The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership &
the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Service Office
Habitat Conservation Division
National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Response to aquatic resource decline

Broad stakeholder input:
- Feds
- State Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- NGOs
- Angling groups

The Need

- 123 aquatic freshwater species have become extinct in North America since 1900.
- 39% of the 822 native freshwater fish species in the United States are at risk of extinction.
- 43% of all Federally listed Threatened and Endangered species rely upon wetland habitats and more than 50% of the Nation’s wetlands have been destroyed.
- 35% of our Nation’s coasts are in “fair” condition

www.fishhabitat.org
NFHAP Model: Wetland Joint Venture Program

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

- 25 Regional Wetland Joint Ventures
- Coordinated restoration & management of 15.6 million acres
- $25 billion in joint funding

Hawaii Wetland Joint Venture

- Nu’u Makai Wetland, Maui (acquisition)
- Mana Plain, Kauai (restoration)
- Huleia NWR, Kauai (management)
- Kilauea NWR, Kauai (acquisition)

- 477 acres
- $4 million in joint funding
National Fish Habitat Action Plan Goals

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support fish and other aquatic species.
What do Fish Habitat Partnerships do?

- Set priorities through strategic planning
- Coordinate and seek resources for projects
- Prioritize projects for funding
- Evaluate results and report outcomes
“Candidate” Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Coalition
- Kenai Peninsula Conservation Partnership
- Salmon in the City
- North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership
- California Fish Passage Forum
- Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership (Upper Mississippi River)
- Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
- Great Plains Prairie Partnership
- Great Lakes Basin Partnership
- Ohio River Basin Habitat Partnership
- Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
- National Reservoir Partnership
- Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee

2008 – Nationwide $3 million
Strong and diverse partnerships

- FHPs are self-identified, self-organized, and self-directed communities of interest.
- FHPs will involve diverse groups of public and private partners that are focused on conservation of fish habitat to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types.
- FHPs will have a high level of commitment from their respective member entities, to ensure development and implementation of strategic plans that are consistent with membership organization priorities.
- FHPs will have governance structures that reflect the range of all partners and promote joint strategic planning and decision-making by the partnership.

Geographic focus

- FHPs will be place-based, i.e. have geographically defined boundaries. However, an FHP may be geographically discontinuous; examples include partnerships focused on system types, such as reservoirs, natural lakes, or urban estuaries. The geographic scope of two or more FHPs may overlap.
- The scope of issues and priorities addressed by an FHP should be nationally significant, by virtue of uniqueness, geographic size, or per other criteria identified by the Action Plan Science and Data committee.

Strategic planning

- Consistent with national goals, FHPs will identify strategic fish and aquatic habitat priorities for their partnership area in the form of geographic focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision-making.
- Each FHP must have or must demonstrate significant progress toward development of a strategic plan that focuses on addressing causes of system decline rather than simply treating symptoms.

Capabilities for scientific assessment

- Organizations involved in each FHP will have capabilities to measure and demonstrate progress – through existing programs where possible – using science-based resource assessment, project evaluation, and reporting of outcomes in coordination with the Board.
- FHPs will adopt and use the national science assessment framework established by the Board’s Science and Data Committee for resource assessment and project evaluation.
The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership: Aquatic Resource Conservation in Hawaiian Streams and Estuaries

“The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership seeks to cooperatively develop and implement aquatic conservation projects in Hawaiian streams and estuaries through the support and participation of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.”
Address threats to aquatic systems by:

- Finding common interests between partners
- Coordinating/leveraging multiple funding sources
- Applying sound science to identify problems and evaluate results
- Encouraging public-private participation
- Providing leadership
- Promoting cooperation
- Engaging communities
HAWAII’S STATEWIDE AQUATIC WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

December 19, 2005

HAWAII’S STATEWIDE AQUATIC WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

By:

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Cover photo courtesy Dwayne Meadows.
Statewide Aquatic Conservation Strategy: Key threats to freshwater species and habitats

- Instream structures and barriers including stream diversions, dams, channel alteration, and road crossings
- Introduced aquatic invasive species
- Increased urbanization resulting in polluted runoff and hydraulic change and resulting loss and degradation of freshwater habitat
- Suspended sediment input due to agriculture and forestry management
- Unregulated harvesting for fishes and invertebrates for consumption and retail sale (example: anchialine pond shrimp)
- Recreational overuse including trampling and tourism-related impacts
- Feral ungulates impacts including trampling, uprooting, and vegetation change and soil erosion
- In-stream flow requirements adequate to insure the biological integrity of stream communities not yet established
Stream-mouth Estuaries

- ~30 streams form estuaries at their confluence with the sea.
- Important nurseries for recreational fishery resources
- Located in coastal areas near towns and harbors
- Channel alteration, bank hardening common
- Invasive plants—hau, mangrove widespread
Fish Species of the Hanalei Estuary

- Thirty-one species
- ~50% of these species occur in estuary as juveniles
- ~50% these species have commercial or recreational value

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Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership Development

- Kick off meeting Sept 10th, 2007
- Strategic planning workshop Feb 5th, 2008
- Candidate request to National Board April 2008
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Island Fish and Wildlife Office
• Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
• Commission on Water Resource Management
• U.S. Dept. Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
• Hanalei American Heritage River Program
• Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships
• East Maui Watershed Partnership Partners
• Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks
• Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Planning Office - Stream Bioassessment Program
• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service
• National Ocean Service - Pacific Island Service Center
• Environmental Protection Agency - Pacific Islands Contact Office
• US Forest Service, Southwest Forestry Experiment Station, Institute of Tropical Forestry
• U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Pacific Islands Water Sciences Center
• University of Hawaii, Hilo, Cooperative Studies Unit
• Kohala Watershed Partnership
• Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership
• Hawaii Department of Health, Clean Water Branch
• Kamehameha Schools
• Maui Land and Pineapple, Inc.
• U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii
• Office of Hawaiian Affairs
• Hawaii Pacific University
• University of Hawaii, Manoa, Department of Zoology,
• Institute of Marine Biology
Start-up Funding

- Support for ½ time coordinator (FWS Fisheries Division)
- Grant support to DAR for Atlas development
- Student summer hire
- UH-HIP intern program
- Co-located at DAR Hilo
HFHP Projects: *Upstream Fish Passage*

- **Opaeula Stream**
- **Poamoho Stream**
- **Waikakalaua**
HFHP Projects: Streambank Vegetation Management

Kahana Stream: hau bush

Hanalei River: hau bush
Aquatic habitat conservation opportunities

- Stream channel restoration
- Stream flow restoration
- Invasive species control
- Habitat assessment & reporting
- Candidate conservation
- Estuaries – stock enhancement, recreation/fishery development
Next Steps

- Continued FHP development with partners
- Steering committee – MOU
- Strategic Plan
- Application to NFH Board
- Coordinator position - funding
- Project development & implementation