

# *National Fish Habitat Action Plan*



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

# What is the National Fish Habitat Action Plan?

## IN A NUTSHELL

A coordinated national effort to take bold action in addressing the ongoing loss and degradation of fish habitat.

## MISSION

Protect, restore and enhance the Nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.



# HOW?

## STRATEGIES

- Support existing Fish Habitat Partnerships and foster new efforts.
- Mobilize and focus national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.
- Measure and communicate the status and needs of aquatic habitats.
- Provide national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.



# Goals of the Action Plan

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish and aquatic habitats that have been adversely affected
- Reverse the declines in the quality of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish sustained by our Nation's waters
- Increase self-sustaining aquatic systems that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species



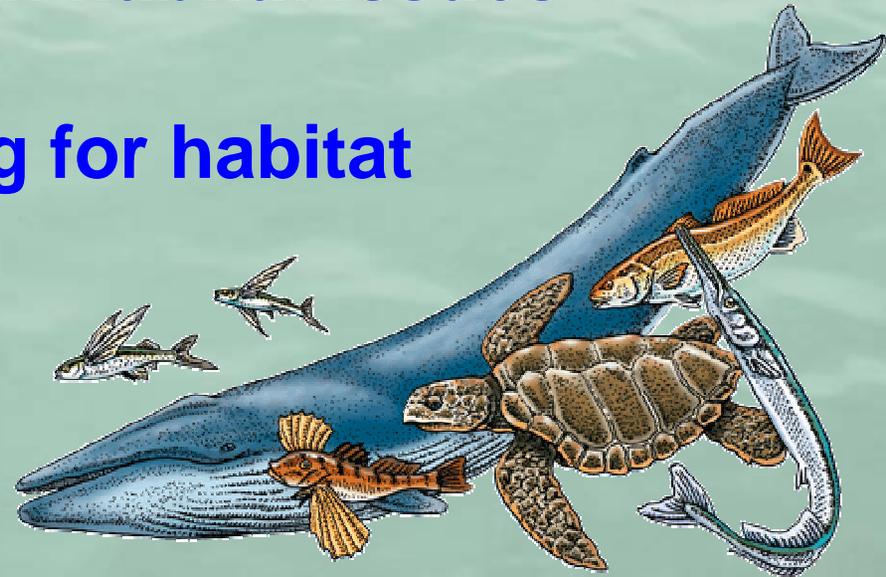
# Objectives

- **Conduct condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.**
- **Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.**
- **Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.**
- **Prepare a *Status of Fish Habitats in the United States* in 2010, and every five years thereafter.**
- **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.**



# What does it mean for coastal/marine fish habitat?

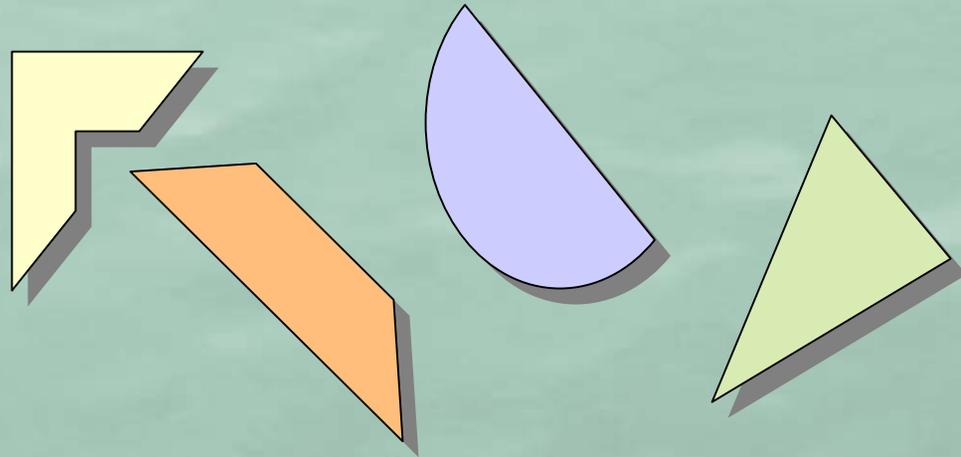
- **Making existing programs better**
  - improved coordination and focus
- **National support and attention for coastal/marine fish habitat issues**
- **Additional funding for habitat projects**





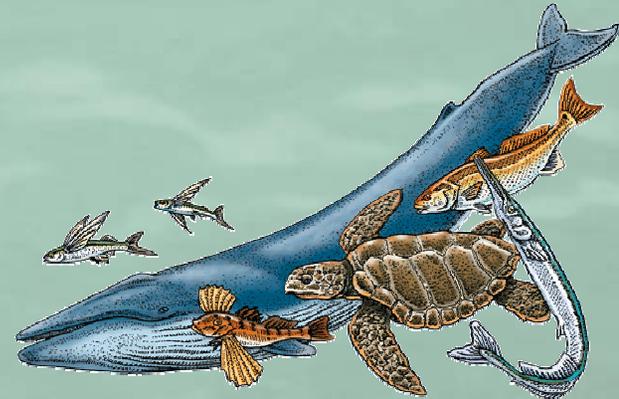
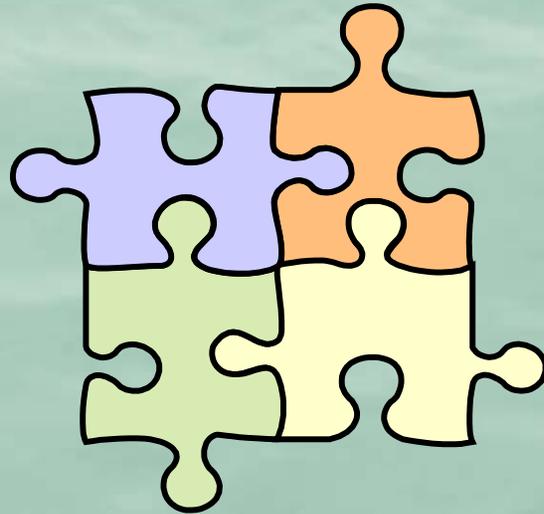
# Increased Coordination and Focus

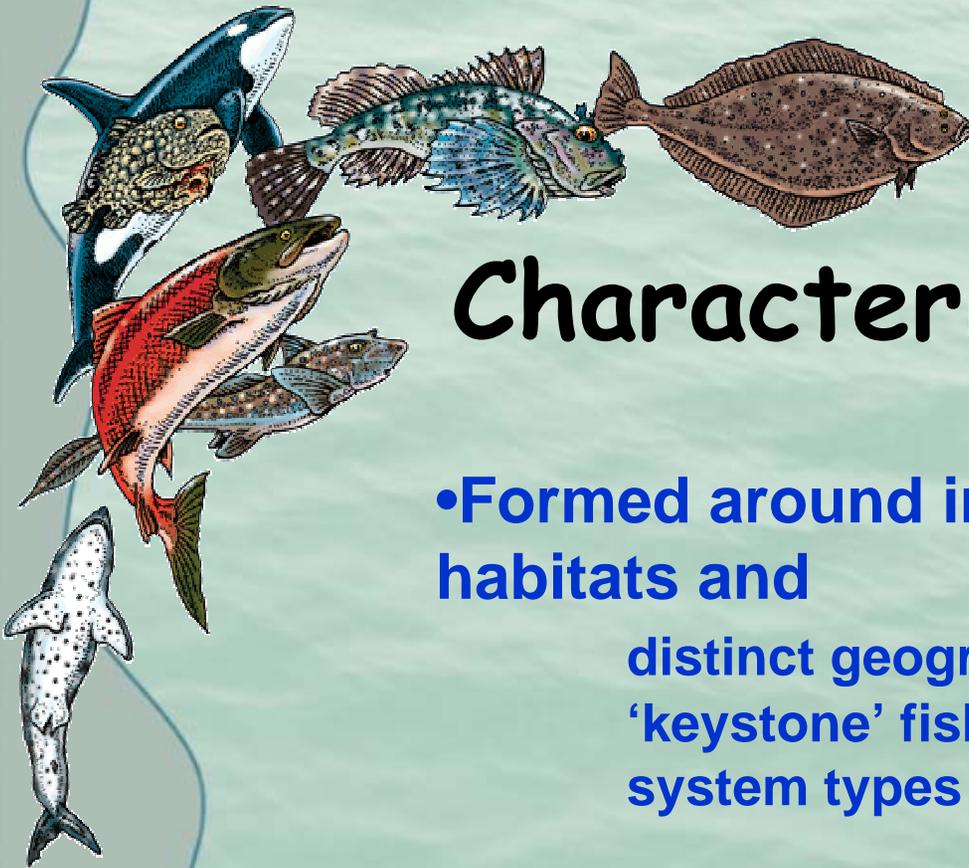
- Right now – numerous projects, numerous sponsors, numerous priorities



# NFH Action Plan

- **Science-based, stakeholder-developed strategies and priorities through Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships**

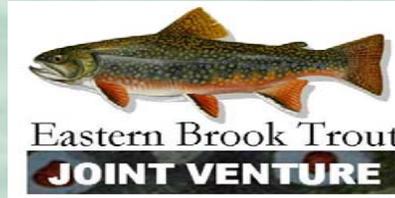




# Characteristics of FHPs

- **Formed around important aquatic habitats and distinct geographic areas, 'keystone' fish species, or system types**
- **Involve diverse groups of public and private partners**
- **Collaboratively develop a strategic vision and implementation plan that is scientifically sound and achievable.**

# A Pilot NFHI Partnership



- Partnership of 18 states, 4 fed agencies, NGO's, and academia
- Science-based management
  - Utilizes most current data on population status, distribution, and threats.
- Voluntary and Non-regulatory
- Features local projects, often habitat-based, that support broader goals
- Assertively sought partnership with NGO's





# National-level support and attention for coastal/marine fish habitat

- Tools, networking, and shared knowledge
- Status of Fish Habitat Report
- Regular quantitative reporting of accomplishments



# Additional Funding

- **FWS funding**

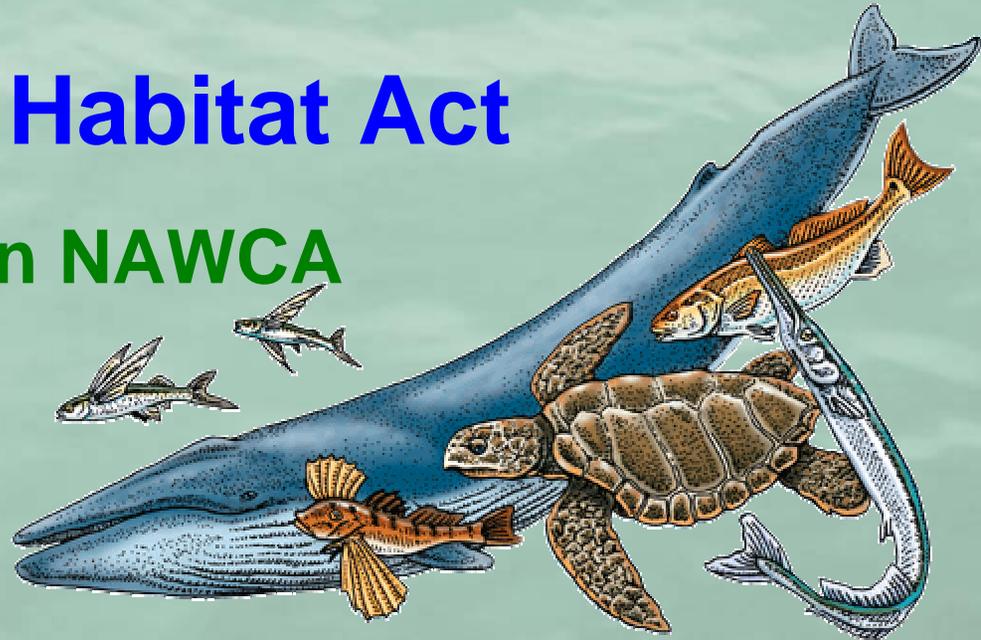
\$1 million in '06, \$3 million in '07

- **NFWF – “More Fish” Campaign**

\$100 million over next 5 years

- **National Fish Habitat Act**

modeled on NAWCA

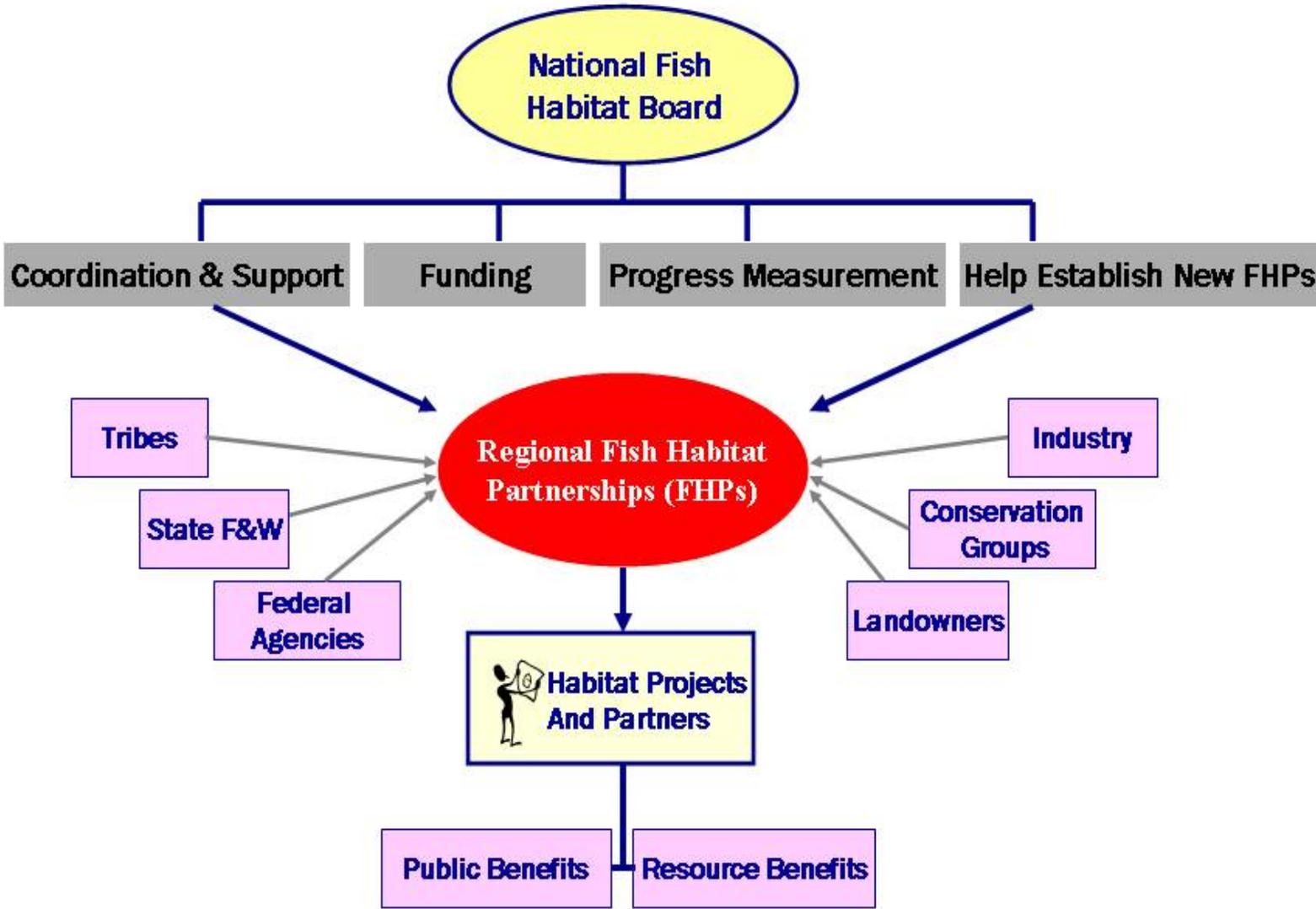


# State Involvement

- IAFWA is on Executive Leadership Team
- State Fisheries staff are on all workgroups
- States will sit on Fish Habitat Board
- Staff will participate in Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships
- Staff will participate in protection and restoration projects



# National Fish Habitat Action Plan



# NFHI Origins

- Recommended by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (2002).
- In 2003, the IAFWA endorsed the concept of a “comprehensive national fisheries habitat plan/strategy”.
- Dec 2003-July 2004 Five regional gatherings to discuss the concept of a NFHI and enlist support.
- Jan 2005 - Workgroup formed to develop Plan.
- Modeled after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.



# National Fish Habitat Action Plan Timeline

- Presented to IAFWA-Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee - September 13, 2005.
- Open for public comment and review until October 31, 2005
- State Fish Chiefs Meeting - February, 2006
- Final approval at North American Wildlife Conference - March, 2006
- Public rollout at "Casting Call" - April 24 2006





*The Action Plan:*  
*One Voice*  
*for*  
*Aquatic Habitat*

