



# Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

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Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Steve Williams  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mailstop 3256  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Steve:

I am pleased to forward the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council's (SFBPC) report summarizing stakeholder meetings held during 2003-2004 to explore the feasibility of pursuing a National Fish Habitat Initiative. The completion of the stakeholder meetings moves us closer toward fulfilling the recommendation in the SFBPC's 2002 "*Partnership Agenda*" report regarding development of a national plan to conserve and restore fish habitat. Nearly 200 fisheries professionals and advocates attended the five stakeholder meetings and were unanimous in their support for the Initiative as a concept that should be pursued and implemented as swiftly as possible. The SFBPC greatly appreciates the assistance provided by the Service throughout this process and would like to recognize Assistant Director Mamie Parker, her staff and the Division of Conservation Partnerships for their outstanding efforts in aiding in the successful completion of the regional meetings.

This report and its recommendations for next steps in developing a national plan has been endorsed by SFBPC members and will be shared with members of the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee at its meeting on September 28 at the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) annual meeting in Atlantic City, NJ. I look forward to the discussions about this initiative.

From the SFBPC's perspective, the National Fish Habitat Initiative scoping effort has been both a rewarding experience and an overwhelming success. Upon beginning the process we thought we would find supporters of the concept, but the nearly unanimous endorsement for the need for such an approach to fisheries conservation greatly exceeded our expectations. We are pleased at the progress made to date in developing stronger, more collaborative approaches to fisheries habitat conservation and are determined to remain a strong partner with the Service, the IAFWA and other stakeholders as this effort proceeds.

Sincerely,

/S/

William Taylor  
CHAIRMAN