

ACFHP Partnership MOU

Proposed Application & Criteria

Proposed by:

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Criteria to be a signatory an organization must:

- ◆ Work in a watershed within the ACFHP boundary.
- ◆ Meet at least ONE Partnership goal or objective.
- ◆ Meet ALL of the Commitments of the parties to the MOU.

*To be addressed by an organization requesting
to become an ACFHP Partner*

- ◆ In what region(s) or watershed(s) does your organization work? Please describe.
- ◆ Why do you want to be an ACFHP Partner?
- ◆ How will ACFHP benefit your organization?
- ◆ How do your organizations goals & objectives align with those of ACFHP? (Provide copies of Strategic Plan and Mission Statement)
- ◆ Describe how your organization will meet the commitments of the MOU partners. (See handout for details)

Discussion points from our conference call for future consideration:

- ◆ Maximum number of partners
- ◆ Minimum "size" of a MOU partner (geographic area)
- ◆ Ask for a commitment to be active?
- ◆ Remove non-active partners?
- ◆ Ask candidate partner to assist in implementing ACFHP goals?
- ◆ Designation for "in between" organizations (e.g. not a project or MOU partner)

Action

- ◆ We can APPROVE the criteria as outlined in the Briefing Book

OR

- ◆ Further discuss future points for consideration shown in the preceeding slide. Then APPROVE

ACFHP Project Endorsement Protocol and Guidance:

Research projects should be considered so long as there is a clear connection to an ACFHP protection or restoration objective, and habitat.

ACFHP Project Endorsement Guidelines:

Research projects will be considered so long as there is a clear connection to an ACFHP protection or restoration objective, and habitat.

Guidelines and Application available:

<http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/opportunities/endorsement/>

Definition of Threshold Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations that Are Toxic to Young Life-Stages of Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon

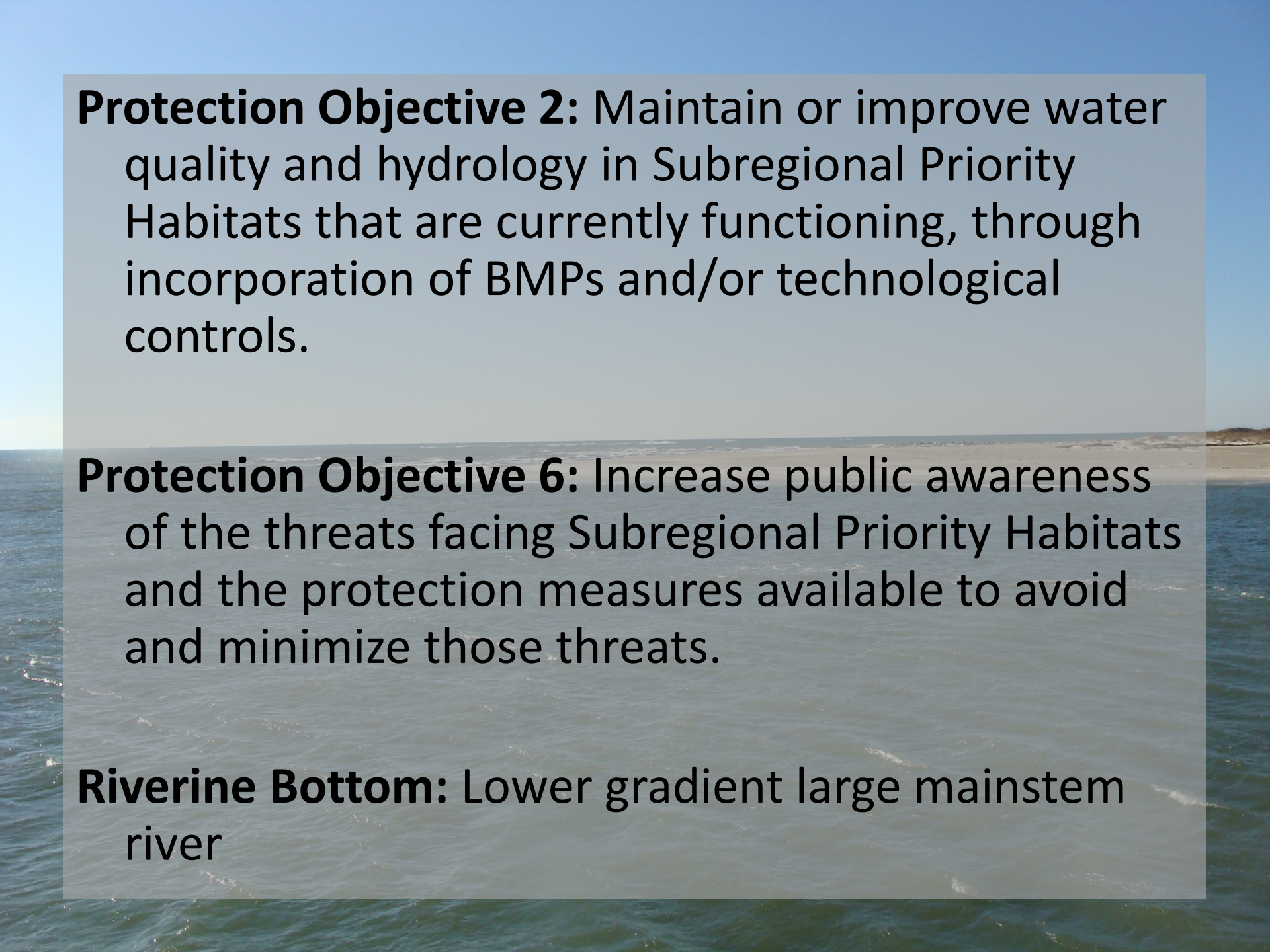
Project Location: Focus habitat is the Delaware River and laboratory studies will occur at the Howard Marine Sciences Lab (NOAA), Highlands, New Jersey

Requesting Organization: Department of Environmental Medicine, New York University School of Medicine

NFWF Pre-proposal:

Project Description: Quantify dissolved oxygen (DO) minima, the sublethal detrimental responses to low DO, and how environmental costressors further shape the DO niche in early life-stages(ELS) of Atlantic sturgeon

Long-Term Outcomes of the Project: The lethal thresholds and sublethal responses of ELS of sturgeon to low DO from this study will provide Delaware River Basin Commission managers with guidance for sturgeon tolerance and target environ

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach and ocean. The sky is clear blue, the beach is sandy, and the ocean is a deep blue with some white foam from waves breaking. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box.

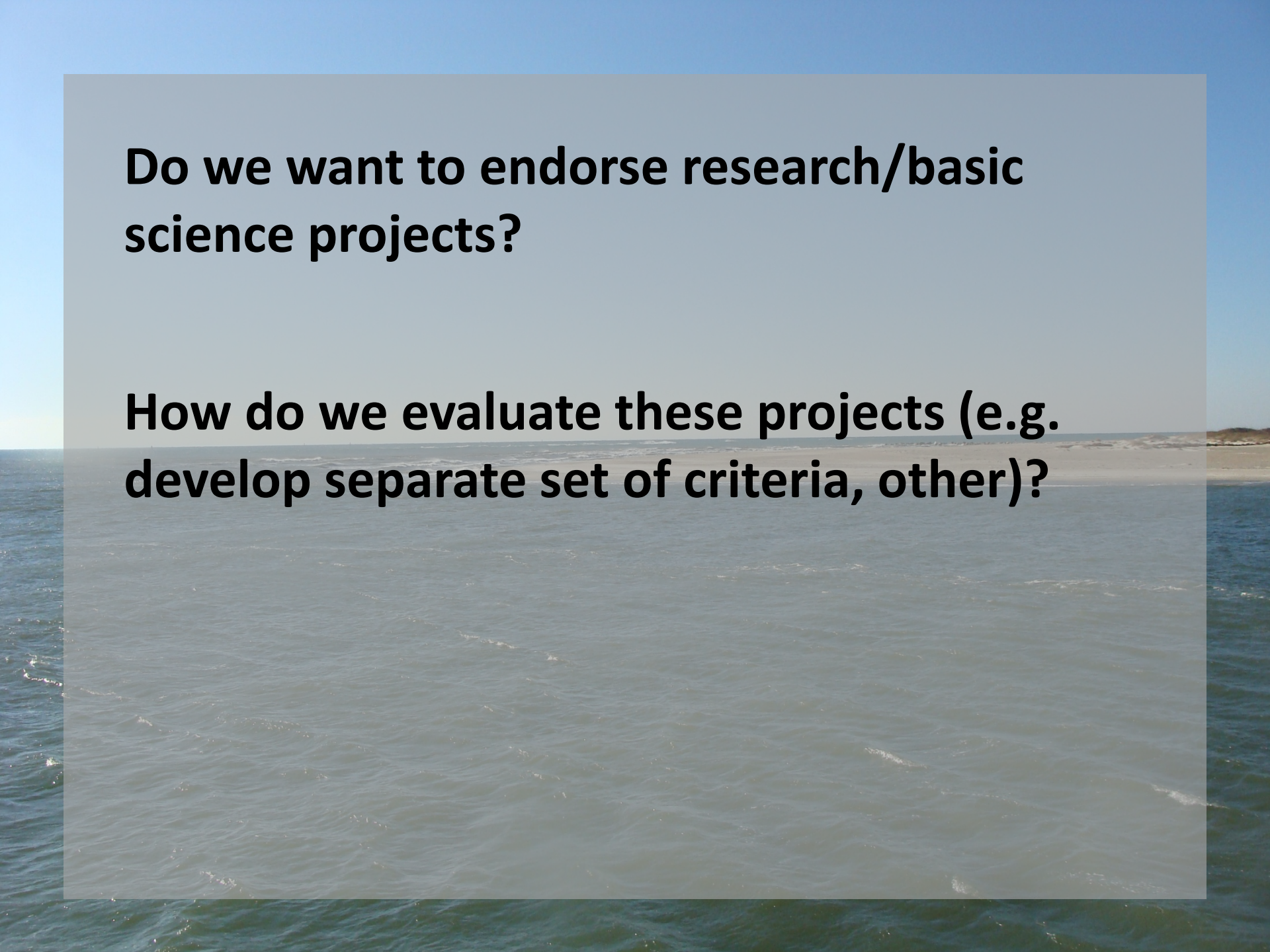
Protection Objective 2: Maintain or improve water quality and hydrology in Subregional Priority Habitats that are currently functioning, through incorporation of BMPs and/or technological controls.

Protection Objective 6: Increase public awareness of the threats facing Subregional Priority Habitats and the protection measures available to avoid and minimize those threats.

Riverine Bottom: Lower gradient large mainstem river

Not Approved for Endorsement

- from a technical and research stand point, it an excellent project, however:
- project needs to be more closely and more actively linked to an on-the-ground management action or best management practice to receive an endorsement from ACFHP.
- for example, if the project included an additional component that uses the results of the lab component to conduct a specific, near term, habitat conservation action in the Delaware River, this would greatly strengthen the project's applicability to ACFHP's mission and objectives.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach and the ocean. The sky is clear and blue. The ocean is a deep blue with white-capped waves breaking. A sandy beach is visible in the distance. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

Do we want to endorse research/basic science projects?

How do we evaluate these projects (e.g. develop separate set of criteria, other)?

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Resolution

September 2013, commemorating NFHP 10-yr mark

- With the resolution, state fish and wildlife agencies recognize NFHP as a state-led effort and will work towards increasing support for implementing the Action Plan
- Affirms AFWA's commitment through the states in supporting the increasing scope of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Important because there's been a number of new state directors in the past 10 years -- this puts NFHP back on their radar.



National Fish Habitat Partnership 501(c)(3)

- At its Summer meeting, the Board passed a motion to begin the process of establishing a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation using a phased, check-in approach.
- Not-for-profit corporation is intended to be separate from the National Fish Habitat Board and to serve as a tool for the National Fish Habitat Partnership and the regional Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs).
- Incorporation expected in January 2014 and tax exemption status expected 6-18 months after that.

National Fish Habitat Partnership 501(c)(3)

Appendices Include:

- “Span of Control” for the new corporation as well as the National Fish Habitat Board and staff
- Draft Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws*

*FHPs should pay close attention



Fish Habitat Partnership Committee

At its October 2012 Meeting, the Board tasked the Partnership Committee with addressing the following priority issues during 2013:

- Task A - Develop guidance that assists Fish Habitat Partnerships in establishing strategic priorities and processes that allow the partnerships to document milestones and targets that track progress and outcomes.
- Task B - Develop a process that builds consensus support among Fish Habitat Partnerships for Multi-state Conservation Grant proposals, and other pertinent funding sources, submitted by the National Fish Habitat Board on their behalf.
- Task C - Establish a vetting process for fish habitat conservation projects submitted to non-NFHP funding sources that need endorsements from Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- Task D - Identify approaches for estimating the costs for FHPs to achieve their priority conservation outcomes.

Fish Habitat Partnership Committee Task B:

- Roughed out a process for building consensus support among FHPs for MSCGP proposals submitted by the Board on their behalf that includes:
 - keeping with a regional based approach (which may differ from the regional breakouts currently being used);
 - establishing a long-term list of priority conservation needs that are best suited for multi-FHP approaches to addressing those needs; and,
 - engaging up front with the processes used by AFWA to develop National Conservation Needs in an effort to ensure alignment with the long-term priority conservation needs.
- **Important note: Until the issue of securing stable base funding for FHP operations is resolved, it will be difficult to institute an approach focused solely on addressing regional conservation priorities, as the MSCGP funds are a crucial source for FHP operational support.**

Fish Habitat Conservation Act

- Will reintroduce in the next week or so
- Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) will sponsor, looking for a second



Whitewater to Bluewater Initiative

- In 2012, three Fish Habitat Partnerships – EBTJV, SARP, and ACFHP -- formed an alliance to promote a more cohesive implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- Through Multistate Conservation Grants, we are taking a more coordinated approach towards implementing our individual strategic plans, habitat assessments, and outreach activities.

Whitewater to Bluewater

Science

- In our first Multistate Conservation Grant we proposed to collectively advance each partnership's habitat assessments through identification of mutual data needs, data acquisition, and landscape-level-analysis techniques for the benefit of fish, mussels, and other aquatic animals.
- To achieve this objective, we proposed holding regular webinar meetings of the Science and Data Committees of the three FHPs in order to identify, share, and assemble existing data pertaining to threats to fish habitats.

Whitewater to Bluewater

Science

- Call 1 (October): Each Partnership will present an overview of their current science projects.
- Call 2 (November): Partnership representatives will discuss how useful the products have been and identify opportunities to collaborate.
- Call 3 (December): Partnership representatives will determine what science and data needs or gaps, and how the three FHPs can attempt to address.

Whitewater to Bluewater

Communications and Outreach

- In our first Multistate Conservation Grant we proposed the development and implementation of a more streamlined communications strategy and outreach products for the three Fish Habitat Partnerships that highlight both synergies and distinguishing characteristics across the individual Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- In support of this objective, the three partnerships have developed a Whitewater to Bluewater website:
 - access information and products pertaining to the Fish Habitat Partnership's collaboration.

Whitewater to Bluewater

Communications and Outreach

- [Species Spotlight page](#) to learn about life history and habitat needs, habitat restoration efforts, and ‘fun facts’. Winter Flounder will be featured in September/October, and new species will be spotlighted on a bi-monthly basis.
- [Whitewater to Bluewater Joint Communications Strategy](#), which consists of a variety of potential communications and outreach actions that the FHPs may select from, develop into specific projects, seek funding for, and accomplish individually or jointly, in the future.

<http://easternbrooktrout.org/groups/whitewater-to-bluewater>

Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships

9 of the 18 nationally recognized FHPs, and one candidate, help to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitats in coastal marine environments through:

- Outreach
- Restoration projects
- Scientific research
- Foster uncommon alliances by convening diverse stakeholders to implement fish habitat projects
- Fish habitat assessments
- Securing, leveraging, and distributing resources
- Coordinating
- Developing decision support tools
- Sharing information

Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Atlantic Coastal FHP
- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Hawaii FHP
- Southwest Alaska Salmon FHP
- Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
- Kenai Peninsula FHP
- Southeast Alaska FHP*
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- California Fish Passage Forum
- Pacific Marine and Estuarine FHP

COASTAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS

Pacific Marine and Estuarine FHP

- Protects, restores, and enhances juvenile fish habitat and connectivity among habitats in the nearshore Pacific Ocean and California, Oregon, and Washington estuaries
- Supports and promotes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of water quality and quantity to improve the function of estuarine and nearshore marine environments

Western Native Trout Initiative

- Along the Pacific Northwest coast, WNTI supports coastal cutthroat trout data collection, conservation planning and habitat enhancement projects
- In Alaska, WNTI supports native trout and char data collection, conservation planning and habitat enhancement projects, including protection and enhancement of water quality and quantity of coastal freshwater systems

Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Focus on abundant salmon resources and the shared recognition that coastal and estuarine waters are vital for salmon and other anadromous species
- Prevent the loss of vital coastal and estuarine waters, recognizing the role these habitats play in maintaining thriving fish, healthy habitats and vibrant communities
- Share a "ridges to reefs" approach, recognizing the intrinsic connections between freshwater and coastal habitats
- Help foster uncommon alliances of diverse stakeholders through efforts to better steward fish habitat

Ten of the 19 nationally recognized fish habitat partnerships help to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitats in coastal marine environments through:

- Outreach to enhance understanding and support for fish habitat improvements in marine systems
- On-the-ground fish habitat restoration projects
- Scientific research
- Fish habitat assessments
- Securing, leveraging and distributing resources
- Coordinating projects at a variety of scales
- Developing decision support tools
- Sharing information



California Fish Passage Forum

- Remediates barriers to effective fish migration
- Facilitates coordination and communication among entities working on fish passage
- Identifies, assesses, and prioritizes the removal of fish passage barriers
- Disseminates guidelines and design criteria for replacement of barriers

Southwest Alaska Salmon FHP
Mat-Su Basin Salmon FHP
Kenai Peninsula FHP
Southeast Alaska FHP (candidate FHP)

Hawaii FHP

- Develops and implements projects to benefit native aquatic life in streams, estuaries, and nearshore marine habitats
- Reduces impacts of instream structures that pose barriers to native species migration
- Plans and supports projects that link inland and nearshore marine ecosystems to protect, restore and maintain self-sustaining aquatic communities

Atlantic Coastal FHP

- Accelerates the conservation, protection, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes through partnerships
- Works from the headwaters of coastally draining rivers to the edge of the continental shelf to promote healthy fish habitats
- Produced a Species-Habitat Matrix for >100 fish species
- Funded and endorsed projects in coastal habitats from Maine through Florida

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership

- Strengthens the management and conservation of aquatic resources in estuarine and coastal habitats (2,900 miles of coast) in the SE U.S.
- Works with other FHPs to conserve fish habitat from "whitewater to bluewater" in 27 states (Maine to Texas)
- Implements and monitors restoration projects benefitting marine and anadromous fish habitat in nine SE states
- Provides cutting edge instream flow information through the Southern Instream Flow Network (SIFN)
- Addresses threats to coastal fish, shellfish and habitats



Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve quality of life.

This mission is achieved by supporting 19 fish habitat partnerships, mobilizing support, setting goals and measuring progress, and conducting outreach on the importance of fish habitats to our economy, natural resources, and quality of life.

Of the 18 fish habitat partnerships in existence in the United States, many are focused on coastal fish habitat issues. These partnerships include:

- [Atlantic Coastal FHP](#)
- [California Fish Passage Forum](#)
- [Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership](#)
- [Kenai Peninsula FHP](#)



Atlantic Coastal
Fish Habitat Partnership

Fourth Round of Habitat Conservation Projects Approved for Funding

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) projects approved to receive USFWS-NFHP FY2013 funding. The following two project proposals submitted to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) were approved to receive funding:

**Expanding Marine Meadow Habitat
in the Peconic Estuary, NY**



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

Working together to conserve coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish habitat

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Species-Habitat Matrix Summary Report

The Assessment of Existing Information Tools

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Newsletters

[Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships Newsletter Spring 2013](#)

[Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships Newsletter Summer 2013](#)

[Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships Newsletter Fall 2013](#)

<http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/communications/newsletters/>

Request to the NFHP Board

Support the role coastal FHPs play in helping to achieve the goals of the National Ocean Policy and the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative by reviewing, editing, and sending a letter (pending coastal FHP approval) to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council Members

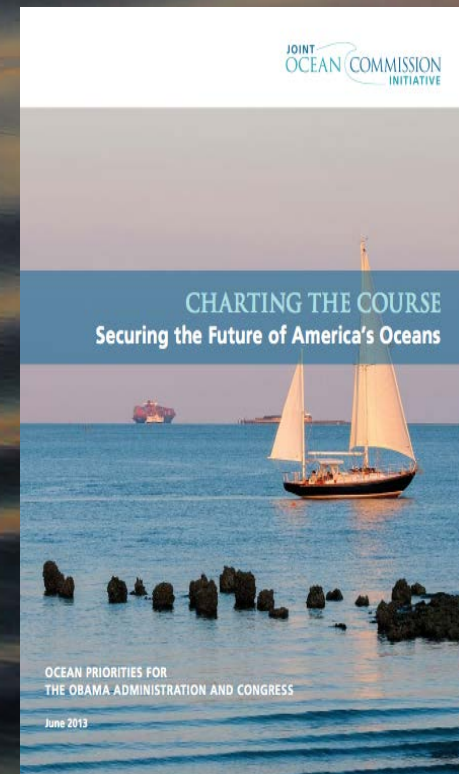
National Ocean Policy Objectives- 2010

1. Ecosystem-based management
2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
3. Inform decisions and improve understanding
4. Provide coordination and support
5. Resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification
6. Regional ecosystem protection and restoration
7. Water quality and sustainable practices on land
9. Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations, mapping, and infrastructure

Charting the Course: Securing the Future of America's Oceans - June 2013

Recommendations for the Obama Administration and Congress that prioritize areas where short-term progress can be readily achieved - outlines measures for immediate implementation.

Established in 2005, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative promotes and maintains the important work of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission.



Action One: Enhance the resiliency of coastal communities and ocean ecosystems to dramatic changes underway in our oceans and on our coasts

*Recommendation 1.1 articulates that the Administration and Congress should **boost funding and support for programs that protect and restore critical coastal features**, such as wetlands, dune systems, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, all of which provide valuable services, including buffering against storm surges, purifying water, providing habitat for important species, and offering recreational opportunities.*

Action Three: Support state and regional ocean and coastal priorities

Recommendation 3.1 articulates that the Administration and Congress should strongly support multi-state regional ocean partnerships that coordinate data and decision making across jurisdictions, make progress on shared priorities, and more effectively engage ocean and coastal stakeholders. This will allow states to build on current progress toward improved decision-making about coastal and ocean resources and priority economic drivers.

Coastal FHPs and their contribution to the National Ocean Policy

The request from NFHP to the Joint Ocean Commission:

The coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships be considered agents in implementing these actions, in partnership with state and federal agencies, and NOAA-recognized regional ocean partnerships.

Regional Ocean Partnerships

Charting the Course references the Regional Ocean Partnerships:

- Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership
- Council of Great Lakes Governors
- Governors' South Atlantic Alliance
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
- Northeast Regional Ocean Council
- Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership
- West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health



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In a nutshell: Raising the awareness of the National Fish Habitat Partnership and coastal FHPs within the National Ocean Policy community.

Request to the NFHP Board

- Questions?
- Concerns about the letter?
- Edits to the letters?

Urban Waters Federal Partnerships: Opportunities for Fish Habitat Partnerships

Rachel Muir
**Atlantic Coastal Fish
Habitat Partnership
Meeting**
October 30 , 2013

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey



Urban Waters Federal Partnerships

- A nation-wide effort directed by the President's Domestic Policy Council
 - Supported by 14 Federal Departments and Agencies
 - Most Active are Interior, EPA, USDA
 - Initiated in 2011 (7 Pilots)
 - In May, 2013, 11 More Pilots were added through a competitive process
 - Community based on existing Projects
-

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Goals

- Reconnect Communities to their Rivers
 - Improve River Habitats and the Infrastructure Needed to Protect Them, (Reduce, improve urban forestry, improve engineering);
 - Encourage eco-friendly economic development
 - Improve Natural Habitat For Fisheries
-

Atlantic Coastal Urban Partnerships

- Greater Boston – Mystic River Watershed
 - Passaic, NJ – Passaic River
 - Philadelphia/Camden/Chester/Wilmington – Delaware River Basin, Cooper River
 - Anacostia Watershed (Washington, DC / Maryland)
 - Patapsco Watershed / Baltimore Region (Maryland)
 - Bronx & Harlem River Watersheds (New York)
-

Mystic River – Greater Boston

- Long standing efforts
- Through EPA;
- 76 Square Miles, 21
- Municipalities;
- Issues are water quality, access;
- Potential fishery resources but not a fishery focus yet



Anacostia Watershed, Washington



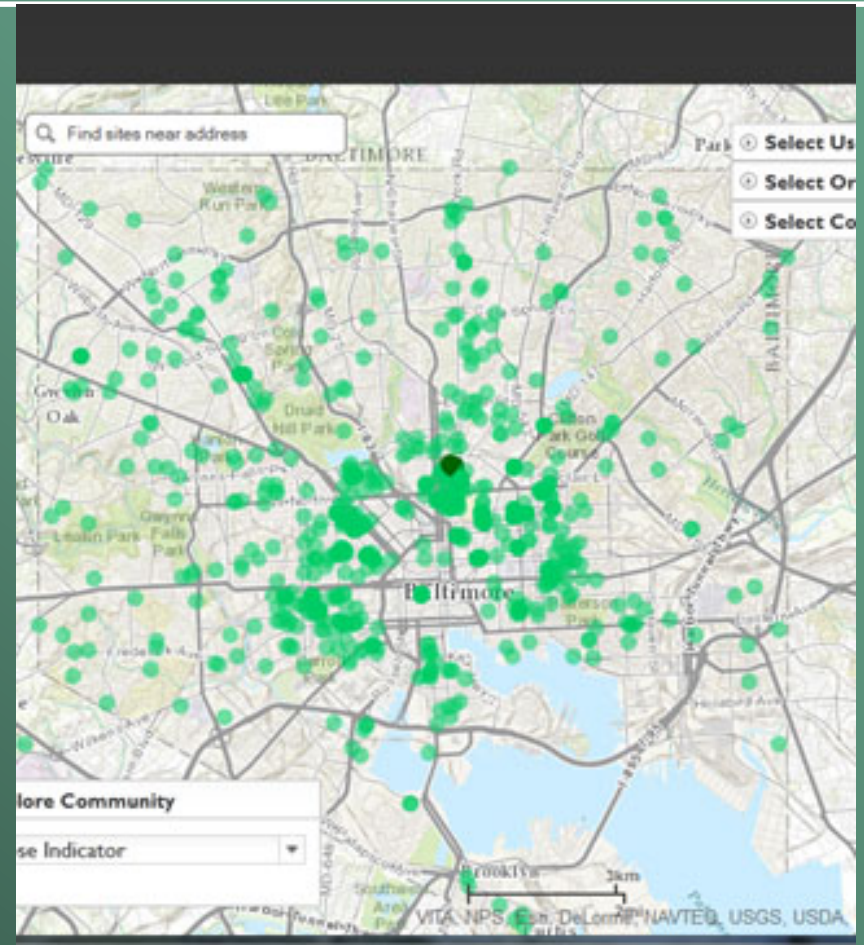
Anacostia Watershed (Continued)

- 176 Square Miles,
800,000 People ;
- 43 fish species,
200 bird species;
- 25% impervious
cover, WQ issues;
- Significant projects
underway



Patapsco Watershed / Baltimore Region (Maryland)

- Urban Study Site for LTER Network
- 375,000 acres, largely “ultra-urban”
- Includes Baltimore Harbor, successful urban renewal sites;
- Fisheries not fully addressed



Passaic, NJ – Passaic River

- 80 Square Mile Watershed
- Densely urban
- Historic WQ and toxics issues, (superfund sites)
- Strong state support, potential outside funding



Harlem and Bronx River Watersheds

- Most Urban of Atlantic Partnerships
- Highly Impacted
- High Priority of New York City and local communities
- Ongoing Restoration



Philadelphia/Camden/Chester/Wilmington – Delaware River Basin, Cooper River



- Water Resource for 16 million
- Significant Fish, shellfish resources
- Strong existing partnerships
- Strong municipal support

Should We Partner and How?

- Opportunity for Outreach
 - Existing Framework
 - Overlapping Goals and Objectives
 - Our Expertise and Connections are Needed
 - Benefits to both Networks
 - How to Begin?
-

Discuss Among Yourselves—Thanks!

