



Fish and Aquatic Conservation



SFBPC BRIEFING
APRIL 4, 2018

FAC Program at a Glance



- Over 1200 employees nationwide
- Core Programs:
 - National Fish Hatchery System
 - Habitat Conservation
 - Aquatic Invasive Species

Stations



- **71 National Fish Hatcheries**
- **D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery**
- **9 Fish Health Centers**
- **7 Fish Technology Centers**
- **Total of \$2.8 billion real property assets in the NFHS with \$185 million in deferred maintenance needs**
- **65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices**

FAC Strategic Plan: FY 2016 - 2020



- **7 Goals:**
 - **Conserve Aquatic Species**
 - **Conserve, Restore and Enhance Aquatic Habitats**
 - **Manage Aquatic Invasive Species**
 - **Fulfill Tribal Trust and Subsistence Responsibilities**
 - **Enhance Recreational Fishing and Other Public Uses of Aquatic Resources**
 - **Increase Staffing Levels, Technical Capabilities, and Natural and Physical Assets to Fully Meet our Mission**
 - **Educate and Engage the Public and our Partners to Advance our Conservation Mission**

Annual Work Plans



- **Established new process in FY 16 for the development of annual work plans nationwide tied to implementation of Strategic Plan**
- **Uniform template for work plans includes major activities, outputs and resource management outcomes**
- **Project categories consistent across 4 major types of regional facilities, 8 regional offices, and HQ**
- **Incorporating work planning into Fisheries Information System (FIS) database for FY 19**

Fish and Aquatic Conservation Budget



Program	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Enacted	2019 PB
National Fish Hatchery Operations (\$000)	\$53,418	\$55,418	\$55,822	\$49,979
Maintenance and Equipment (\$000)	\$19,920	\$22,920	\$22,920	\$19,808
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation				
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	\$28,641	\$29,391	\$33,987	\$21,641
<u>Population Assessment and Cooperative</u>	<u>\$30,821</u>	<u>\$30,821</u>	<u>\$30,150</u>	<u>\$28,144</u>
<u>Management</u>	\$59,462	\$60,212	\$64,137	\$49,785
(\$000)				
Aquatic Invasive Species (\$000)	\$15,456	\$16,660	\$21,748	\$14,321
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation (\$000)	\$148,256	\$155,210	\$164,627	\$133,893

National Fish Hatchery Operations



Increase from FY 2017 Enacted: +\$404,000

- \$1,311,000 reduction in Youth and Careers in Nature
- \$400,000 increase for AADAP, bringing base appropriations up to \$1,200,000
- \$1,315,000 increase in GPA
- Recent increases in base appropriations and reimbursable dollars from ACOE and TVA have significantly improved funding for hatchery operations

National Fish Hatchery System Overview



- **71 National Fish Hatcheries:** propagation and rearing facilities owned and operated by the FWS to help recover T/E species, restore imperiled species, support tribes, and enhance recreation
- **9 Fish Healthy Centers:** health certification, inspections, wild fish health surveys, and emerging diseases/pathogens and diagnostics
- **7 Fish Technology Centers:** physiology and nutrition, genetics, reproduction biology, population dynamics and modeling, engineering and technology
- **AADAP:** conducts research to obtain FDA approval of new drugs for aquaculture and fisheries management and through INAD program makes these drugs available to federal, state, tribal, and private aquaculture facilities nationwide

NFHS Update



- **Hired Project Leader at Dworshak FHC, currently serving as Acting Branch Chief of AADAP in Bozeman**
- **National INAD program enrolled 297 participants from 43 States in 2017, generating \$177,000 in revenues for AADAP**
- **Evaluating two dozen high priority and high profile propagation programs to determine if we are meeting our long-term recovery and restoration goals**
- **Invested in development of GMPs for all listed species held in captivity at Service facilities**

NFHS Update



- **Seeking AFS Certification for all FHCs**
- **Installing a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to modernize and streamline data management and processing of inspections, diagnostic requests, and Wild Fish Health Survey**
- **Updating FWS Aquatic Animal Health Policy**
- **Launched new Computer Facilitated Spawning Program at our Fish Technology Centers**

Maintenance and Equipment



FY 18 Enacted same as FY 17 Enacted

- FY 17 included \$3,000,000 increase for deferred maintenance to repair mission-critical infrastructure and water delivery systems
- Increased funds will help address \$185,000,000 DM backlog and human health and safety concerns.

New DM and AM Allocation Methodologies



- **Beginning in FY 19, implementing new allocation methodologies for DM and AM funding to ensure limited funding is directed at highest priority needs nationwide:**
 - **DM Allocations based on asset priority (API) and facility condition (FCI)**
 - **AM Allocations based on .5 FTE per station and Current Replacement Value (CRV)**

Habitat Assessment and Restoration



Increase from FY 2017 Enacted: +\$4,596,000

- Includes \$5,000,000 in new funding for Delaware River Basin Conservation
- \$404,000 reduction in Youth program



Population Assessment and Cooperative Management



Decrease from FY 17 Enacted: -\$671,000

- \$925,000 reduction for Youth program
- \$746,00 reduction for Cooperative Recovery Initiative
- \$511,00 increase for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices
- \$489,000 increase for Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey

Aquatic Habitat Conservation Overview



- **National Initiatives**
 - National Fish Passage Program
 - National Fish Habitat Partnerships
 - Sikes Act Integrated Resource Management Plans
- **Regional Initiatives**
 - Alaska Fisheries Subsistence/Yukon River Salmon Treaty
 - Klamath Basin Restoration
 - Great Lakes Consent Decree/Restoration Program
 - Penobscot River/Atlantic Salmon Restoration
 - Delaware River Basin Conservation Act
 - Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control

National Fish Passage Program



- Over 6 Million barriers in U.S.
- 2,244 barriers removed or bypassed, reconnected 31,858 stream miles and 186,235 wetland acres
- Partnership funding at 3:1 Ratio



Benefits



- **Reduced Habitat Fragmentation:**
 - Increases available habitat for spawning, rearing, and foraging for fisheries
 - Benefits numerous other aquatic species
 - Increases flood resiliency for communities by reconnecting floodplains and allowing a riverine system to function properly
 - Increases recreational opportunities such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and wildlife viewing

National Fish Habitat Partnerships



- **20 Approved Fish Habitat Partnerships**
- **National Fish Habitat Board**
- **FHP Projects funded by FWS based on annual competitive results driven process**



Sikes Act



- Sikes Act directs Service to engage with military installations in the preparation and review of Integrated Resource Management Plans (INRMPs)
- In 2013, the Service entered into a national cooperative agreement with the U.S. Air Force which now provides approximately \$8,000,000 each year to the Service
- U.S. Army would like to expand this partnership by funding a similar Service liaison at the Pentagon

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices



- **Network of 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices**
- **Strategically located across Nation and play an essential role in implementing the Service's aquatic species propagation and habitat programs**
- **Assess status of wild populations, monitor survival of stocked species, assist Tribes with cooperative management, and work with broad range of partners to restore fish habitat**

Aquatic Invasive Species



Increase from FY 2017 Enacted: +\$5,088,000

- \$2,000,000 for Asian Carp Contract Fishing
- \$3,088,000 in new funding for Lake Tahoe



Aquatic Invasive Species - Overview



- Invasive species (e.g. Asian carp, sea lamprey, zebra and quagga mussels) affect health of native species and cause tens of billions of dollars in economic and ecological impacts each year
- Once established, invasive species are often impossible to eradicate; prevention, early detection and eradication are the most cost-effective strategies
- FAC administers Title 18 of Lacey Act and co-chairs Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)
- Grants for 43 State/Interstate ANS Management Plans and to control spread of Q-Z Mussels in west

Aquatic Invasive Species



- Prevention is key to our success but proposed budget increases are dedicated to control of individual species (e.g. Asian Carp; Sea Lamprey) and individual ecosystems (Lake Tahoe)
- Working with Regions (ERSS) to identify high risk species and using results at HQ to undertake both voluntary and Lacey Act listings of injurious species before species are introduced and become established in the United States (e.g. recent listing of 201 salamander species and 11 freshwater fish and crayfish)
- In April 2017, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held the Service lacks authority to prohibit shipments of injurious species between the continental States

Communications and Partnerships



- **FAC supports work of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation**
- **RBFF Goal: 60 Million Anglers in 60 Months; 5-year grant renewed this year for \$12 M per year**
- **Working with FWS Native American Liaison to implement Service Tribal Policy and FAC Strategic Plan**
- **Partnering with local Friends Groups to engage public in FAC recreation and conservation education mission at our hatcheries**