



**SPORT FISHING & BOATING
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

APR 13 2015

Mr. Dan Ashe
Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, MS-3331-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

On behalf of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council), I am writing to request that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provide detailed responses to the Council's comments (copy enclosed) on the Fish and Aquatic Conservation draft strategic plan.

Your attendance at most of our meetings is appreciated and demonstrates your personal support for our efforts. We were sorry that you couldn't join us at our last meeting in late February at the Service's Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Your staff did an excellent job hosting us at the Refuge, which was the perfect place, rich in conservation history and natural beauty, to hold our meeting. It was an ideal venue to discuss the business of conserving our Nation's fish and aquatic resources, which provide the exceptional fishing and boating recreational opportunities we all enjoy.

As you know, the Council had some serious concerns about the direction and strategic vision in the Fisheries draft strategic plan. Our comments specifically addressed differences between the Partnership's Vision, which the Council crafted at the request of the Service, and the vision set forth by the Service in the draft plan. Council members were pleased that David Hoskins represented the Service at our most recent meeting in February. David indicated the Service is finalizing the plan, and he was reluctant to address specific changes or respond to Council comments until the revised plan is completed and approved internally.

When the final plan is approved, the Council respectfully requests detailed responses to our comments so that we can better understand where we are aligned on issues and where we may disagree. As importantly, we are interested in learning how the Council, States, and other partners can be engaged in developing

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Larry Voyles, ex officio
Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Dan Ashe, ex officio
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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more specific implementation plans. As you know, these plans will translate broad goals into more specific operational decisions and outcomes.

We look forward to your response to the Council's comments and believe that it will lead to a better mutual understanding of positions as the Service moves forward with implementation of the strategic plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kov", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Kovarovics, Chairman
Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership
Council

Enclosure

cc: SFBPC Members
David Hoskins
Brian Bohnsack