

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan



The Challenge

- **“One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitat.”**
 - **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 1996**



A Call to Action

- 2002: The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council recommended a “national aquatic habitat plan” modeled after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan



The Concept

- Local projects
- Regional strategies and priorities
- National attention and funding



The Plan

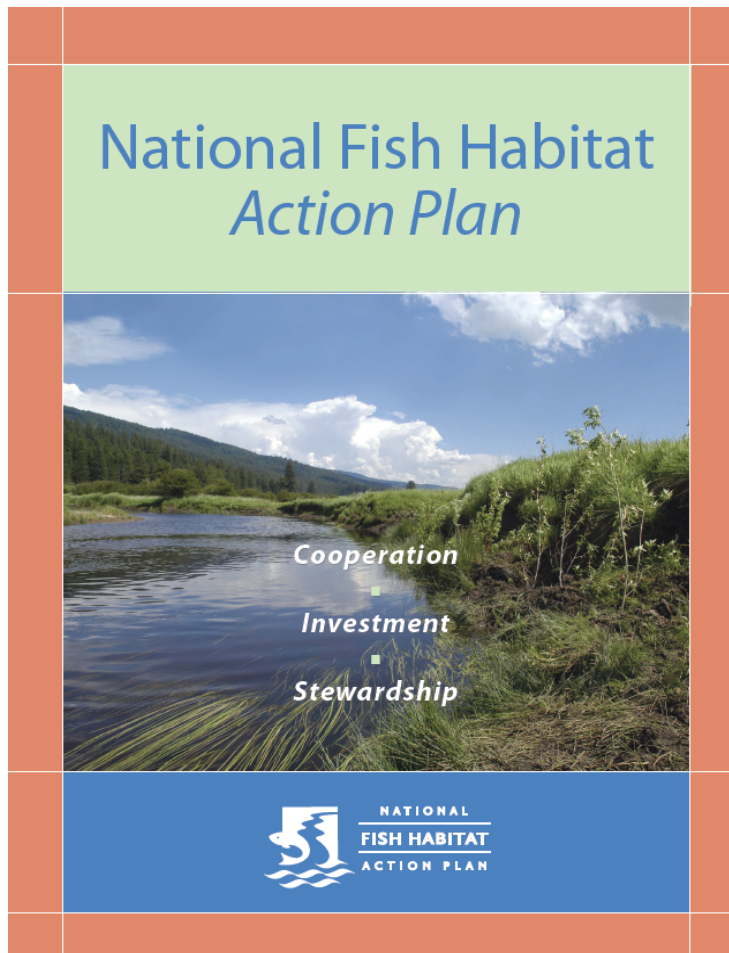
Signed on April 24, 2006 by:

Carlos Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce

Lynn Scarlett
Acting Secretary of the Interior

John Cooper
**President of the Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

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



<http://www.fishhabitat.org>

Action Plan Objectives

- **Protect all healthy and intact habitats by 2015.**
- **Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020.**
- **Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.**
- **Conduct condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.**
- **Prepare a *Status of Fish Habitats in the United States* in 2010, and every five years thereafter.**

National Fish Habitat Board

- **First met in Sept of 2006**
- **22 members from 5 states, 4 federal agencies (including NOAA), tribes, FMCs and Interstate Commissions, NGOs (including NFWF), academia, and private interests**
- **Responsible for guiding and supporting implementation of the Action Plan**
- **Currently funded primarily by grants, legislation is being developed to provide Congressional funding**



Fish Habitat Partnerships

- **Primary work units of the Action Plan**
- **Diverse array of public, private, and non-private entities**
- **Self-identified, self-directed**
- **Formed around**
 - **distinct geographic areas**
 - **keystone fish species**
 - **system types**



Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships (Board-recognized)

- **Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership**
- **Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership**



Coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships (Candidate)

- **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership**
- **California Fish Passage Forum**
- **Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition**
- **Kenai Peninsula Conservation Partnership**
- **Salmon in the City (Anchorage)**

National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

- Under development by Legislative Subcommittee of the Board
- Based on:
 - North American Wetland Conservation Act
 - National Fish Habitat Board charter
 - Desire to make NFHAP a permanent program in FWS, NMFS, and USGS



Major Provisions

**Establishes Board and Exec Leadership Team
based on Board charter**

Process for approval of FHPS by Board

**Process for recommendation of projects to be
funded through Sec of Interior**

**Establishes NFHAP implementation programs
in NMFS, FWS, and USGS**

**Authorizes appropriations for projects and
% for Board, NMFS, FWS, and USGS**



Role of Councils

From Board charter, and draft NFHCA

“There shall be established a National Fish Habitat Board...eight members shall be appointed to ensure the Board includes distinct representation from each of the following range of interests: sportfishing, commercial fishing.....”



For more information:

www.fishhabitat.org

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