

# Management Assistance Program



*America's fish and other aquatic resources are among the richest and most diverse in the world.*

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**These resources, and the recreational, commercial and subsistence opportunities they support, have helped support the Nation's growth by providing enormous ecological, social and economic benefits.**

In 2001 alone, recreational fishing revenue contributed more than \$40 billion to the national economy. Although fisheries management has achieved some notable successes, stresses such as the introduction of invasive species, habitat loss and overfishing are degrading the quality of these resources.

A growing number of fish species continue to decline at alarming rates. Almost 400 aquatic species either have or need special protection in some part of their natural or historic range. Several species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, including some populations of salmon, sturgeon and native trout were once important for recreational, subsistence and commercial fish uses.

Recovery efforts have brought a few of these species close to being delisted or downlisted from endangered to threatened. Success stories such as the recovery of Atlantic striped bass and the Apache trout give us hope and illustrate the value of cooperative approaches to fisheries management.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program works with States, Tribes, Federal agencies, foreign governments and the private sector to foster sound science and collaborative management. We take a hands-on approach to cooperative management and restoration of nationally significant fish, marine mammals, wildlife and other aquatic animals. One of our greatest strengths is our ability to work across geographic, political and international borders to craft coalitions, partnerships and solutions.

Conservationists and fisheries managers look to us to assist in achieving restoration goals, knowing that healthy ecosystems yield multiple economic benefits by providing increased hunting, fishing and wildlife watching opportunities. These recreational pastimes translate into real economic benefits for communities, supported by responsible and effective management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources.

The Program will continue to create and participate in partnerships, guided by these seven focus areas:

- Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
- Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
- Public Use
- Cooperation with Native Americans
- Leadership in Science and Technology
- Partnerships with Accountability
- Workforce Management

