



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
ACTION PLAN

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW,
Suite 725, Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202/624-7890 ♦ F: 202/624-7891

Web www.fishhabitat.org

September 30, 2009

Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership
c/o Randy Fisher, Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 S.E. Spokane Street
Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202-6413

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for your letter of August 21, 2009 to the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) indicating your partnership's interest in becoming a Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and contributing to its implementation.

Fish Habitat Partnerships are the primary work units of the Action Plan, representing diverse groups of public and private partners with a shared interest in conserving fish habitat. Fish Habitat Partnerships develop a strategic vision and implementation plan that is scientifically sound and achievable; provide leadership to deliver fish habitat projects at regional and local levels; and cooperate with the Board and other Fish Habitat Partnerships in implementing the Action Plan.

The Board is responsible for developing appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing and supporting Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Board has developed guidance on establishing Fish Habitat Partnerships and has approved procedures and a schedule for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Board also serves as a vehicle to bring additional funds and technical resources to recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The Board will consider the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) to be a "Candidate Fish Habitat Partnership" as defined in the Guidance, and will notify you when applications for recognition as a Fish Habitat Partnership are requested.

We are pleased to learn that the PMEP has brought together a variety of agencies and non-governmental organizations, and is working to expand the scope of collaborators. Your letter described a series of next steps that are consistent with the Board's guidance, and, if completed, will bring the PMEP to fruition.

We urge you to consult with other recognized and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships whose areas include portions of the Pacific coast to resolve competing or conflicting conservation goals, maximize geographic coverage, and minimize overlap among the partnerships. We also suggest that your habitat assessment and strategic planning consider the effects of inland habitat conditions, including stream flows, on the condition of coastal waters. This is a difficult scientific problem faced by all coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The Board appreciates your dedication to conserving fish habitat and your interest in implementing the Action Plan. If you have questions, please contact Tom Busiahn, Fish Habitat Partnership liaison, at 703-358-2056 or e-mail tom_busiahn@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kelly Hepler, Chairman
National Fish Habitat Board