

I. ELIGIBILITY	
A. Are actions under the project required by existing regulatory programs, court order, or decree? Note: Funds may support activities under voluntary agreements that exceed regulatory requirements for conserving habitats.	Yes = ineligible for funding No = eligible for funding
B. Will funding requested from ACFHP be used to pay costs incurred for the project before the award was granted (e.g., previous expenditures for costs such as preliminary designs, surveys, appraisals, etc.)? Note: Previous expenditures may qualify as in-kind match, including federal and non-federal funding used for eligible direct and indirect costs; see 1.8 A, B & C in the guidance document.	Yes = ineligible No = eligible
C. Will funds requested from ACFHP for this project be used for realty costs associated with the project? (e.g., lease or purchase interests in real property or to make rental or other land use incentive payments to landowners)	Yes = ineligible No = eligible
D. Does the funding requested from ACFHP for this project involve the operation or maintenance of facilities, buildings or similar structures? Note: This does not apply to the maintenance or construction of earthen structures.	Yes = ineligible No = eligible
E. Is the project primarily a research study?	Yes = ineligible No = eligible
F. Does the funding requested from ACFHP for this project include incentive payments? (e.g., annual payments to encourage participation like some NRCS farm bill programs)	Yes = ineligible No = eligible
II. SCOPE OF WORK	
A. Is the project's technical design adequate to achieve the proposed outcomes?	yes = 10 no = 0
B. Does the project make use of the best available science and technology?	yes = 20 no = 0
C. Is the project likely to meet all federal, state, and local permits within the proposed implementation schedule and is the proposed implementation schedule adequate to achieve the proposed outcomes (specifically, will project be completed within 2 years of the receipt of funding)?	yes = 10 no = 0
D. Will the monitoring and evaluation plan provide sufficient data and analysis (e.g. acres restored or stream miles opened for fish passage) to determine if the proposed outcomes were achieved?	yes = 10 no = 0
E. What is the extent to which the project will disseminate information on fish habitat conservation to increase awareness and transfer knowledge on lessons learned?	significant (e.g., congressional visits, online tools, community event) = 20 moderate (e.g., presentations to community/posters at conferences) = 10 low (e.g., project summary report made publically available) = 0
III. EVALUATION QUESTIONS	
A. Which ACFHP Subregional Priority Habitat(s) does the project address? (score only one region)	
<i>North Atlantic</i>	
Riverine Bottom	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20

	does not address priority habitat = 0
Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Beds	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Mid-Atlantic	
Riverine Bottom	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Beds	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Tidal Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
South Atlantic	
Riverine Bottom	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Beds	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Tidal Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
South Florida	
Coral and live/hard bottom	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
Tidal Vegetation (mangrove)	supports or addresses priority habitat = 20 does not address priority habitat = 0
B. Which of the ACFHP On-The-Ground Objectives does the project address?	
On-The-Ground Implementation Objective 1 : Conserve and connect priority aquatic habitats to improve ecosystem function and increase climate resilience for fish, people, and nature.	
	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not meet objective = 0
On-The-Ground Implementation Objective 2 : Collectively advance and elevate the work of ACFHP partners to support transformational conservation projects on priority habitats.	
	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not meet objective = 0

C. How well does the project address one or more NFHP conservation priorities?	
Priority 1 : Conserve waters and habitats where all processes and functions are operating within their expected range or natural variation	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 2 : Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 3 : Conserve physical and living habitats and features that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 4 : Reconnect fragmented fish habitats	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 5 : Conserve water quality for fish	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 6 : Support the structure and function of FHPs	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
Priority 7 : Enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, and traditional fishing opportunities when conducting projects that conserve fish habitat	high = 10 medium = 5 low = 2 does not address priority = 0
D. Is the project located in a priority area for a priority species identified in an approved state or federal management plan? (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plan, state or federal recovery plan, or National Estuary Program CCMP)	
project is located in a priority area for a priority species identified in an approved state or federal management plan = 15 project is not located in a priority area for a priority species identified in an approved state or federal management plan = 0	
E. How well will the project address a root cause and contribute to a long-term self-sustaining solution to the problem(s) described? Note: if it is a living shoreline, applicant must demonstrate with citation of their state's definition of a living shoreline how the living shoreline benefits fish species to receive a medium or high rank.	
high = 15 medium = 10 low = 5 no = 0	
F. Does the project enhance the resilience of the habitat to disturbance? Does the project enhance the resilience of the surrounding community?	
yes = 10 no = 0	

G. Is the project located in a Restoration Opportunity Area, or is there a well-substantiated need for restoration at the project site based on specific metrics in the ACFHP Fish Habitat Conservation Area Mapping and Prioritization Project?

yes = 20
no = 0

H. Does the project support one or more species and life stages ranked 'high' or 'very high' in the Species-Habitat Matrix Tool?

yes: more than 5 species or life stages = 10
yes: 1 - 4 species or life stages = 5
no = 0

I. Does the project address the habitat needs of trust, SGCN, or other listed species?

yes = 5
no = 0

IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT

A. Does the applicant (and associated personnel) have the technical capacity/knowledge to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed project?

yes = 15
no = 0

V. PROJECT COSTS

A. Does the project have the greatest cost effectiveness and a high likelihood of being completed within the specified budget?

GOOD CHECKLIST ITEM : Is the budget realistic, sufficiently detailed, with appropriate budget breakdown and justification?

yes = 10
no = 0

B. Does the project have sufficient match?

3:1 or greater match = 20
2:1 match = 10
1:1 match = 5
less than 1:1 match = 0

C. Are multiple groups, such as federal and state agencies, local governments, NGOs, academics, or tribal governments participating in the development and execution of the project?

more than one partner involved = 10
one or no partners involved = 0

VI. How well does this project align with the goals of the ACE Act?

A. Does the project meet all of the ACE Act conditions

yes = 15
all but one = 10
all but two = 5
does not meet three or more conditions = 0

Alignment with the ACE Act

- [Fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan](#)
- Addresses the national conservation priorities of the NFHP Board (Appendix D)
- [Is supported by the findings of ACFHP's Conservation Maps \(found in Section IV G\) or the NFHP Board's 'Through a Fish's Eye' and aligns with or is compatible with other conservation plans](#)
- Identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria
- Provides well defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes
- Addresses the causes and process behind the decline of fish populations or fish habitats
- Includes a local or regional outreach or educational component
- Will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public
- Increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife dependent recreation
- Advances the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as designated by State agencies
- [Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: governing law for marine federal fisheries management](#)
- Promotes healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt