

September 28, 2009



News from the

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

For and about employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Interest is strong in organizing Fish Habitat Partnerships

In August 2009 the [National Fish Habitat Board](#) received [seven applications](#) for recognition by Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships. The seven applicants focus on priority habitats on the Atlantic coast, Ohio River basin, Kenai Peninsula, Great Lakes basin, Great Plains, California coastal streams, and reservoirs nationwide. The Board will act on the applications at its [meeting on October 7-8](#) at The Nature Conservancy headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

To date the Board has recognized [nine Fish Habitat Partnerships](#). These Partnerships are the “primary work units” of the Action Plan, combining grass-roots energy with state-of-the-art science to “move the needle” for fish habitat conservation. In addition, the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership recently notified the Board of its intent to become a recognized Fish Habitat Partnership in the future. The entire U.S., with the exception of Caribbean and Pacific territorial islands, is now covered with recognized or candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships. Contact Tom_Busiahn@fws.gov for more information.

Action Plan project completed with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding

A project on the Kickapoo River, Wisconsin, is the first Action Plan project to be completed with funding from the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#). The project was a priority of the [Driftless Area Restoration Effort](#) – a Fish Habitat Partnership under the Action Plan.

The Kickapoo River, a popular fishing and canoeing stream, was severely impacted by floodwaters in 2007 and 2008. The flooding cut away stream banks in several areas, creating bank instability and siltation in habitat for sensitive species like brook trout and southern redbelly dace. The river is a unique system with an upper coldwater portion supporting trout and sculpin, a middle reach containing smallmouth bass and walleye, and a lower warmwater reach with habitat for catfish, blue suckers and redhorse.

The [Kickapoo River project](#) was awarded \$40,000 of Recovery Act funds. In late August 2009, local contractors completed stabilization of 2000 feet of eroding bank on the Kickapoo River and also installed rock clusters in the stream to enhance habitat for trout. The Fish and Wildlife Service allocated a total of \$2 million of its Recovery Act funds for projects under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Contact Susan_Wells@fws.gov for more information.

Senate passes 2010 appropriations with an increase for the Action Plan

On September 24, the United States Senate passed its version of the [Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation bill](#) for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The House of Representatives passed the bill on June 26. Both bills include an increase of \$2 million in the Fisheries Program for implementing the Action Plan, as requested by the Administration. With this increase, the Service will devote \$7.153 million to implementing the Action Plan in FY 2010. Fisheries Program leadership will brief the National Fish Habitat Board on October 7 on the proposed allocation of the funds. Contact [Tom Busiahn@fws.gov](mailto:Tom_Busiahn@fws.gov) for more information.

Clothing with Action Plan logo available for ordering

Shirts, hats, and bags displaying the Action Plan logo are available for online ordering. If interested, check out the announcement [here](#).

Upcoming Events

National Fish Habitat Board, October 7-8, 2009, Arlington, VA. Susan-Marie Stedman, Susan.Stedman@noaa.gov, 301-713-4300 x132. If planning to attend, RSVP at rsvp@fishhabitat.org.

Rally 2009 – The National Land Conservation Conference, October 12-14, Portland, OR. www.landtrustalliance.org. Workshop on the Action Plan scheduled for 3:30-5 p.m., October 14. Christy Plumer, cplumer@conservationfund.org, 703-908-5815.

Mat-Su Salmon Science & Conservation Symposium, November 18-19, Wasilla, AK. Corinne Smith, corinne_smith@tnc.org, (907) 276-3133 x121.

For more information

www.fishhabitat.org

The place to go on the web for general information on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/nfhap/>

A web site about the Action Plan with information tailored for FWS employees

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