

# What is the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership?

The **Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership** is a **national, voluntary conservation partnership** recognized by the **National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP)** and focused exclusively on fish habitat in reservoir systems.

RFHP was formally recognized in 2009, and Friends of Reservoirs was created in 2010 to provide nonprofit and financial support for RFHP activities.



**Focus on Reservoir Systems:** RFHP is unique in that it focuses specifically on man-made reservoirs, which are among the most widespread and heavily used aquatic systems in the country.

**Opportunities to Get Involved:** Individuals and organizations can support RFHP through partnerships, projects, and participation in conservation efforts at reservoirs they care about.

**501(c)(3) Connection:** Friends of Reservoirs (FOR) serves as a fundraising, banking, and outreach arm of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP), supporting habitat projects and partnership activities nationwide.

**Holistic Conservation Approach:** RFHP considers watersheds, in-reservoir habitat, water-level management, and downstream impacts, recognizing reservoirs as part of larger connected systems.

**Strong Partnership:** RFHP depends on collaboration among state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, anglers, academic institutions, and private industry partners.

**Bottom-Up Conservation Model:** RFHP emphasizes locally driven, partner-led projects, empowering state agencies, local organizations, and stakeholders to design and implement solutions.

**Economic and Recreational Importance:** Healthy reservoir fisheries support recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and local economies nationwide.

**Grants and Funding Support:** Through RFHP and Friends of Reservoirs, partners can access federal and private funding for habitat enhancement, restoration, and applied science projects.

**Education and Outreach:** Friends of Reservoirs supports awareness of reservoir conservation challenges and opportunities, engaging the public, partners, and decision-makers.

**Part of a National Network:** RFHP is one of the 20 officially recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Partnership, which coordinates habitat conservation efforts across the United States.

**Technical and Scientific Expertise:** RFHP provides tools, guidance, and expertise related to reservoir ecology, habitat improvement techniques, and fisheries management.

**Science-Based Decision Making:** RFHP uses data, habitat assessments, and strategic prioritization to ensure projects deliver meaningful and measurable conservation benefits.