

FEDERAL AGENCIES FISHERIES SUMMIT OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

February 22-24, 2023

National Conservation Training Center, 698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV

12/23/22 Version



SUMMIT PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Federal Agencies Fisheries Summit is to enable improved management and conservation of aquatic species and their habitats at the landscape scale by advancing relationships and collaboration across federal agencies.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES:

- **Increase Understanding and Awareness** of the roles, responsibilities, fisheries related missions, and authorities, of each federal agency.
- **Build Community.** Establish and improve federal agencies relationships and collaborative networks.
- **Shared Agencies Vision.** Develop a shared federal agencies voice and future vision for federal trust fisheries resources.
- **Shared Collaboration Framework.** Initiate a process to develop a collaborative federal agencies relationship framework and map alignment among federal agencies.

SUMMARY:

The *Federal Agencies Fisheries Summit* (Summit) is an immersive, in-person, 3-day training event co-planned and co-hosted by several federal agencies with support from the American Fisheries Society. Summit target audience is federal agency staff that manage, research, or otherwise affect federal trust fisheries resources who are interested in crafting a new collaborative framework. The Summit will focus on management and conservation of freshwater, estuarine and near-shore resources and is intended to foster relationships, collaborations, communication, efficiencies and awareness among federal agencies rather than specific technical topics or applications. Summit participants will not be making any agency decisions or establishing any new guidance. A Summit proceedings summary document and materials archive will be made available after the event as a formal Summit record.

Summit participation is limited to a total of 125 participants. In-person interactions and discussions are critical for Summit success therefore, virtual/remote participation options will not be available. Each host agency will determine their agency participants and selection process. Participants will engage in hands-on mixed team activities that lead towards developing a shared federal agencies vision, shared call for action, and identify steps that can be used to develop a collaborative framework for increasing coordination, communication, and collaborations within and among federal agencies. In addition, a concurrent poster session throughout the facility will be available for those interested in bringing a poster highlighting current interagency fisheries projects and activities.

SUMMIT NEED/JUSTIFICATION:

Fisheries and water resources challenges transcend agency and geographic boundaries, encompass multiple land ownerships, and solutions and expertise do not reside solely within any single agency. Research capabilities and goals vary

substantially across the federal agencies and each agency has developed areas of core strength as well as recognized areas of limitations. Challenges like rapidly declining aquatic resource conditions and flat or reduced agency funding warrant a new and innovative approach to inter-agency relationships. Federal agencies are well poised to identify and create a more modern, comprehensive, and shared, “all hands” vision for fisheries and aquatic resources management.

Recent energy and momentum around fish passage and aquatic biodiversity such as the [H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) and [H.R.5376 - Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) provide a unique opportunity for advancing large-scale interagency relationships, shared visions, and collaborative plans for addressing the challenges and needs of our nation’s fish and aquatic species. An impressive opportunity exists, but success depends upon a more structured and shared relationship vision and framework to plan, develop, share, learn, build upon, and demonstrate success from these activities within and across Departments and Bureaus.

The Federal Agencies Fisheries Summit is intended to be a foundational step to develop and outline a modern, shared federal agencies vision; and initiate the design and build up of this vision by better outlining how we interface and work with each other as federal agencies and within the larger aquatic conservation community.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Please contact your agency representative(s) list below for any questions.

- **American Fisheries Society, 2 seats**
 - POC: Doug Austen
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs, 4 seats**
 - POCs: Ira New Breast and Ryan Portalatin
- **Bureau of Land Management, 9 seats**
 - POCs: Sharmila Premdas Jepsen and Scott Miller
- **Bureau of Reclamation, 15 seats**
 - POCs: Art Coykendall and Michael Horn
- **U.S. Department of the Interior, 1 seat**
 - POCs: Rachel Brown (IOS)
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 11 seats**
 - POC: Kara Meckley and Nick Anderson
- **National Park Service, 12 seats**
 - POC: John Wulfschleger
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service, 19 seats**
 - POC: Teresa Lewis, David Miko and Nate Wilke
- **US Forest Service, 15 seats**
 - POC: Kimberly Conley
- **US Geological Survey, 16 seats**
 - POCs: Dave Hu, Kevin Pope, Melanie Steinkamp and Scott Vanderkooi
- **Intertribal Fish and Wildlife Organizations, 5 seats**
 - POC: Ira New Breast (BIA), Rachel Brown (DOI) and Julie Thorstenson (NAFWS)
- **Environmental Protection Agency, 2 seats**
 - POCs: Richard Mitchell and Jeff Lerner
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2 seats**
 - POCs: Gene Kim and Kelly Ramsey
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2 seats**
 - POCs: James Demby and Kayed Lakhia
- **United States Department of Transportation, 3 seats**
 - POCs: Daniel Buford, Joseph Krolak and Brian Yanchik
- **United States Army Corps of Engineers, 2 seats**
 - POCs: Howie Gonzalez and Mindy Simmons
- **Facilitation and Administration Support: 3 seats**
 - POCs: Laura Van Riper and Pat Johnston (BLM) and Jenn Malpass (USGS)

SUMMIT TOPIC SESSIONS:

Summit sessions will be conducted to increase collective understanding of agencies programs and approaches, create a shared vision, and map out options for a shared relationships framework to augment ways that the federal agencies interact and work together (or not) to address fisheries challenges and seize opportunities. Discussions and input received from all sessions will serve as the basis for a shared agencies Summit report and serve as material towards future products such as a shared agencies effort/impact map and possible interagency agreement.

In addition to plenary and close out sessions, the Summit will be comprised of an all-hands Tribal trust responsibilities session and three facilitated breakout sessions where individuals will work in small groups to share their perspectives on the following topics:

- Understanding the current situation regarding Federal interagency collaboration for fish and aquatic resources
- Exploring a shared vision for the future or purpose for a Federal interagency group
- Examining existing beliefs/behaviors/structures/etc. that currently preclude the group from achieving a shared vision/purpose
- Brainstorming short- and long-term strategies/actions that would assist the group in moving toward meeting their shared vision/purpose
- Identifying elements/evidence of success

TRIBAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES SESSION

- This session will establish and create a forum for open discussions and explorations on federal agencies' roles and responsibilities related to Tribal trust fisheries resource rights, management, and research needs.
- The session is intended to be a key foundational step among federal agencies to help develop and outline a compelling shared federal agency vision specific to Tribal treaty rights and Tribal co-management of fisheries resources and initiate the design and build up of this vision by working with other federal agencies, and the larger aquatic conservation community.
- Lead agency for this all-hands session is BIA (with other agencies support) with representatives from Intertribal Fish and Wildlife Organizations and panel of federal agencies Native American Liaisons staff.

VISIONING SESSIONS

- These sessions will provide the opportunity to share ideas about the future of federal fisheries within the United States, it will serve to increase our collective knowledge about what the federal fisheries trust entails. Lead agencies for each session are TBD. Participants will be assigned into session teams by the Summit planning team.
- Participants will discuss and explore new ideas that:
 - Provide the foundation for an initial shared future vision description of new ways of thinking about federal fisheries programs related to fish and aquatic species and what outcomes and new value that would create. Examples might include aligning federal fisheries management with research needs; improving our understanding of areas of critical need (by species, geography, etc); building a knowledge base for areas where fisheries resources should focus (such as aquatic connectivity, disease, habitat protection and restoration, water temperature, etc); and others.
 - Build a platform and community of practice where ideas/themes for our future vision for the state of federal fisheries programs can develop and reside, providing all federal agencies a fairly consistent approach to share with senior leadership, legislative interest groups, and other stakeholders.

COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK SESSIONS

- These sessions will serve to generate a collection of ideas on collaboration framework elements to identify and transcend barriers to success in how federal agencies interact in addressing the pressing issues facing aquatic resources. Lead agencies for each session are TBD. Participants will be assigned to session teams by the Summit planning team.
- Participants will provide ideas, discussion and explore new ideas to:
 - Identify and create a list of resources, means, and mechanisms available for establishing a more collaborative framework for engagement. Examples include ideas on new workgroups, combined authorities, shared facilities, new funding streams, etc.

- Create an effort/impact map of agency roles, shared goals, rationale, and coordination mechanisms that can lead towards improved federal efforts for federal fisheries resources.
- Identify barriers to implementation of the mechanisms.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANT WEBSITE



- A website has been established for participants and guests to find and access Summit participant materials and information.
- Please refer to this site for up-to-date information for participants.
- <https://necoopunit.unl.edu/fedfishsummit>

SUMMIT LOGISTICS (SEE [PARTICIPANT GUIDEBOOK](#) FOR MORE DETAILS):

▪ Registration

- Designated agency Summit Planning Team representatives (see participating agencies above) are responsible for coordinating attendance from their respective agencies for this event.
- All attendees must be approved by their respective agency POC to attend. Additional agencies wishing to participate should reach out to a Summit Planning Team representative ASAP.

▪ Attendance

- Agency seats are limited to numbers agreed upon by the Summit Planning Team and capped at 125 participants total.
- All attendees must be on site and present to participate in Summit activities. There is no virtual participation planned and sessions will not be recorded for later viewing.
- Individual agencies are responsible for identifying and selecting their participants, internal budgeting, justifications, and approvals.
- Summit participants will be assigned to specific sessions by Summit Planning Team representatives.
- Summit participants are expected to come well prepared, complete Summit pre-event tasks, and be actively engaged and contributing throughout the Summit.

▪ Facility

- Once the reservation system is open for this event, all approved attendees should make arrangements for lodging with NCTC directly. There is a reserved block of rooms for this event.
- All attendees must adhere to [NCTC Covid-19 facility guidance and restrictions](#).

HOSTING AGENCIES PRE-EVENT HOMEWORK

- *Single Page Summary Document.* Each agency will create a 1-page (front and back) summary document following the guidance template provided before and the Summit.
- *Lightning Talk Presentation.* Each agency will create and present a 5-minute presentation following the lightning presentation template that will be presented live in the first session of the Summit.

PARTICIPANT PRE-EVENT HOMEWORK:

- A series of focused questions and information on how to prepare for Summit activities will be posted on the Summit participant website for participants to review and prepare thoughts before attending. All Summit participants are asked to submit responses ahead of the event [via this online form](#) that will be used for final session preparation and Summit write-up.
 - Pre-event Questions:
 - Question 1: In what way would your professional world be better if collaboration and coordination amongst federal agencies were more frequent and more effective?
 - Question 2: What do you fear losing if the status quo of collaboration and coordination amongst federal agencies changed?
 - Question 3: What is your intentionality for participating in the Federal Agencies Fisheries Summit?
- (OPTIONAL) Prepare and print poster for display throughout the event highlighting case example of interagency work. Posters will be on display in classroom halls throughout the event. Poster should be no larger than 36" x 48" and can be rolled or mounted on display boards that will be setup.
- (OPTIONAL) Send us your favorite fish or fieldwork pictures to be displayed as part of evening networking events. Email images with captions to Jenn Malpass (jmalpass@usgs.gov) by February 8.

- (OPTIONAL) Bring your best fish or aquatic resources shirt and compete for a prize as part of evening networking events.

DRAFT AGENDA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TRAVEL DAY (Tues, Feb 21)

- Poster setup in classroom hallways for those bringing posters in afternoon and evening
- (1500) NCTC Archives Tour (Optional)
 - Meet at the Fallen Comrades Memorial located in the plaza area behind the Front Entry building where guests check in.
- (1600) Planning Team and Facilitation Cadre Setup and On-site Walkthrough
- (Time TBD) Welcome Evening Social/Agency Trivia

DAY 1 (Wed, Feb 22) – PLENARY, AGENCY OVERVIEWS, GROUP EXERCISE & TRIBAL SESSION

- (0800) All Hands Session A – Welcome, Agency Overviews, and Keynote (Byrd Auditorium)
 - (0800) Welcome, Orientation, and Summit Purpose
 - (0830) Round Robin Lightning Talks. Each agency will provide rapid overview presentations on agency-specific mission, resource objectives, administration, authorities, capacities, and constraints. Supplementary handouts from each agency will to be a resource throughout the meeting. AFS and AFWA representatives will also present on their organization perspectives and vision for the Summit.
 - (1000) Keynote Presentation - Steve McMullin, Virginia Tech/McMullin Training and Consulting, on future optimism and inspiration for a new future for federal government fisheries programs
- (1020) Group Exercise Orientation and Break
- (1035) Breakout Teams Session B - Group Exercise (Classrooms)
- (1215) Lunch
- (1330) All Hands Session C - Tribal Trust Responsibilities (Byrd Auditorium)
- (Time TBD) Evening Networking Social (Roosevelt Room/Bar Area)

DAY 2 (Thu, Feb 23) – ORIENTATION, VISION & COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK SESSIONS

- (0800) All Hands Session D - Orientation, Overview and Day 2 Logistics (Byrd Auditorium)
- (0830) Breakout Group Teams Session E
- (1200) Lunch
- (1330) Breakout Group Teams Session F
- (Time TBD) Evening Networking Social (Roosevelt Room/Bar Area)

DAY 3 (Fri, Feb 24) – PLENARY, SYNTHESIS, & CLOSEOUT

- All Hands Session G - Plenary, Synthesis, and Close Out (Byrd Auditorium)
 - (0700) Agency Teams Breakfast (Optional)
 - (0800) Keynote Presentation - Doug Austen, American Fisheries Society, on external perspectives on building a new future for federal fisheries management
 - (0820) Report Outs of Key Session Highlights, Perspectives, and Take Aways
 - (1100) Panel Q&A Session, Participant Thoughts, and Next Steps
 - (1200) Adjourn

POST EVENT OUTCOMES:

- Shared Leadership Briefings. Summit Planning Team will work to provide internal and combined agency leadership briefings on what was conducted and accomplished.
- Summary Document. Summit Planning Team will establish interagency work team(s) post-event to create a meeting summary and self-assessment document featuring:
 - Accomplishments made towards generating ideas and establishing improved federal interagency relationships
 - Outlining a shared federal agencies impact/effort map to help identify causal mapping of shared initiatives to goals

- Recommendations on next steps to craft and advance a long-term shared federal vision and collaboration process (e.g., pursue developing an MOU or similar agreement, developing interagency topic work teams, etc.).
- *State and Tribal Coordination.* Summit Planning Team will follow up with state agencies and Tribal managers post event to report out and build upon relationships to further Summit efforts as appropriate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact your agency Summit representative(s) with questions regarding your agency's attendance list, internal agency approval, and travel/funding support.
- Contact Dave Hu (dhv@usgs.gov) or Jenn Malpass (jmalpass@usgs.gov) with questions regarding the logistics of the event, pre-work, or reasonable accommodations.
- Contact NCTC with questions about the facility, accommodations, and airport shuttle.