



The Fisheries Budget

Scaling Up to a Bright Future

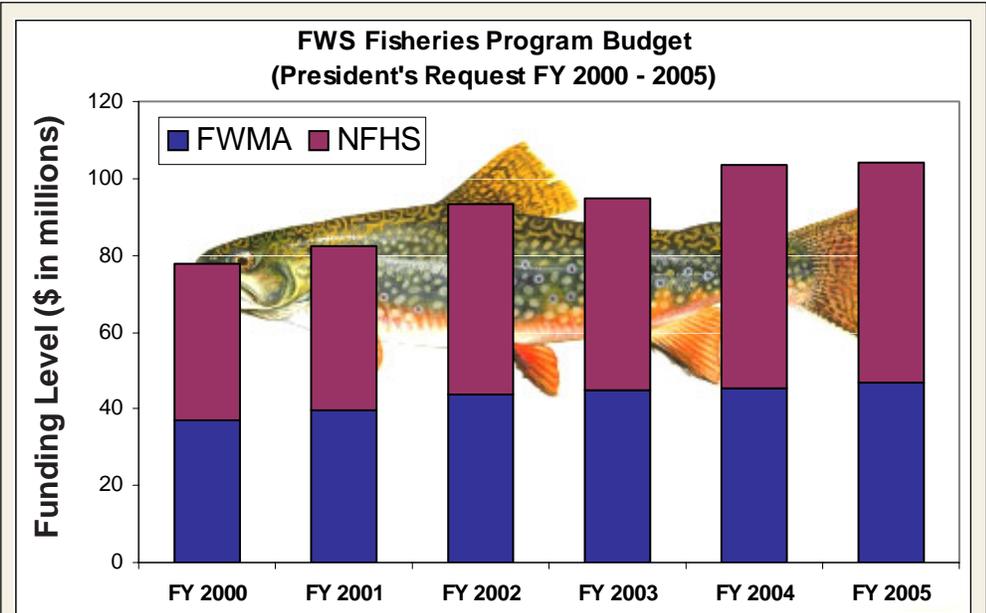
Scaling Up... Conserving America's Fisheries

During 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program has launched an initiative to enhance its ability to protect and restore the nation's diverse aquatic resources. Working closely with partners and stakeholders, the Program has identified a clear set of national priorities, addressing a wide range of issues and challenges.

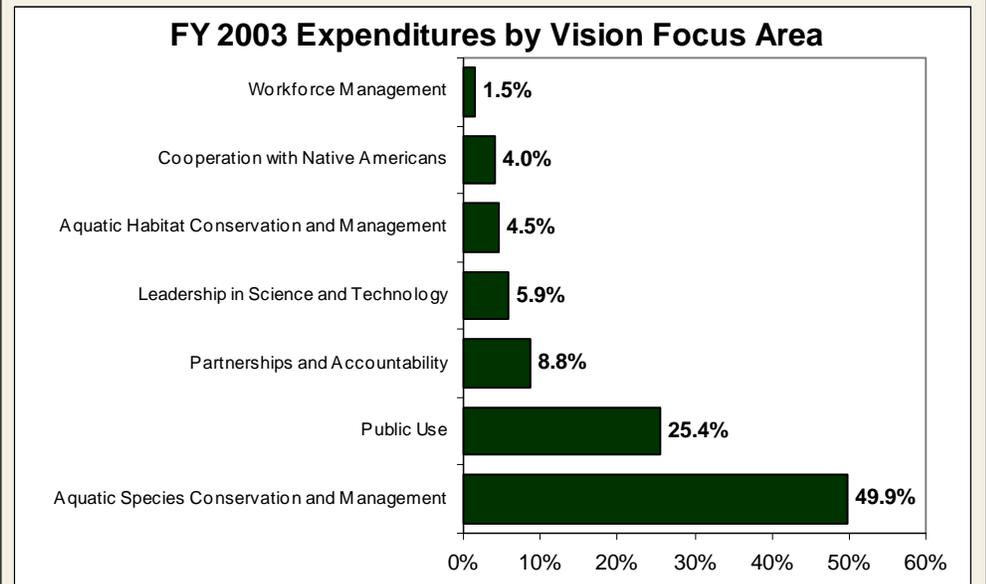
Working in partnership for healthy fish, healthy habitat, a healthy economy, and healthy people.

This collaborative process led to the development of the Fisheries Program "Strategic Plan for 2004-2008", a document that will guide aquatic resource management within seven focus areas:

- Partnerships and Accountability
- Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
- Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
- Public Use
- Cooperation with Native Americans
- Leadership in Science and Technology
- Workforce Management



Fisheries Program funding FY 2000 to FY 2005 displayed for Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance (FWMA) and the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS).



Fisheries Program project expenditures by Focus Area (Source: Fisheries Information System, 2003)

A New Way of Doing Business

Starting in FY 2004, the Plan will be the primary instrument to "map" Fisheries Program management activities, measure Program outcomes, and ultimately, gauge success in addressing each of the seven Focus

Areas. By developing and implementing the Strategic Plan, the Fisheries Program has identified tangible goals and outcomes addressing the priorities of the Program and its partners, and for planning its yearly activities through 2008.

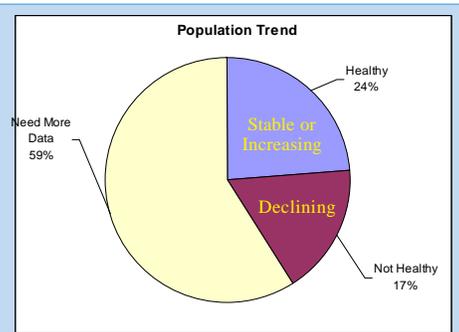
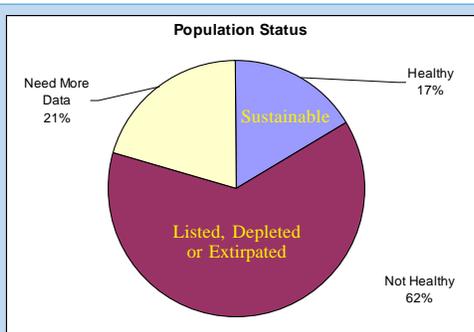
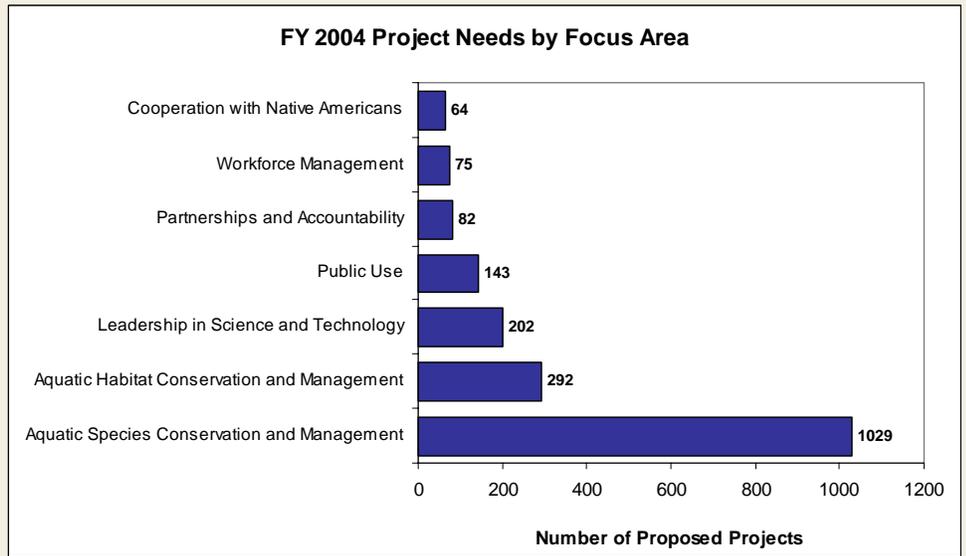


Implementing the Strategic Plan

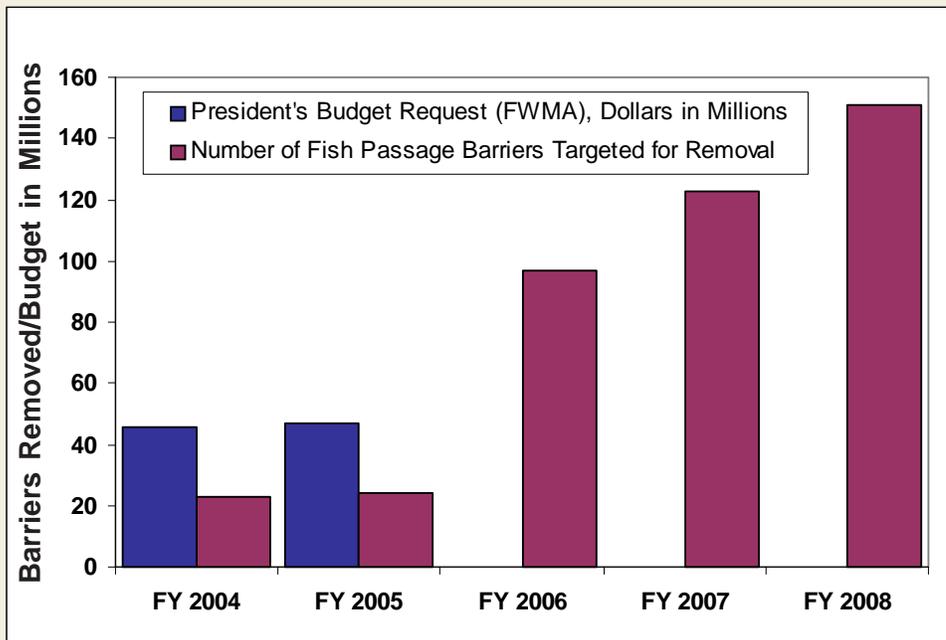
Implementation of the Plan will be facilitated by the Fisheries Information System (FIS), an internal needs and accomplishment reporting database. Natural resource needs are identified with input from partners and stakeholders and are linked to one of the seven Focus Areas (see chart at top right). In order to achieve the performance specific targets identified in the Strategic Plan, projects will be selected for implementation with the assistance of management tools such as the FIS database.

Partnerships

During the strategic planning process, the Fisheries Program involved its partners and stakeholders in a meaningful way to move the Program forward. In 2003, the Fisheries Program leveraged its federal dollars with \$45 million of partner contributions.



Through the use of the FIS Population Module database, the Fisheries Program has identified hundreds of populations of Federal trust species in need of assessment and analysis. Many of these information gaps could be addressed by implementing projects described in the FIS needs database.



The chart shown above provides one example of the ambitious performance goals that the Service's Fisheries Program has set in its Strategic Plan for 2004-2008.

The Fisheries Program will continue its existing partnerships, and seek new opportunities for collaboration. The Fisheries Program stands poised to deliver great things in the coming years, with the implementation of the Fisheries Strategic Plan, and in collaboration with its partners. The Program has identified its priorities, and has outlined specific projects to effectively address them. With the proper resources, the Fisheries Program can effectively promote healthy fisheries, healthy habitat, a healthy economy, and healthy people.

