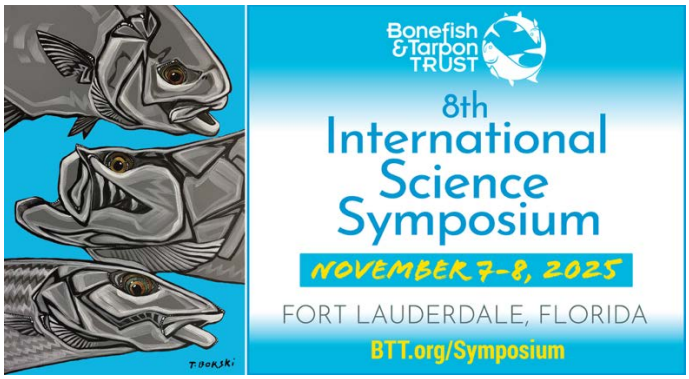


The National Fish Habitat Action Plan- A Renewed Plan for Landscape-Scale Aquatic Habitat Conservation

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The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is a collaborative, non-regulatory, science-based nationwide program to conserve (protect, restore, and enhance) the habitats of the Nation's marine and freshwater fish populations, and to increase public fishing opportunities. This is accomplished by encouraging partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector. The work is accomplished through strategic actions of 20 regional Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP's) that address regional priorities for fish habitat conservation.

The first National Fish Habitat Action Plan was developed by a coalition of federal agency, state agency, and NGO representatives, and was signed in 2006 by the U.S. Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, as well as the President and Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The effort was initiated in response to a recommendation from the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council, who recognized the declining state of the Nation's aquatic habitats despite significant financial investments by federal agencies, state agencies, and NGOs over the preceding decades. 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the first Action Plan, and coinciding with that significant milestone, NFHP will be publishing a new Action Plan focused on current challenges and priorities.

NFHP became a stand-alone program in 2020, following the passage of America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, which was reauthorized in 2024. The National Fish Habitat Board, led by a representative from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, serves as the body overseeing the implementation of the legislation and execution of the Action Plan.

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