



# National Fish Habitat Action Plan Reservoir Partnership Working Group Transcripts

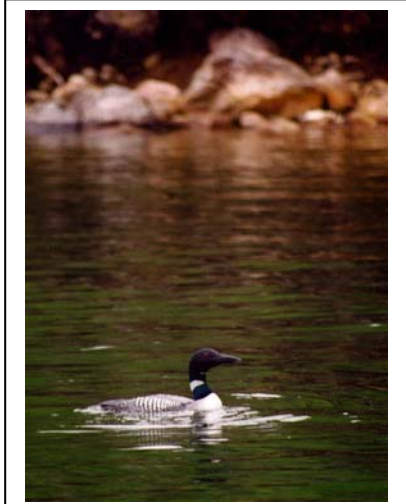
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## Executive Summary

Tell us what you want to do. This was the message from representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to a team of over 30 reservoir partners who met in Atlanta on 6/7 2007 to consider the opportunities and challenges of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. (NFHAP)

NFHAP is an investment strategy intended to make conservation dollars go farther. The Action Plan is leveraging federal and privately raised funds to build regional partnerships aimed at fixing the nation's biggest fisheries problems. This is the most comprehensive effort ever attempted to treat the causes of fish habitat decline, not just the symptoms.

While the 2007 the action plan funded a series of first round habitat initiatives, none included reservoir projects. This was due primarily to the absence of any organized reservoir advocacy groups and to a lesser degree, a lack of awareness on the part of the NFHAP Board and Science Team of the urgency of addressing reservoir habitat issues. This gap is a serious concern in states where most recreational angling occurs on reservoirs.

The purpose of this workshop was to charter a national reservoir team that can raise awareness of and support for reservoir habitat improvement partnerships within the structure of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Highlights from the discussions, options and recommendations of this "Reservoir Continental Congress" follow.



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## Before the Session



Organizers of the event wanted a preliminary idea of attitudes and beliefs going into the workshop. A pre-session survey was conducted for some starting insight. Major themes from this included:

### **Overwhelming support for creation of a reservoir partnership**

#### **Reservoir habitat priority areas should focus on**

- *Water quality*
- *Managing Aquatic Vegetation*
- *Lake Levels*
- *Exotic & Invasive Species Management*
- *Sedimentation*

#### **Criteria for selecting reservoir partnerships should include**

- *High probability of success*
- *Sound Science*
- *Angler support*
- *Measurable/quantifiable results*

**A strong willingness to contribute Time, Treasure and Talent to the effort**

**Strong reservations about creating new levels of bureaucracy**

#### **Success Factors**

- *Balance will be vital: multiple use, geographic, species management, and the issue of resource use vs. enjoyment all require collaborative approaches*
- *Reservoir partnership success may depend to a larger degree on a thorough understanding of socio-economic factors than science and biology*

**Participants expressed a strong belief a reservoir partnership will be successful**



## So, What Happened?

The workshop resulted in the following accomplishments:

**1. Drafted the following purpose statement;**

*To develop a reservoir system management action plan addressing habitat protection and improvement, water quality, water quantity with stakeholder involvement as a cooperative segment of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.*

**2. Agreed reservoir working group is a vital national effort and framed broad recommendations for approaching reservoir issues nationally**

*This document frames how this will take shape. It will change with an initial round of comment and review from Chief and other sponsors to validate and refine recommended approaches.*

**3. Chartered rules of engagement for the Reservoir Partnership**

*Participants examined and adopted a set of governance guidelines that will provide structure for participation and decision-making in the process.*

**4. Defined 2 tiers of the organization**

*Existing teams within American Fisheries Society, SEAFWA and SARP will develop regional partnership recommendations. There was a strong belief that many complimentary capabilities are already in place that can be leveraged to take advantage of existing regional knowledge*

*A National Executive Board will review regional recommendations and set priorities on the reservoir partnerships recommended to the NFHAP Board. The Executive Board's role will be to provide advocacy, review and balanced prioritization of projects. This will address "first come, first served" concerns and ensure that a strategic review of candidate partnership gets conducted before new partnerships move forward.*

**5. Strongly agreed a national reservoir partnership has the potential to become a major new national strategy with real funding and clout.** *Water Management Districts, Federal Partners, Agricultural interests, and other reservoir stakeholders will be invited to participate in this initiative. All will significantly broaden the possibilities of what is possible.*

**6. Committed to an action plan for first steps**

*Talk is great, but real success will be measured by what happens after the meeting. Participants committed to a process of review, editing and acceptance with their individual leadership teams. Comments and edits from this step will be used to develop the initial document and framework. Evidence that this project is headed in the right direction will be meaningful contributions of time, talent and resources from participating stakeholders.*



**7. Identified the need for a full-time project manager to coordinate initial phases**

*Great results on any kind of timeline are unlikely if we expect them to come from a volunteer team with fulltime positions and commitments. A full time Project Manager will be sought to handle the communication and coordination efforts that will be required of a successful project launch.*

**8. Recommended development of a 5013c strategy for handling public/private funding**

*A mechanism for handling public and private funds efficiently is urgently needed. This can be handled with an existing Foundation, or by creating a new one dedicated to supporting reservoir habitat projects. The essential ingredient for the workshop participants is management efficient. Efficiency and low overhead should be priorities.*



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## Reservoir Partnership Priorities

### 1. The team recommended two initial membership levels

Regional recommendations will flow from existing American Fisheries Regions. With the possible exception of Missouri, the existing 6 regions were logical to the team and seen as essential opportunities to leverage travel and meeting time. The ability to gather team members for dedicated meetings will be extremely limited.

The need for strategic direction that includes national perspective was recognized. An Executive committee will review partnership recommendations from the regions, evaluating them for potential, regional balance, support and strategic fit.

These structures need to be discussed, adapted as necessary and put into place quickly.

### 2. Create a vision of quality reservoir habitat and develop the funding to support it

The list of stakeholders who depend on quality reservoir habitat is extensive, interconnected and far-reaching. The team recognized huge opportunities to expand the influence and impact of reservoir partnerships by including a much broader range of traditional stakeholders in discussions and creating appropriate strategies for them to help fund habitat improvement projects. Building momentum will require funding that is sufficient to gain the attention of State Chiefs. \$10 million split across the country won't get this done. Working alone this will be a daunting task. Creatively engaging new stakeholders in the process can change the landscape. The time to include new partners who are willing and able to fund partnerships is now.

### 3. Create a legislative influence strategy

State Agencies are generally prohibited from lobbying, but stakeholders and allied agencies aren't. Crafting and delivering messages to legislative sponsors on the importance of reservoir water quality and what's at stake when it suffers is a must. The partnership needs eyes and ears in Washington to align sponsors, support and funding sources. Jim Range, or someone with similar background and qualifications should be retained to manage message shaping and lobbying.

### 4. Roles & Processes

- Executive/Steering Committee
- Project Manager (on loan or dedicated)
- 6 AFS Reservoir Science/Technical Advisory Teams
- Outline stakeholder participation opportunities
- 5013c Foundation

Legislative/lobbying capacity



The team explored and agreed to the following assumptions and guiding principles for the reservoir partnership team.

### Assumptions

- A well-designed plan will attract support and funding (The Shupp Principle)
- Sound science exists OR will be generated to support our recommendations
- Omitting recreational species from NFHAP omits more than 50% of U.S. anglers
- The benefits of improved fish habitat can be effectively communicated to society
- Reservoir/non-native aren't dirty words

### Guiding Principles

- Think big! Don't settle for little proposals with limited impact.
- Facilitate, don't dictate: be open to new ideas, approaches and nontraditional partners
- Avoid duplication by leveraging existing regional partnerships and associations. Replace or rewire them only if they aren't producing results
- Seek the right balance between loose confederation and centralization





## Key Issues & Concerns

1. Regional and National equity will be essential. Clearly stated benefits and reasons for participating must be developed for all partners. Messages must identify opportunities for local participation as well as strategic reasons for national priorities.
2. Recognition biological baseline habitat needs are poorly understood in reservoir systems and need be better defined. We must assume we will be in learning mode for many reservoir projects and that an adaptive management process is the best means of assimilating new information as it becomes available.
3. Concerns about competition with existing projects will have to be addressed. Most participants are max'd out on projects. Compelling justifications, real results and benefits will need to be communicated for.
4. This initiative must be able to fund NEW projects instead of contributing resources to existing projects.
5. Seed money will be necessary for early phases. Potential sources must be identified early in phase 1 to organize our organization.
6. How will we measure success? When will we declare victory? Answers to these questions should be considered early and often before selecting reservoir habitat projects.
7. One size will not fit all! Reservoirs are different: we will NEVER be done with some projects!! The operations and maintenance dimensions will be perpetual for some projects. Some solutions and recommendations will defy conventional wisdom and popular solutions. Water reallocation may be necessary to accomplish some objectives. There will be a need for individual solutions.

## Summary

It's really pretty basic. We can go a week without eating, but can't survive more than a few days without water. Protecting water quality is essential for quality habitat in reservoirs, not just for the fish, but for the millions of Americans who depend on them for drinking water, recreational opportunities and their livelihoods.

The Reservoir team is starting late, but has enormous potential to be a significant, pivotal partnership in the NFHAP. Big things are possible the moment is seized.

Getting organized, getting funding and laying out an action plan for the next 18 months are the next priorities for the effort.





## Vision Elements

Disclaimer: the team did NOT write this statement, however one is needed. This is provided strictly for reaction, target practice and refinement. There is no pride of authorship here...just a starting point..

Clean water and healthy aquatic habitat in reservoirs are not optional for America's future. America's reservoirs provide critical drinking water, flood protection, navigation, agricultural use and critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Balanced use and management will become more critical in the future

We envision a future where:

- Sustainable management of reservoir systems is supported by new levels of dialogue, compromise and consensus building. This success will be measured in decreases in litigation and win/lose propositions on reservoirs.
- Partners who have not traditionally worked together fund and support plans to protect drinking water and aquatic habitat in reservoir systems.
- Partners and stakeholders do not approach discussions with a belief that there is a monopoly on the truth for reservoir management.
- Reservoir systems are recognized as including the entire watershed: everything upstream and downstream. Stakeholders have a greater appreciation we're all connected.
- Managing reservoirs for the benefit of the ecosystem, and the humans who depend on them are not perceived as irreconcilable differences by stakeholders and the general public.
- Healthy & sustainable aquatic reservoir systems are understood and appreciated by the millions of Americans and their elected officials who fund appropriate levels of support for their protection.
- The Reservoir habitat partnership will provide facilitation and a place for a wide variety of stakeholder groups to meet and discuss critical needs. We will develop world-class listening skills...even for those with opposing perspectives.



## Next Steps, Timeline and Milestones

A preliminary timeline for next steps and milestones follows

Next Steps	Ownership	Complete By	Discussion
1. Circulate a draft version of the workshop transcripts review and revisions to workshop participants and sponsors. A final edition will be published after all final edits have been received	Chris Horton/GS	Get edits back by July 19  Publish and distribute final edition ASAP afterwards	
2. Charter Executive/Steering Committee and secure commitment to proceed	Phil Durocher Gary Martel Doug Nygren Chris Horton GS	Ratify by July 19 if this isn't in place already	Assume we are it for now Reach consensus on Karl's question:  <b>What do you want USEWS to do?</b>  <b>What do you want GS to do?</b>
3. Review AFS Regions and existing structures for suitability. Define regional go-to assets.	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	July 19	<b>Who is looking for new projects after the Reservoir Symposium?</b>  Address any regional overlaps or past non-performance issues
4. Agree on an XCOM communication plan	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	July	Agree and commit to a schedule of monthly teleconferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review calendar for AFS/SARP and NFHAB events that future discussions need to be linked to</li> <li>Charter regional working groups or who we THINK will be on them</li> <li>Establish a 2008 countdown calendar for reservoir project submission</li> </ul>
5. Develop job description and budget request a for Project Manager	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	August 19	Responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular contact with reservoir partnership members and stakeholders</li> <li>Grant inventory and recommendations</li> <li>Message development and partner recruitment</li> <li>Funding knowledge</li> <li>Regular email communication with reservoir partnership partners, stakeholders</li> <li>NFHAB Board and Science Committee liaison</li> <li>Committee coordination</li> </ul>



## Next Steps, Timeline and Milestones

Next Steps	Ownership	Complete By	Discussion
6. Develop job description and budget request a for legislative liaison	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	TBD	Responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping legislative messages</li> <li>• Seek sponsors for legislation</li> <li>• Coalition/partner building</li> <li>• Vote counting</li> <li>• Delivering significant, ongoing matching funds to support reservoir habitat improvement linked to water quality</li> </ul>
7. Review and select 5013c foundation alternative for public-private funding	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	TBD	NWF or Not NWF? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low friction</li> <li>• Low overhead</li> <li>• EZ to work with</li> <li>• Define communication/coordination expectations</li> </ul>
8. Develop partner messaging and WIFM statements outlining what's at stake, why they should participate and what benefits a NFHAP reservoir partnership can offer them	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	TBD	Should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• Key Water Districts</li> <li>• Ag Interests (Bruce's Group)</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Fishing/Boating Industry</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Economists</li> </ul>
9. Define other committee needs: Finance/Science/AFS	XCOM Chris Horton USFWS/Hannibal	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering significant, ongoing matching funds to support reservoir habitat improvement linked to water quality</li> </ul>

Draft Review Document 6.21.07



## Discussion Notes

### Karl Hess/USFWS

- I'm participating on Hannibal Bolton's behalf because USFWS supports the idea of reservoir partnerships. We believe this is a great opportunity.
- There are many differing perspectives within habitat initiative and currently a pretty big hole in NFHAP. Without reservoirs a lot is missing in action. We need to do a better job integrating reservoirs with the overall goals of NFHAP.
- If this group can identify the vision and leadership; money will follow.
- The USFWS wants to express broad support for whatever this team tells us you want to do. There are multiple ways the Service can assist. We can help with some funding. We can help with some support staff. Tell us what you want to do.

Facilitator: Today, is there a group that speaks with one voice for reservoirs? No. That group would be us. For our purposes, we must consider ourselves a version of the Continental Congress. Let's assume we were elected to speak on behalf of this topic. More dialogue will be necessary. Let's begin with an "I'm a delegate" assumption to move today's discussions forward. It's understood there will need to be involvement and ratification from Chiefs and that many of us are representing them. Let's take a cut at this today.

### Pre-Survey Highlights

- Strong support for a reservoir partnership
- The highest rated criteria for selecting partnerships were:
  - High probability of success
  - Sound Science
  - Angler support
  - Measurable/quantifiable results
- A strong willingness to contribute Time, Treasure and Talent; the 3 Ts.
- Strong concerns were expressed about creating new levels of bureaucracy
- Success Factors
  - Balance will be vital: multiple use, geographic, species management, resource use vs. enjoyment
  - Success may depend to a larger degree on a thorough understanding of socio-economic factors than science and biology
- Participants expressed a strong belief a reservoir partnership will be successful



### **What Else: Beyond the Pre-session Survey Highlights**

The economic impact of healthy reservoirs is part our story that needs much more emphasis. We need to think bigger and broader, far beyond just anglers. Clean water may be the driver on this issue. Attach fisheries issues to Clean Water legislation may be a much more productive angle than a “go it alone” approach.

One of the big questions that must be considered is the feasibility of coordinating a national-scale. Is a regional approach more viable? How much is too much? Should efforts be quick and light or heavy duty? Should initiatives and ecosystems be balanced nationally or regionally?

We need a mechanism for prioritizing regional needs nationally that doesn't just look at one section of the country.

Recreational fisheries must receive more attention in NFHAP discussions. One goal must be improved rec fishing in our reservoirs. It would be surprising if anyone knows precisely what to do habitat-wise to improve fishing. Much uncertainty has to be included. An adaptive management approach that enables us to learn as we go should be included. This will help establish this baseline.

Develop more management sciences with respect to habitat creation. The lack of success certainty needs to be stated up front. Some early projects will be about learning.

Karl Hess: Eastern Brook Trout is organized along affiliated regions. This may be a model. Rec fishing is the big driver here. Connectivity IS conducive to a broad landscape perspective. This is an especially exciting dimension. Adaptive management could be a very creative way of operating with this framework.

Many workshop participants are members of SARP. Meetings show they are heavily weighted to streams and species of concerns while reservoirs are generally overlooked. Do we need a national focus? I'd say yes. How will partnerships be represented? We probably need a separate approach to accomplish this.

Our goal today should be to come out of here with a draft white paper that can be carried forward for comment, clarification and sign-on.

Hopefully a primary benefit will be recognizing and facilitating existing restoration projects. The process should be streamlined to match and leverage existing programs! Let's not create another bureaucracy. Integrating this smoothly can help avoid creating a competing stream.

Broadening the scope of existing programs might be a way to go.

Gene Gilliland: Chris Horton's perspective is that the Board is not anti-reservoir; it's just not on their radar screens. Most don't get it. Unfortunately, the Science committee doesn't get it either.



Some of the existing programs that should be considered are not well understood by those evaluating them.

**Potential goals:**

1. Put together a team to develop a framework
2. Recommend modifying the system Board/Science team (or the assessment process) to become more reservoir-friendly. It is currently too focused on native species/habitat. This should not be viewed as a competing process, but rather a more balanced approach.

If more people understand that reservoirs are more than 50% of the angling population we should attract more outside support. If our emphasis is on *fish* (vs. fishing) we will fail to attract industry support.

Can you define fish? Is it Sportfish? Nongame? Aquatic inverts? T&E?

Native/national terminology created a lot of initial confusion. The benefits of restoring native systems vs. having fish habitat supporting ecosystems that enhance fish life are open to a lot of interpretation.

How the Board will fund programs hasn't been well addressed. Later is HERE!  
We'll get more buy-in if each partnership gets a seat at the table.

At some point USFWS will have to allocate available dollars among the programs.

Karl Hess: The habitat action plan shows a reservoir partnership might do a better job of public outreach than other partnerships. More are affected by reservoirs than tributaries. Reservoirs are specifically mentioned in the initial plan. Some of the same discussions here are taking place within FWS. We will take your lead. Hannibal will push hard to put this on the agenda.

Let's assume we have willing audiences to accept our recommendations.

Reservoirs didn't get funding in the initial round of NFHAP because we didn't have a plan. This session is about creating one. Reservoirs aren't organized. Today is about changing that. Counterpoint: some of us believe that a lot of input has been ignored

What roles are needed to get started?

1. A science/technical team to review and recommend programs/projects
2. Finance/resource
3. Legislative/lobbying
4. Partner coordination (foundation)

Formal vs. informal. How do you want to do it?



Ultimately there will have to be staffing, but in the beginning a volunteer approach may be good enough for us to get organized. At some time, we'll need a coordinating person.

This is probably the most frugal approach, but who has nothing to do?

SEAFWA or AFS via reservoir committees are elected by division chiefs. They're the people with projects on the ground. We need to discuss some connectivity. As soon as this meeting's over the reservoir team will be looking for the next project

We need to consider the trade offs between speeding things up and using available resources

### **Thoughts on Committees?**

Legislative/lobbying are concerns for some state agencies. There are strong prohibitions against direct lobbying. Building partnerships with organizations that can do this will be important. Having a point of view as a state agency CAN be done and coordinated with external partners and stakeholders.

What about a committee of the reservoir owners/operators? This should include the Corps of Engineers, Water Authorities and power companies.

**Karl Hess: Strategic vision/plan should be part of this. To attract attention/support from Congressional sponsors we need to think bigger.**

Another key partner should be the boating industry. Water quality is essential and a shared priority.

Tourism is also an important component. Balancing promotion of this with resource preservation is a tricky. Bringing in HOAs and boating public could significantly expand our impact and influence.

Controlling authorities and industry must be included in the partnership. These stakeholders can help with legislative/lobbying efforts. Earl Bentz told us directly at the last SARP meeting: you produce fish. We sell boats. This is a clear link. We need to view these folks as integral to our efforts. 75% of 1<sup>st</sup> time boat purchases are for boats. Without fish no boats get sold!

### **Procedures (Round 1)**

- Funding Methods/Sources
- Communication Plan
- Oversight
- Membership

How does RBFF fit in? It's funded by sportfish dollars. How does it tie to this initiative?

Karl: Can't answer this directly. There is probably a link here. Probably some overlap of interest.

How will we coordinate with RBFF?



### Who else will we accept as members?

- Corps
- Green groups
- Landowners
- Other unique players

### Structuring our work: Draft Governance Structure

- A model for collaboration/communication
- Create a white paper with options for distribution/comment
- Let's assume we're in charge: What are we creating?

### Purpose Statement

A few edits: managed systems. The reservoir systems focuses on the entire ecosystem (this will include tailwaters)

### NFHAP Reservoir Partnership Purpose Statement

*To develop a reservoir system management action plan addressing habitat protection and improvement, water quality, water quantity with stakeholder involvement as a cooperative segment of the NFHAP*

Also change Initiative wording to Action Plan wherever it occurs

The following section contains discussion notes from the governance segment.





## Recommended Reservoir Partnership Governance

### Chapter I: Purposes and Principles

*The purposes of the NFHAP Reservoir Stakeholders' Partnership are:*

#### **Article 1**

- 1. To promote the protection and improvement of healthy aquatic habitat in reservoir systems.*
- 2. To establish stakeholder partnerships that will develop and implement science-based action plans*
- 3. To ensure adequate resources are available to support implementation of action plans*
- 4. To support management decision making through long term, continual examination of issues, results and impacts of plan implementation.*
- 5. Increase public awareness, knowledge of, and support for, the importance and role of healthy reservoir systems.*

#### **Article 2**

*In pursuit of the purposes of the partnership, members shall act in accordance to the following principles:*

- 1. Membership in the partnership will not preclude the ability of members to exercise their rights individually, or on behalf of their represented group.*
- 2. Established and newly created agreements will be respected and incorporated into discussions and decisions*
- 3. Rigorous peer-reviewed science must underpin partnership recommendations and decisions. This will be dynamic over time as new information becomes available*
- 4. Partnership activities will be long-term and continuing; members of the partnership will make commitments accordingly*
- 5. Partnership members will seek to communicate openly and honestly about the needs of their interest groups.*
- 6. Members of the partnership will strive for candid discussion of difficult issues in face-to-face situations. Confrontational public approaches will be discouraged as unproductive to the process.*
- 7. Partnership members will make every effort to be flexible and open to new ideas and to the input of fellow members*



8. Extreme positions that would result in dramatic win/lose proposals for partnership members will not be introduced.

## Chapter II Membership

### Article 3

1. The Members of the Stakeholder Partnership shall be appointed, elected, or clearly identified spokespersons for their respective interest groups.
2. We will seek consensus where possible, but where consensus can't be reached, decisions will be reached by majority if 2/3rds of membership are present.
3. Different levels of membership are anticipated. Different decisions will be made by Executive Committees, partners and general members
4. There shall be one spokesperson per interest group.
5. Designated alternatives may vote...if they come prepared to play. No single person may represent more than 2 organizations in any capacity
6. Each organization may designate up to 2 alternatives to attend meetings. Each alternative must be identified IN ADVANCE

*\*\*The higher level of support for recommendations, the greater likelihood of acceptance. Bring solutions, not problems.*

### Article 4

*1. Membership in the reservoir partnership will be open to all groups who have a direct interest in NFHAP reservoir management issues. (i.e. specific recreational, economic or ecological interests)*

- State Fish Chiefs
- Management authorities (regulatory, operations)
- Lake/HOA associations
- Conservation Groups
- Watershed groups
- Fishing & Tackle Manufacturers
- Sportsmen's groups
- BASS
- Boaters
- Rec users
- Marina Operators
- Marina Associations
- Boating Manufacturers
- Landowners
- Chambers of commerce
- Tourism
- Other Federal & State Agencies
- Counties & Townships
- Commercial fisheries?
- Tribes
- Water Management Districts
- Water Consumers
  - Agriculture
  - Irrigation
  - Drinking Water

- *Universities* Several categories were discussed as potential exclusions. Elected officials, the media and individuals or organizations with obvious conflicts probably are not appropriate for membership in the partnership

2. *The process will not regress due to the entry of new members. New members will familiarize themselves with the process-to-date and contribute to the discussion from their time joining.*

3. *A balance of Partnership members will be sought*

\*\* It was noted that in some cases success may involve simply maintaining. We may not always be able to improve situations. Sometimes preventing loss is the best that can be done.

## **Article 5**

1. Active electronic options (conference calls, email and other collaborative web tools) will be used to maximize participation options. A member (or designee) of the Stakeholder Partnership who has missed two consecutive meetings, and who has not provided an adequate Alternate, will be asked to relinquish voting privileges.

### **2. Two groups will be necessary:**

An Executive Board

A stakeholder group who want/need to be involved and informed of developments

3. Regional options will be less formal. Too much rigidity will discourage participation

4. Option: A Regional science review teams (up to 6) will evaluate/prioritize alternatives (with national guidance).

5. Option B: A stakeholder group makes the call with broader perspective. Both options need to be incorporated for effective decision-making

It is understood that 2 entities will not be governing reservoir proposals in the Southeast

### Role of Regional

1. Geographic/Regional administration by AFS regions
2. Some minor tweaking will be necessary to address a few SARP overlaps (MO)

### Role of National

1. Advocacy will be the primary role (industry/lobbying/influence)
2. Determines a final prioritization of recommended projects
3. Guiding Principles



- Broad distribution of regional representation on National Board
- Ensure an equitable balance of science and projects across the nation
- Provides strategic oversight for prioritization of investment

### **Discussion**

*Consider exemptions for those who are able to consistently contribute. Instead of a “death penalty” consider asking those unable to attend regularly if they still want to participate?*

*Legal/funding structures will be handled by Board*

*Stakeholder group will handle larger policy issues*

*Keep this flexible to enable a maximum amount of participation*

*Let it be self-selecting according to who wants to participate.*

*Another option: leave it looser*

***Executive Board: small number of people***

***Stakeholder membership: self-selecting at any point in time.***

*Assumption: we will rely on a majority of meetings being held in virtual mode: email/conf calls.*

*Face-to-face Board meetings will be held at other sessions they will be traveling to anyway. Few, if any, dedicated meetings are envisioned.*

*National structure with regional breakdowns are one option for structuring this.*

*Regional science team will prioritize local partnership alternatives. They will provide alternatives to NFHAP Science Team via the National Board.*

*SARP will develop a regional set of priorities.*

*Regions come together to see how decisions fit together*

*The plan must accommodate reviewing overlap and duplication. There has to be a way to avoid having multiple versions of the same project submitted.*

*Workshop participants believe they are not receiving the right kind of direction from the NFHAP.*

*There are really 2 options:*

*1. They embrace us...we become a partner*

*2. We create our own structure that provides for our own representation*

*We can go it alone if the door isn't open for reservoirs to be adequately represented. If the national board isn't open to significant reservoir participation this may be an option.*



*Let's assume we have an overall set of recommendations for reservoir: regional prioritization with some type of national reconciliation from the 6 regions*

*What makes sense: A regional piece relying on SARP or a separate national structure? Overlaps will have to be ironed out in advance of moving applications forward*



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## Chapter III: Rules of Engagement

### Article 6

1. *Members of the partnership will make at least a 1-2 year commitment to stay engaged in the process*
2. *Partnership members agree to commit some level of time, talent or treasure (resources) to the effort*

### Article 7

1. *Regional Science teams (Technical Advisory Groups) will be established. Each TAG will consist of model builders, biologists, economists and other technical experts required by the partnership.*
2. *TAGs will solely serve an advisory role to the partnership*
3. *Inventory existing research activities and link to website*  
*\*\* Does an inventory of available grants exist anywhere? Most of this is unpublished in shoeboxes and desk drawers. Auburn University may have a starting point for this. Investigate!*

*National level participation: NMMA (may also want to participate at the regional level via marina operator Associations.)*

*National Board Open or appointed?*

*Most of the work will be framed by the Executive Committee*

*Do you elect them?*

*The team should discuss how National Board gets put together. For now it's the Continental Congress model.*

### Article 8

1. *A facilitator will be used to guide the early stages of development*
2. *Hire (or designate by SFC) a project manager who will coordinate partnership activities for at least the first 90 days.*  
*\*\* Could this be a state person (lent for 90 days) to make this happen?*  
*NGO donation or grant?*
3. *A steering committee/Exec Comm will provide initial guidance for the effort (Durocher, Martel, Nygren)*
4. *A partnership chairperson may be elected in the future if the partnership deems it necessary*



*Begin with XCOMM and a white paper...build a somewhat larger group from there.*

### **Article 9**

*1. Regular agendas and times for partnership teleconferences and meetings will be planned and posted in advance to enable maximum participation*

*2. This is not a new meeting track. The partnership will piggyback with existing meetings and rely on virtual collaboration (teleconferences, web and email) to transact business.*

*3. Before being considered by the partnership. Scientific findings, proposed by-laws, and updates will distributed well in advance (30 day min) of partnership meetings to enable adequate technical member prep*

## **Chapter IV: Shaping Partnership Output**

*Article 10-11-12: already covered (omit)*

*Blew through anything remaining that needs to be covered?*

### **Article 13**

*1. Stakeholder input will be part of ongoing meetings and operations but any input will be strictly member consideration in the partnership's resolution of issues. Looks like this can be omitted.*

## **Chapter V: Ratification and Signature**

*We will be able to secure cooperation/input if we don't consider them their input at the table. This is hard for biologists. Some will be political/economic considerations.*

*Assume the level of sophistication is pretty high for our potential stakeholders*

*Distinguish between partners and stakeholders. They are 2 distinct groups*

- *Partners contribute resources: Time, Talent and Treasure: the 3-Ts*
  - *Partners will include States/Federal agents/Industry agents/NGOs*
- *Stakeholders provide input and perspective. They are contributing opinions*

### **Next Steps**

- *A white paper will be summarized and distributed*
- *Chris Horton will distribute it for edits and comment*
- *Concerns, issues and focus capture. 30-day comment window?*
- *A final copy will follow for ratification and signature*



## Appendix

### A. Workshop Attendees

Name	Organization	Email
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National Fish Habitat Plan  
Reservoir Partnership Working Group: A Framework for Action

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## B. Lake Placid Background File

NFHI stakeholders participated in a workshop in Lake Placid in September 2006. Many major themes from this discussion parallel the findings of the reservoir partnership team. These themes are included for additional perspective and grounding.

### **Reservoir Partnership Success Will Look Like..**

1. Regular, significant habitat improvements are communicated to a general public who understands and supports them
2. Partnerships focus on health and sustainability of reservoir watersheds/ecosystems; not just fish
3. Congressional representatives want progress reports
4. Partnerships get referenced in emerging legislation
5. Reservoir partnerships include to new/different partners
6. Expansion in the range of native fishes
7. Self-sustaining fish populations increase
8. Successful Joint Ventures get replicated in new locations
9. NFHAP strategies become formally recognized in regular funding mechanisms like Clean Water Act
10. Partnerships make measurable contributions to clean air and clean water
11. Human Dimension & socioeconomic considerations are recognized as science
12. The number of listed, threatened and endangered species decreases
13. Improvements in indexes of biotic integrity
14. More smart planning and growth

### **Potential Standards for assessing partnership proposals**

1. How significant is the proposed partnership in scale and scope?
2. What meaningful impacts are expected?
3. What measures of strong partner/stakeholder support are evident?
4. Does the proposal demonstrate an ability to attract new/nontraditional stakeholders?
5. How effectiveness is the proposal at addressing the root causes of habitat degradation?
6. Is it practical? Can it be done? Is it sound scientifically? Will it grow/expand long-term?
7. Is a plan in place to make the project self-sustaining?
8. How have human development trends been anticipated?
9. How does the proposal demonstrate a common understanding of key national trends
10. Consensus on the ideal size/scope
11. Time-scales for assessing progress and identification of who/how will conduct them
12. Development of templates for other partnerships to use
13. Recognition pre-colonial standards are inappropriate everywhere

## **Barriers & Constraints**



- Native fish vs. sportfish beliefs, biases and management practices
- Beliefs we have a monopoly on the “truth”
- Inter-jurisdictional turf battles
- A history of neglect/non-involvement of landowner concerns
- Partner/Agency commitment to sustain partnerships
- “We’ve always done it that way” thinking
- Little experience thinking at the sustainability level

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