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January 9, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Presentation on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

BACKGROUND: Krystyna Wolniakowski, Director, Western Partnership Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will be at the Committee meeting to provide an overview of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Krystyna is the Chair of the Development Team and NFWF Director's designee on the board. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) was initiated in 2005. The Development Team has since been working on the national framework to highlight fish habitat protection and restoration as a top conservation priority in the country. Krystyna will talk about the plan and its potential relationship with the Council's Program.

Attachments:

- NFHAC Brochure
- Power Point Presentation

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NATIONAL FISH HABITAT INITIATIVE:
ACTION PLAN, GRANT PROGRAMS AND
“MORE FISH” CAMPAIGN

Presented to the
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Krystyna Wolniakowski,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
January 16, 2007

A Shared Vision:

We envision a nation with healthy
and abundant aquatic habitats
that support diverse populations
of fish and sustainable public use.

--National Fish Habitat
Initiative



Why do we need a National Fish Habitat Action Plan?

Since 1900, 123 aquatic freshwater species have become extinct in North America. The future extinction rate is predicted to be 4% per decade.

Of 822 species of native freshwater fishes in the US, 39% are at risk of extinction. (Stein and Flack 1997).



50% of lakes and more than 50% of streams assessed by states are classified as impaired.

Approximately 45% of estuaries have been classified as impaired.

Wetlands continue to be lost at a rate estimated to be between 30,000 and 60,000 acres per year since the mid-1990s.

Fish Habitat Degradation

Nine Factors (in order of significance) contribute to the biological impoverishment of aquatic ecosystems:

- Habitat destruction and fragmentation
- Toxic organic materials
- Nitrogen contamination
- Toxic metals
- Acid deposition
- Exotic species introduction
- Toxic algal blooms
- Harvest of aquatic species
- Altered thermal regimes

Seven of the nine factors are habitat related. (Naiman et al. 1995)

Precedent with North American Waterfowl Management Plan

- Decline of waterfowl
- Decline of wetlands
- Action Plan and Act of Congress—NAWCA
- Federal/State/Non-profit partnerships



Origins of The National Fish Habitat Initiative

A national fish habitat plan was recommended by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council in “A Partnership Agenda for Fisheries Conservation (2002).”

The Fisheries Program made a commitment in the *Fisheries Program Vision for the Future (2002)* to focus on aquatic habitat conservation and management.

In 2003, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) endorsed the concept of a “comprehensive national fisheries habitat plan/strategy.”

In 2004, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded the initial symposium that brought together aquatic experts throughout the field to discuss the creation of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. The Foundation continues to fund support of the national core working group.

In 2005-2006, the Core Working Group met many times with subcommittees and as a team and developed the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, approved by Secretaries of Commerce and Interior in April 2006.

National Fish Habitat Initiative Goals



- Protect, conserve and improve *fish habitats* nationwide
- Enhance *local partnership efforts* (Joint Ventures) for national and local levels
- Establish a set of *benchmarks for a national report* on fish habitat status, challenges and questions
- *Enhance understanding* of aquatic habitat in national fisheries management activities through collaboration

Public Agency Support and Leadership

The National Fish Habitat Initiative is supported by the nation's state and territorial Fish and Game Agencies, 400 partners, and the:

- Department of the Interior
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- National Park Service
- Department of Defense
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Science Foundation
- Farm Service Agency
- USDA Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Congress
- Federal Emergency Management Agency



Plan Elements

- Landscape scale
- Science-based
- New tools for strategic investments
- Systematic coordination, evaluation and monitoring at a national level
- Builds on efforts of regional “joint venture” fish habitat partnerships to integrate and document grassroots efforts to national level
- Includes freshwater, marine and coastal waters



NFHAP Board Governance

- 21 members that represent 5 federal and 5 state agencies, sportfishing and boating, non-profits, science and academics, tribal governments, industry, American Fisheries Society and NFWF
- Board will develop appropriate policies, will develop guidance for recognizing “Fish Habitat Partnerships” and criteria for allocating national funding

NFHAP Board Governance (cont)

- Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for partnerships
- Report to Congress, states and other partners on status and accomplishments of the NFHAP.
- Staff at Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies in DC will help coordinate efforts

Establishing Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Currently have 5 pilot FHPs:
 - Western Native Trout Initiative
 - Driftless Area Partnership
 - Mat-Su Alaska Partnership
 - Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
 - Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

New Fish Habitat Partnerships?

- Need for regional or fish species focus partnerships to cover the nation in order to coordinate efforts, rank priority projects and allocate funding within those areas
- New NFH Partnerships can apply for NFHAP Board recognition through a “call for proposals” in spring 2008
- NFH Partnerships/projects within those areas can be eligible for funding through NFHAP Board
- Possibly establish a Columbia Basin Fish Habitat Partnership—or a larger Pacific Salmon Fish Habitat Partnership?

Role of the Foundation?



- To make strategic grant investments in signature projects, tracking metrics, evaluating results
- To serve on the NFHAP Board
- To provide expertise
- To be in a key position as new NAWCA-like legislation is developed for fish habitat
- To fundraise and promote partnerships through the More Fish Campaign to support NFHAP goals

22 Years of the Foundation's Grants for Fish Habitat

Since 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has provided critical support of fish species and their habitats through:

- General matching grants program
- Regional or species-specific special grants programs.
- Special funds that specifically target an impaired resource.

Examples of Current Fish-Related Grant Programs 1986-2005



- **General Matching Grants**
- BPA Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program for Salmon Recovery
- **Native Fish Habitat Initiative –Pacific Northwest w/ FWS**
- **National Fish Friends Initiative w/ FWS**
- Bring Back the Natives (BBN)
- Pacific Grassroots Salmon Initiative (PGSI)
- Washington State Community Salmon Funds
- Jackson Hole One Fly Conservation Partnership
- Great Lakes Initiative
- Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund
- Chesapeake Bay Watersheds Program
- Delaware Bay Grants Program
- Shell Marine Habitat Program
- **Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund**

“More Fish” Campaign 2005-2010

The Foundation’s “More Fish” Campaign will lead the fundraising effort to help support the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan projects



The Foundation's current corporate partners supporting fish-related grant programs

Bass Pro Shops



Tracker Marine Group



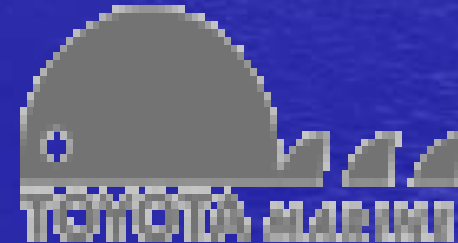
Orvis



Shell



Toyota



British Petroleum



Current Philanthropic Partners

- New York Community Trust
- Geraldine Dodge Foundation
- CS Mott Foundation
- William Penn Foundation
- Mc Knight Foundation
- Fair Play Foundation
- One Fly Foundation

Advancing Greater Philadelphia as a vital, just, and caring community.

WILLIAM PENN
FOUNDATION



THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION



Charles Stewart Mott Foundation



Prospective Corporate Partners



Celebrate More Fish!

- **BassMasters Tournament**
Birmingham, Alabama
Atlanta, GA to launch
More Fish Partnership
Fund Grants Program and
Campaign, February 25
- **NFWF ESPN Great**
Outdoors, New York City,
September 27





National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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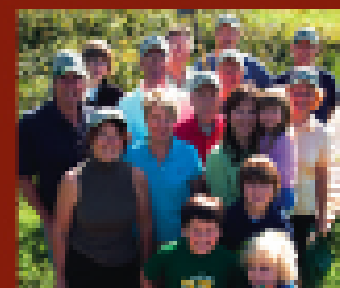
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Restoration NARRATIVES



A Six-Year Progress Report of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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