-level factors described above along with some of the biotic indicators of ecosystem stress. Waters within a particular group will be compared on a 100-point scale with the best possible score in their classified group and to the best current waters in their group so all waters have a target for our partners to achieve. All of the factors will have direct linkages to rehabilitation measures so improvements from plan project activities should change the score of the system.

This method will allow for:

- The direct and rapid assessment of the condition of the nation's waters.
- The evaluation of plan project success using a standardized approach.
- The ability to compare and learn from activities of others on similar systems within their classified group.
- The ability to integrate data from all levels into one information system. The plan will provide a mechanism to classify all waters and grade all waters with respect to their condition, insights into how to change the trajectory of their scores, provide options to address key factors, and provide methods and mechanisms to properly evaluate their projects along with summing these evaluations nationally as a scoring of the effectiveness of the plan as a whole.

One key component of the plan's data system will be to provide our partners ready access to existing conservation and habitat priorities. Information on existing priorities can help guide partners in designing projects. Examples are found in the State Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plans, State Fisheries Management Plans, Marine Fisheries Council Plans, Watershed Assessments and TNC Conservation Plans, to name a few. Much of this information is currently unavailable to our partners, thus integrating these priorities into a GIS system will allow partners access to this information along with their source materials. Plan partners can then consider existing priorities as they design their partnership action plans and associated projects, which will increase the timeliness and effectiveness of their efforts.

Ensuring successful implementation of the plan's science and data system will require a detailed structural system design and computer system requirements. The data system is currently being designed to integrate distributed information and data systems into a single accessible gateway of National Fish Habitat Action Plan information, such as the state of fish habitat report, tracking of individual plan projects, access to conservation priorities and information about current habitat restoration projects.



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DAVE CROSS

Exhibit 4: Strategies & Resources of Federal Agencies

BACKGROUND

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan addresses cooperative conservation of the nation's fish and aquatic communities and the habitat that supports them. Many federal agencies have direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation. These agencies have diverse missions and stakeholders. Conservation is not a primary goal of all agencies with a role in the plan; however, the benefits of effective conservation contribute to the needs of each agency and the American public they serve.

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Coordination among agencies to achieve common goals is a challenging task. To facilitate interactions among federal agencies and with other partners, the Federal Caucus was created to:

- Provide a mechanism through which federal partners can jointly identify strategies and resources to support the plan.
- Ensure that the plan provides benefits to all agencies involved.
- Provide communication links among federal agencies cooperating under the plan.
- Serve as a conduit for information flow between federal partners, the National Fish Habitat Board, and other partners implementing the plan.

The Federal Caucus also provided a means for federal partners to offer input to the Core Work Group as the plan was drafted.

FEDERAL CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP

Since its inception, interest among Federal Caucus agencies in the plan has been high. Agencies have contributed ideas for making aquatic habitat conservation more effective, and some have committed on-the-ground resources. The following agencies have participated, and others may join the caucus as it develops.

American Heritage Rivers Initiative
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Coastal America
Department of Defense
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Environmental Protection Agency
Farm Service Agency
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Highway Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
National Science Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Office of Surface Mining
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (chair)
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Forest Service

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES

Federal Caucus participants will continue to jointly identify opportunities to contribute to the goals of the plan. Table 1 identifies strategies and resources that agencies may commit. These do not necessarily represent new strategies or commitment of resources. Agency actions may already be contributing to aquatic habitat conservation; however, the Federal Caucus will seek ways to share common strategies and resources for maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Contributions have been divided into several categories, listed below with examples.

Funding (Actual / Encourage Leveraging): An agency's ability to provide financial support to projects that contribute to meeting the goals of the plan. It also includes an agency's ability to provide funds to partners that are matched or leveraged. Under leveraging, stakeholders agree to match a percentage of funds received, either in direct financial resources or in-kind services.

- Example: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was appropriated $1 million in FY06 to conduct and support activities under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The funding will help establish the National Fish Habitat Board and conduct on-the-ground activities through Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Example: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center has existing programs that fund fish habitat projects, and these programs can be expected to fund projects under the identified by Fish Habitat Partnerships.

DAVE CROSS

Table 1: Strategies and Resources Contributed by Federal Agencies to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Agency	Funding (Actual/ Encourage leveraging)	Data-sharing/ data base development	Education	Encourage local participation/ Identify partners (non-federal)	Monitoring of pilot projects/ In-situ help	Committee participation (in addition to Federal Caucus)	Incorporate into internal strategic planning	Technical expertise	Conduct projects on federal lands
American Heritage Rivers Initiative	■		■	■				■	
Bureau of Land Management	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■
Coastal America	■		■	■					
Department of Defense	■	■			■	■		■	■
Department of Housing and Urban Development			■	■					
Environmental Protection Agency	■	■		■				■	
Farm Service Agency				■				■	
Federal Emergency Management Agency		■	■	■					
Federal Highway Administration	■		■	■				■	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
National Park Service		■	■	■	■			■	■
National Science Foundation		■		■	■	■		■	
Office of Surface Mining	■		■	■	■			■	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	■	■		■				■	
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation				■	■			■	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
U.S. Forest Service	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
U.S. Geological Survey	■	■		■		■		■	
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	■		■	■	■		■	■	

Data Sharing / Data Base Development: Agencies agree to share data they collect, where applicable and appropriate, relevant to assessing habitat conditions and outcomes of projects. Such data may be linked or combined in an integrated data base. Agencies may also contribute information technology expertise to build or integrate data bases.

- Example: The U.S. Geological Survey is a leader in the effort to establish a unified national data base for aquatic habitat conservation.
- The Environmental Protection Agency maintains a number of data bases related to water quality, a key component of aquatic habitat health.

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Education: Agencies will contribute to the development of materials for students, stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat and the plan. Materials may include classroom lesson plans, presentations, websites, and other instructional items.

- Example: NOAA publishes numerous outreach and education documents about the importance of fish and aquatic habitats.
- Example: Coastal America will encourage Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers to share the plan message and themes.

Encourage local participation / Identify partners (non-federal): Federal agencies will help identify partners who can bring ideas and capabilities to implementing the plan and encourage them to become active in its implementation.

- Example: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified contacts in the agricultural community who could become valuable partners in implementing the plan.
- Example: The Federal Highway Administration will help state departments of transportation protect aquatic habitat through technical information and assistance.

Monitoring of pilot projects / *in-situ* help: Federal agencies with field capabilities will consider participating in on-the-ground monitoring and evaluation of Fish Habitat Partnership projects.

- Example: U.S. Forest Service has provided leadership and staff for the range-wide assessment of brook trout and is working on field projects in support of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

Committee participation: Federal agency staff agrees to serve on other plan teams in addition to the Federal Caucus.

- Example: The U.S. Geological Survey chairs the Data Team, which has been critical in identifying opportunities to integrate data bases to assist with implementation of the plan.

Incorporate into strategic planning: Federal agencies will consider incorporating the goals and objectives of the plan, not necessarily by name, into their strategic plans.

- Example: The National Fish Habitat Action Plan arose, in part, as one means through which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can address aquatic habitat conservation and management in its strategic plan.
- Example: The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is reflected in the Strategic Plan of the NOAA Fisheries Service.

Technical expertise: Federal agencies consider committing staff resources to developing processes to effectively implement the plan. Such activities include, but are not limited to, working with project partners to identify best management practices and techniques for aquatic habitat conservation, conducting research needed to reach plan goals, and analyzing data to evaluate project success.

- Example: The Office of Surface Mining will contribute its knowledge to developing projects with partners to effectively address acid mine drainage.
- Example: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will contribute its design and construction expertise to rebuilding aquatic habitats.

Conduct projects on federal lands: To the extent possible, federal agencies will support projects conducted under the Fish Habitat Partnerships that need to be carried out on federally administered lands.

- Example: The Bureau of Land Management's 264 million-acre land base includes a considerable amount of impaired fish habitat. The agency will work with plan partners to implement fish habitat restoration projects on its lands.

Click here to view the National Fish Habitat Plan Leadership Structure

Exhibit 5: National Fish Habitat Action Plan Leadership, Support & Report Authorship

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

John Baughman, **Executive Vice President**, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

John Cooper, **President**, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/Secretary, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department

Dale Hall, **Director**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bill Hogarth, **Assistant Administrator**, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service

CORE WORK GROUP

Doug Austen, **Chair**, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Douglas Beard, U.S. Geological Survey

Don Bonneau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Tom Busiahn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Christopher Estes, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Core Group National Coordinator)

Jim Martin, Pure Fishing

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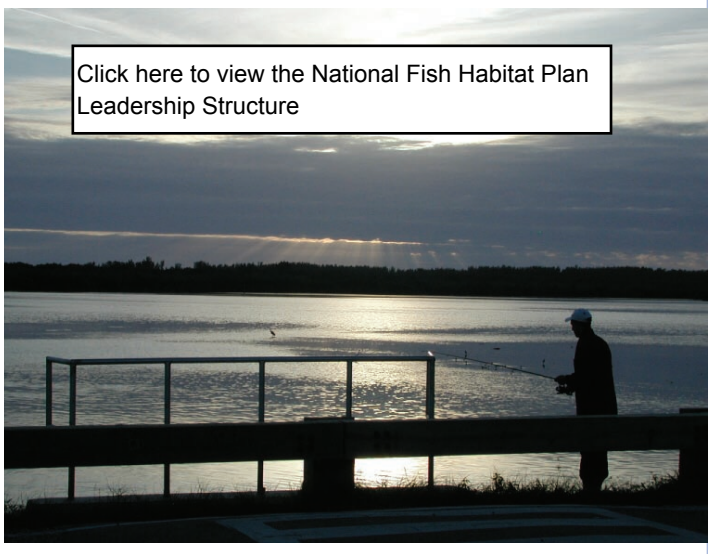

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April 24, 2006