

July 31, 2009



News from the

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

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

Leadership changes

The Service has [announced](#) that [Bryan Arroyo](#), currently assistant director for Endangered Species, will become assistant director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, while [Gary Frazer](#), currently assistant director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, will assume management of the Endangered Species Program. The change is effective on July 31, 2009.

In his work with the Action Plan since January 2008, Gary Frazer has been a strong advocate, a dependable partner, and a careful manager of the Service's activities. He represented the Director at every meeting of the [National Fish Habitat Board](#), and gained the respect of the other Board members. He supported the Service's efforts to collaborate with sister agencies through the Federal Caucus, and provided personal leadership on effective use of Fisheries Program funds dedicated to the Action Plan.

On July 16, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission [announced](#) that [Executive Director Doug Austen](#) will transition out of his position with the Commission. Austen serves as the vice-chair of the National Fish Habitat Board, representing the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Over approximately the next six months, Austen will continue as Executive Director, and primarily focus his efforts on key federal initiatives, including enactment of the [National Fish Habitat Conservation Act](#).

Service participation in the One-Year-Out Workshop

A total of 120 people registered for the "One-Year-Out" Workshop held on June 23-25, 2009 to review progress toward 2010 objectives in the Action Plan. The Service was well represented with 31 registrants, followed by NOAA with 22. There were 21 participants representing 14 different State agencies. Seventeen of 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships and Candidate FHPs were represented. A follow-up online survey achieved a 30% response rate, and will be summarized for the National Fish Habitat Board. Speaker [presentations](#) from the Workshop are posted online. Results of the breakout sessions will be posted in the near future. Contact [Tom Busiahn](#) for more information.

The Board met on June 25 to follow up on recommendations generated at the Workshop, and took the following actions:

- Directed its staff to prepare a short white paper explaining the national fish habitat assessment and the associated priority-setting tool, for a general audience.
- Expanded membership of its Partnerships Committee and directed staff to reconvene the Committee to review FHP issues raised at the Workshop.

- Asked vice-chair Doug Austen to organize a writing team to begin planning the “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report, due in 2010.
- Directed staff to prepare a letter [template and supporting materials](#) for communicating about the *National Fish Habitat Conservation Act*.

FY 2010 budget includes an increase for the Action Plan

The Administration’s [budget request](#) for Fiscal Year 2010 includes a \$2 million increase for implementing the Action Plan as part of the Service’s “Tackling Climate Impacts” initiative. This \$80 million cross-program initiative will “support crucial planning, science, and implementation that will enable the Service, States, Tribes and Territories to begin developing cooperative and adaptive approaches for addressing the effects of the accelerating changing climate on fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.”

If approved by Congress, the increase will bring Fisheries Program funding dedicated to the Action Plan to \$7.153 million. The increase “will support projects to address the impacts of climate change on fish and other aquatic species and help these species adapt.”

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.

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

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

Stuart Leon, Chief, Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation

Stuart_Leon@fws.gov

703-358-2189

Tom Busiahn, FWS NFHAP Coordinator

Tom_Busiahn@fws.gov

703-358-2056