Handshake Partnership Program
Report - FY 2015 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Raystown Lake Project
2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Baltimore District, North Atlantic Division
3. Handshake Project Name: Raystown Lake Cooperative Striped Bass Nursery
4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: $9,000.00
5. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

The Raystown Lake Cooperative Striped Bass Nursery is a project focused on developing and implementing a long-term, cost effective solution to maintaining a first class striped bass fishery in Raystown Lake. The Striped Bass fishery of Raystown Lake is well known for its exciting recreational opportunities, its economic impact, and it tourist promotional value. What is not well known is that the fishery's existence relies solely on the stocking of the species. As fishing pressure increase, the state and non-profit organizations have been under increased pressure to maintain the fishery.

This handshake project included the renovation of an under-utilized Corps maintenance storage facility into a non-profit run cooperative striped bass nursery. Through handshake funding, the Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association was able to purchase additional large spawning tanks, pumps, and building supplies to conduct the transformation of the facility. The project was considered successful as: 1) During June of 2017, the organization was able to report it first, live tank spawn. 2) The organization was able to raise 400 striped bass provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission at approximately 1/2 inch long to the size of 3 to 4 inches; thus increasing the survival probability. 3) The purchased tanks are being used to "over-winter" six mature Chesapeake-strain striped bass females donated by the University of North Carolina. The organization will pair these females with males caught from Raystown Lake in the Spring of 2018 in the hopes of increased successful spawning opportunities.

The receipt of the Handshake funding provided an exciting opportunity to thoughtfully invest financial resources into energy efficient equipment and building supplies to take this project from a trial phase to an operational phase; allowing all partners the first opportunities at true success. Currently, this nursery is one of the only known cooperative, non-profit run striped bass nurseries in the nation.

Please find attached before, during, and after photographs of the projedct along with additional project details.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	$9,000.00
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	$11,028.00
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	**Total Value of Contributions**

1 Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association	$34,499.74
2 Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau	$2,780
3 Friends of Raystown Lake	$3,650.30
4	$
5	$
6	$
7	$
8	$
9	$
10	$

6. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

The Handshake Program was well announced to encourage particpation in the program with an adequate amount of time provided to prepare quality applications and develop partnership opportunities. The Parntership Program on the NRM Gateway is well done to provide a host of examples, ideas, and tutorials to aide in the process. This project would not have been completed without the availability and support of the Handshake Program.

The challenging part of executing this particular Handshake opportunity was receiving the funding. Local Corps staff and all partners involved were prepared with signed agreements and a plan in place to execute the funding as this particular project had very strict time restraints. A great deal of effort was spent in developing alternative arrangements to keep the project on task and viable. Alternative methods to fund "low" (this project was $9,000) cost projects in a time-efficient manner may result in other sucessful partnership opportunties that have tight time constraints and are hesitant to submit project applications.

7. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under Handshake Success Stories.