

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is an investment strategy to make conservation dollars go farther in restoring our waterways to sustainable health. Recognizing their shared interests are at stake, hundreds of public and private partnerships are coming together to form regional fish habitat partnerships in areas where America's aquatic life is most vulnerable.



#### Join Our Team

## MORE PEOPLE WORKING FOR MORE FISH

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is a national investment strategy to maximize the impact of conservation dollars on the ground. Under the Action Plan, Federal, state and privately-raised funds will be the foundation for building regional partnerships that address the Nation's biggest fish habitat problems.

This is the most comprehensive effort ever attempted to address the causes of fish habitat decline, not just the symptoms.

### By 2010 the National Fish Habitat Action Plan will:

- Assess the condition of all fish habitats in the United States
- Prepare a Status of Fish Habitats in the United States Report
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships in priority areas
- Fund projects to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitats.

### By 2015 the Action Plan will protect all healthy and intact fish habitats.

### By 2020 the Action Plan will improve the condition of 90% of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partners.

#### Success Stories

## NFHAP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*The NFHAP Board held its first meeting during September, 2006. Since that time, a great deal has been accomplished in support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Here are a few highlights:*

### Coordination

- The 22-member Board has met a total of 12 times. It has approved a charter, developed an operational budget, and provided guidance on a many issues related to implementation of the Action Plan.
- The Board's Legislative sub-committee is overseeing the development of draft legislation to authorize the work of, and funding for, the Action Plan through the offices of Senators Lieberman (CT) and Bond (MO) Kind (WI).

### Fish Habitat Partnerships

- The FHP's are the foundational or core work units for implementing the Action Plan. To date, 20 FHP's have submitted letters of intent to seek full recognition by the Board and six of them have been formally endorsed by the Board (see next page for details).
- The Board has developed guidance for the FHP's in terms of structure, administration, strategic planning, and science and outreach. The six approved FHP's are engaged with prioritizing projects for USFWS funding -- 3.2 million dollars was put on the ground in FY08.

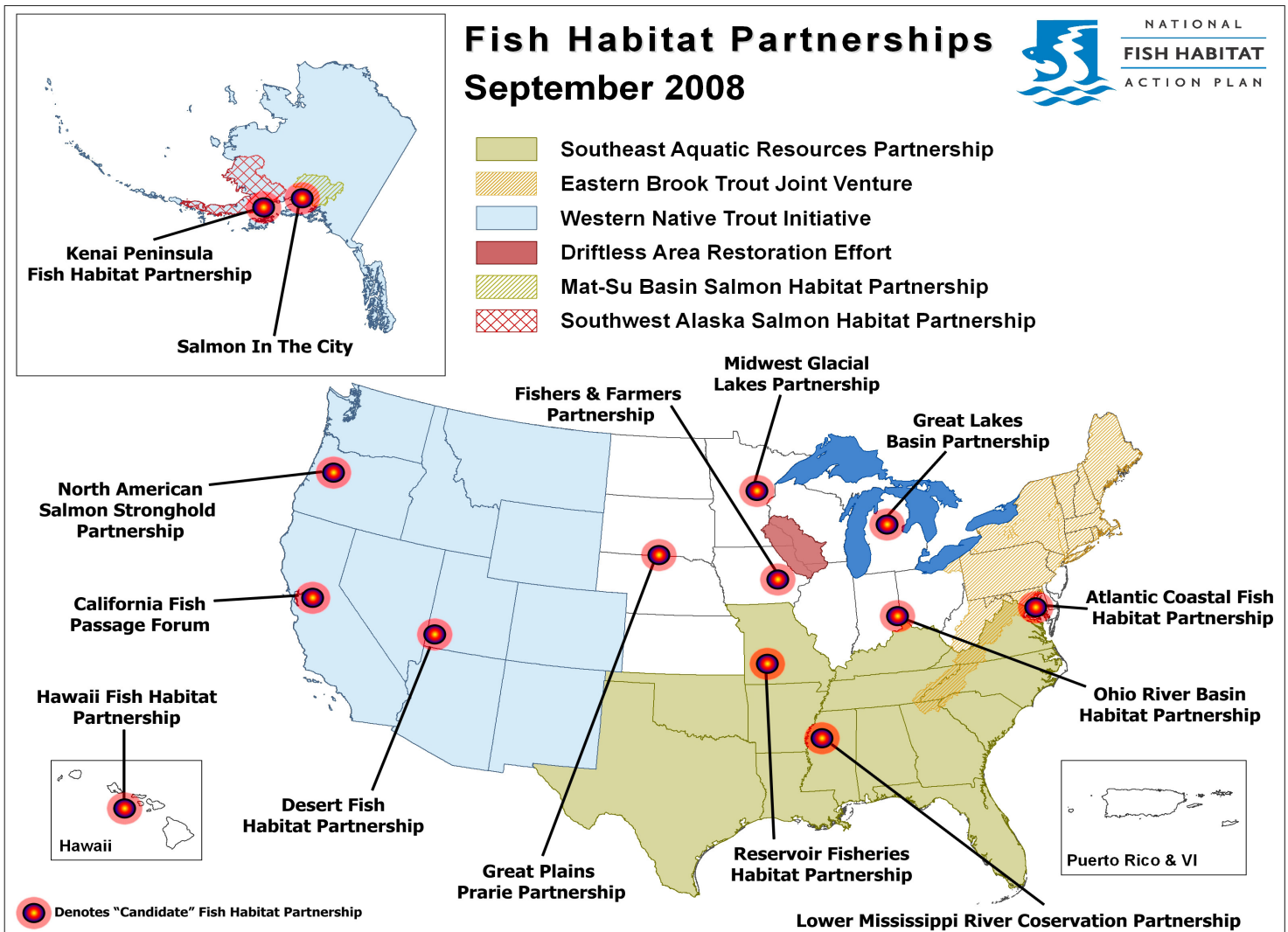
### Science and Data

- The Science and Data Committee has drafted the report, "The Framework for Assessing the Nation's Fish Habitat." The final draft will be presented to the Board at its October meeting.
- The Science and Research Data Team Committee, in collaboration with Michigan State University, is hard at work developing a national assessment of aquatic habitat condition. The first assessment, which includes both freshwater and coastal systems will be completed in 2010. The framework prototype for the assessment will be completed this Fall.

### Communications

- The Board has hired a Communications Director and recently unveiled a brand new web site.
- NFHAP signage has been developed and has become the feature focus of the National Casting Call which included the presentation of First Annual NFHAP Awards.
- The Board has also announced the second "10 Waters to Watch" continuing the initiative established in 2007, generating Nationwide media attention.

# REGIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS POPPING UP AT WATERWAYS NEAR YOU



## PARTNERSHIPS BUILT ON SUCCESS

Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships are the work units of the Action plan. This is where it all happens - the assessment of regional needs, the planning and prioritization, and the leveraging of resources to implement local projects to protect, restore, or enhance fish habitat and population. National efforts logistical and some financial support for the Partnerships, but decisions are always made at the regional level.

The Action Plan envisions 12 Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2010. Six regional partnerships are already demonstrating that we can produce real results. They are:

- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership
- Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership

In 2008 14 Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships have stated their intent to apply for recognition as an official Fish Habitat Partnership, under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

- Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership*
- Desert Fish Habitat Partnership*
- Ohio River Basin Habitat Partnership*
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership*
- Kenai Peninsula Conservation Partnership*
- Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee*
- Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership*
- Salmon In The City*
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership*
- Great Lakes Basin Partnership*
- California Fish Passage Forum*
- North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership*
- Great Plains Prairie Partnership*
- Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership*

# FISHHABITAT.ORG ALL-NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE



## DID YOU KNOW?

*The National Fish Habitat Action Plan's webpage has an ever growing database of over 1,400 subscribers, averaging about five new member sign-up per week, making it one of the fastest growing fish habitat related websites around.*

*The partner coalition page of fishhabitat.org, gives members an opportunity to actively participate in National Fish Habitat Action Plan projects as well as staying informed with all of the educational information offered through the Partner Coalition page.*

www.fishhabitat.org provides viewers with up to date news about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the Partnerships it supports.

Free monthly newsletters also keep subscribers informed with all of the happenings of NFHAP throughout the country, including project updates and Partner Profiles. With a database of over 1,400 subscribers, the NFHAP-penings newsletter is a great source for all fish habitat conservation news.

With NFHAP's all-new design, the site is exploding with new visitors, ... averaging over 2,000 per month with over 8,000 page views.

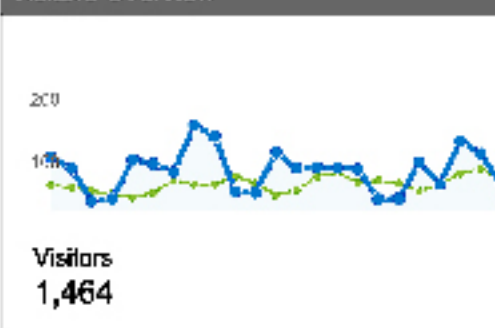
fishhabitat.org also includes a sign-up to become a member of NFHAP's Partners Coalition, an exclusive database through the NFHAP website. By pledging your support by signing on to be a member of the Partners Coalition, members will receive special e-mails throughout the year as well as having their profile included on the website.

Partner's Coalition members can be the National Fish Habitat Action Plans biggest asset, by being involved in on the ground projects through grass roots efforts. A Partner's toolkit through the website's Partner's Coalition page will give members what they need to spread the work about NFHAP and all of the latest events.

### Site Usage



### Visitors Overview



The screenshot shows the website's home page with a navigation menu (Home, Action Plan, Partnerships, Find your niche, Waters to watch, Science and data, Contacts) and a 'grassroots' section. A 'Partnership!' banner features a map of the United States and the text 'Come Together'. Below the banner, there are two news items: 'Update on Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships' and 'Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership adopted as sixth regional FHP'.





NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
ACTION PLAN

# FUNDING SOURCE NARRATIVE

## JOIN THE EFFORT

*More than 450 organizations - state and federal agencies, scores of non-profit organizations, along with corporations, academic institutions, and Native American tribes - are working together to conserve and protect aquatic habitat.*

*Please join the thousands of Americans who share your passion for fishing and a healthy fish habitat.*

*Visit our website for more information:*

*[www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)*



*The National Fish Habitat Action Plan has benefited from the direct funding support of several entities including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation and Federal Assistance Divisions, and five state agencies (Christopher, please insert the names of the states). In addition, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and several state agencies, notably Alaska and Michigan, have provided staff support to the Board.*

***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: \$72,000.00***

These funds are nearly all expended. They were used to support a state detail at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for development of the Action Plan, Board support, and coordination with emerging Fish Habitat Partnerships.

***Multi-State Conservation Grants: \$639,054.00***

The Board has received two Multi-State Conservation Grants (managed by AFWA) to support the full range of Board activities. The first grant (nearly expended) was used to support development of the Action Plan, the science and data framework, and the fishhabitat.org website, as well as the hiring of a communications coordinator. The new, or second, grant is focused on support to Fish Habitat Partnerships, completion of the fish habitat assessment, and public/partner outreach.

***U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$9,105,000.00***

Over the past three fiscal years the USFWS has obligated more than 9 million dollars in support of the Action Plan. The funds have gone to support Board administration (via a cooperative agreement with AFWA), Board staff, Fish Habitat Partnership development, the fish habitat assessment, web site maintenance, and the delivery of aquatic habitat projects. The selection of habitat projects has been driven by Fish Habitat Partnership priorities, coordinated by the USFWS in consultation with the Board through a formal ranking and selection process.

***U.S. Geological Survey: \$650,000***

USGS has provided funding (approximately \$150,000) for the National Fish Habitat Assessment and is guiding the development of the assessment. In addition the USGS/BRD has redirected its funds (\$500,000) to support the NFHAP by issuing a Request for Proposals for USGS scientists to provide research in direct support of the Fish Habitat Partnerships.