Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

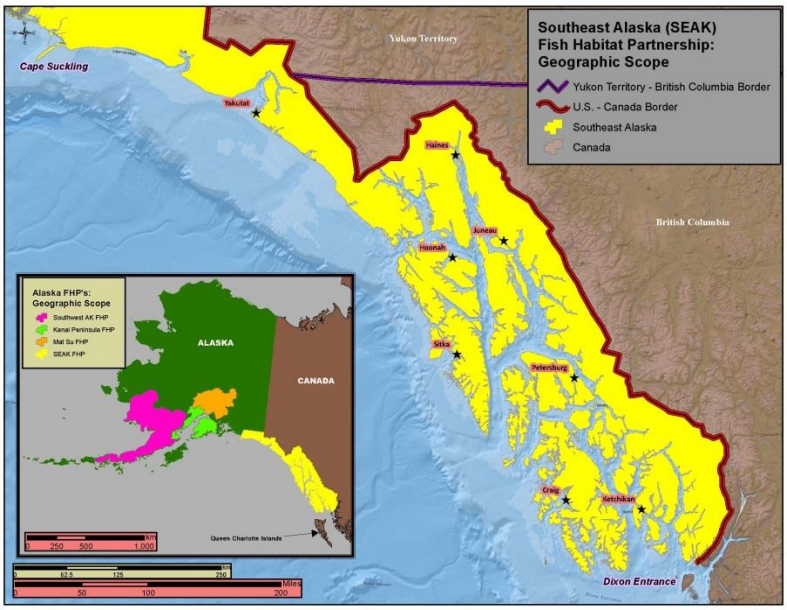
419 6th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99824
(907) 723-0258
www.seakfhp.org

Vision

Our partners share a common vision to ensure healthy, thriving habitats that support all life stages of Southeast Alaska resident, anadromous, estuarine and marine dependent fishes across their historical range.

Mission

We work to foster and facilitate regionally relevant strategies to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration and management across Southeast Alaska.



Geographic Scope

Our partnership encompasses the lands, freshwaters, estuaries, nearshore areas, marine ecosystems and communities of Southeast Alaska. It is defined as extending from Dixon Entrance at the South, to Cape Suckling in the North, eastward to the U.S. border, and includes all associated lands, freshwater and marine waters in between.

Core Functions

- **Grow diversity and capacity of the partnership linking natural resource science and management with regional interests, local and traditional values and community needs**
- **Build organizational strength & perseverance of the partnership for long term sustainability and functionality**
- **Provide services to partners that foster regional cooperation and understanding and result in improved on-the-grounds conservation efforts across Southeast Alaska**
- **Facilitate regionally relevant fish habitat conservation strategies that protect, restore and enhance fish habitat across Southeast Alaska**

Growing Partner Network

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Trout Unlimited – The Nature Conservancy – Sitka Conservation Society

City and Borough of Yakutat – US Fish and Wildlife Service – NOAA – US Forest Service

Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

For More Information Contact

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Deborah Hart, Coordinator
907-723-0258
coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org
www.seakfhp.org

The SEAKFHP is a candidate partnership recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board and follows guidelines set out in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. More information at www.fishhabitat.org

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Presentation to National Fish Habitat Board
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 3:30 MDT/1:30ADT

Presentation Agenda

In Juneau (or on phone):

- Neil Stichert - Habitat Restoration and Coastal Program Biologist, USFWS – Juneau Field Office, SEAKFHP Steering Committee Co-chair
- Cindy Hartmann Moore – Habitat Biologist, NOAA Alaska Region, Office of Habitat Conservation/SEAKFHP Steering Committee member and SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee Co-chair
- Jess Kayser - Executive Director, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition /SEAKFHP Steering Committee member
- Tim Bristol – Alaska Office Director, Trout Unlimited /SEAKFHP fiscal sponsor

Goals:

- Provide brief overview of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP)
- Share what is geographically/regionally unique about Southeast Alaska
- Thank the Board for their candidacy support for the SEAKFHP including the technical support shared via written guidance documents, the Excellence Workshop and through other interactions
- Share how the SEAKFHP has risen to the challenge that faces new FHPs
- Indicate the SEAKFHP's goal to provide a more detailed presentation at the October Board meeting to introduce our draft strategic plan and request formal recognition

Introductions – 5 minutes

- Brief introductions of folks on the call representing the SEAKFHP – Neil

SEAKFHP Overview – 15 minutes

- Brief overview of the SEAKFHP – Neil
    - Geographic scope and primary focal areas of the SEAKFHP
    - History of partnership formation
    - Partner composition summary and Steering Committee details
    - Overview of fish habitat needs and threats in Southeast Alaska
    - Progress with strategic plan; identification of core functions/draft priorities
    - Plans to submit for recognition in October
- Update Board on key accomplishments of the SEAKFHP– Cindy
    - Science and Data Committee activities
    - Facilitation of regional funding discussions
    - Project endorsement of the Tongass Keystone Initiative
- Share unique partner perspectives as to the benefits of the SEAKFHP – Jess and Tim
    - Community perspectives unique to Southeast Alaska
    - SEAKFHP success in leveraging local resources to get started

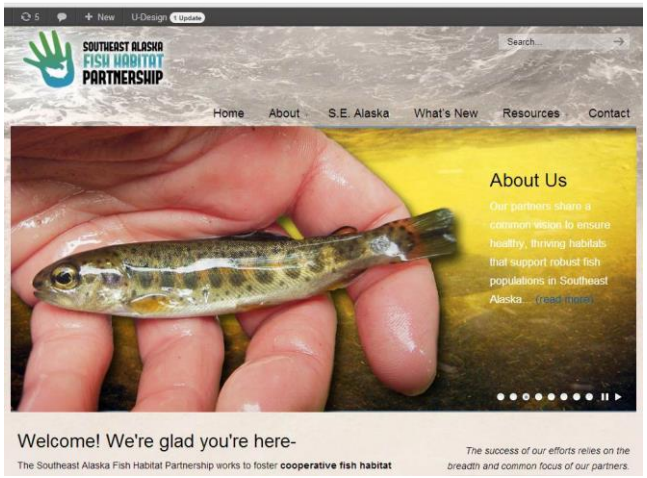
Concluding Comments and Questions from NFHP Board – 10 minutes

Status Report

June 2012
To
June 2013

Organizational Development and Partnership Governance Progress

- ✓ Formalized Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) Steering Committee
- ✓ Drafted and approved partnership bylaws and created a working organizational framework document
- ✓ SEAKFHP Partnership Agreement form developed and shared with current partners:
  - US Fish &Wildlife Service
  - US Forest Service
  - NOAA Alaska Region - Office of Habitat Restoration
  - Alaska Department of Fish and Game
  - Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
  - City and Borough of Yakutat
  - Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
  - Trout Unlimited
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Sitka Conservation Society
- ✓ Geographic scope and extent defined
- ✓ Logo developed, unique web and email accounts set up (coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org/www.seakfhp.org)
- ✓ Participated in the NFHP Excellence Workshop – Portland, January 2013
- ✓ Science & Data Committee convened with established roles and responsibilities formalized, February 2013



Screen shot of SEAKFHP Webpage

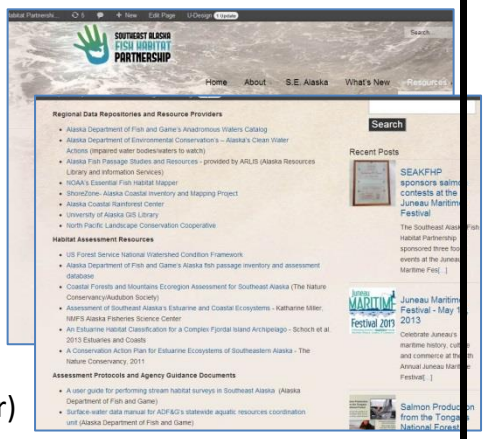
Outreach/Service Opportunities Achieved

- **SEAKFHP presentations/events**
  - July 2012 NFHP Board meeting – Introduction of SEAKFHP Coordinator
  - 2012/13 NFHP Partnership Committee meetings – SEAKFHP Updates
  - Mat-Su Salmon Science & Conservation Symposium (Wasilla – November 7-8, 2012)
  - Hosted evening lecture by Dr. Robert Lackey to share the Salmon 2100 work and discuss insights to preserving wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. (Juneau – November 9, 2012)
  - USFS Collaborative Stewardship strategy meeting (Juneau – January 16-17, 2013)
  - NOAA Alaska Region, Saltwater Recreational Fishing Roundtable (Juneau – March 19, 2013)
  - 2013 SE Alaska Environmental Forum (Juneau – March 20, 2013)
  - University of Alaska Fairbanks Fisheries Seminar Series (statewide – April 19, 2013)
  - Beyond Adaptive Management Workshop (Sitka – April 29, 2013)

Poster for evening lecture by Dr. Robert Lackey

- **Regional Collaborative Working Group Participation:**
  - All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Working Group
  - SE Alaska Cluster Initiative - Ocean Products/Research & Development Clusters
  - Tongass National Forest Collaborative Stewardship Working Group

- **Services Provided:**
  - Partner updates included as major agenda component to all SEAKFHP Steering Committee meetings
  - Facilitated region-wide funding discussions:
    - September 7, 2012 - SEAKFHP hosted a regional funding discussion highlighting major funding programs for the region including:
      - Debbie Maas – Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund Program
      - Brock Tabor – ADEC's Alaska Clean Waters Action Program
      - Norman Cohen from TNC with updates from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
      - Erika Ammann with funding updates from NOAA's Conservation Division
    - January 25, 2013 – SEAKFHP hosted regional funding discussion on NOAA's marine and coastal habitat restoration grant
  - Provided project endorsement of the Tongass Keystone Initiative (see page 3 for endorsement letter)
  - Developed regional fish habitat conservation practitioner's directory
  - Initiated effort to identify, aggregate and archive regional assessment resources - archived on the SEAKFHP website
  - Facilitated communication and introductions with key regional practitioner's and Michigan State University staff pursuing NFHP Science and Data efforts in Southeast Alaska – May 6, 2013
  - Participant and sponsor of the Salmon and People in Alaska: A Workshop on Salmon Decision Tools for the 21st Century (Anchorage – May 9, 2013)
  - Sponsored 3 fish-focused events at the 2013 Juneau Maritime Festival, one coordinated with our local brewery (hopeful new SEAKFHP partner)



Regional assessments archived on the SEAKFHP website

Strategic Action Plan Progress

- Large group strategic planning sessions held Oct 16 & 17, 2012 and February 21, 2013; small workgroup discussions in progress
  - Developed 4 broad **CORE FUNCTIONS** for the Partnership to concentrate on over the next 3-5 years:
    1) **Grow diversity and capacity of the Partnership (People)**
    2) **Develop organizational strength & perseverance of the Partnership (Internal Processes/Long-term funding support)**
    3) **Provide services to Partners (Customers = SEAKFHP Partners, SE Alaska communities)**
    4) **Develop regionally relevant fish habitat conservation strategies (Financial = Measures of success to the SEAKFHP ex. Healthy fish habitat in SE AK, Improved policies and procedures, Broad regional use of best practices, etc…)**
- Utilizing the Conservation Action Planning Process to guide development of SEAKFHP priorities – small working groups are developing a situation analysis identifying threats and contributing factors impacting fish habitat for three focal habitat areas in SE Alaska – Estuaries & Nearshore Regions, Freshwater Headwaters and Freshwater Floodplains
- SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee – tasked to identify and aggregate regional assessment resources to create scientific assessment baseline for inclusion in the SEAKFHP Strategic Plan and support NFHP Science and Data Committee efforts to update the 2015 National Assessment
- Goal is to present the SEAKFHP draft strategic plan to the NFHP Board at the October 2013 board meeting

Award for winner of the Salmon & Beer on the Pier Contest

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Norman Cohen
The Nature Conservancy
416 Harris Street, Suite 301
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Greg Killinger
U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, Alaska 99835-7316

February 15, 2013

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Killinger:

On behalf of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP), thank you for submitting the *Tongass Keystone Initiative* for endorsement consideration. We are pleased you have sought recognition from SEAKFHP for this effort.

SEAKFHP works to address threats impacting fish habitats along and within the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska. As a "candidate" partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) the SEAKFHP operates under NFHAP goals and has a strong interest in reversing declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall productivity and health of fish in Southeast Alaska. After reviewing your application materials, the SEAKFHP Steering Committee has approved the *Tongass Keystone Initiative* for endorsement, as it is described in the application and supporting documentation you provided.

Our committee applauds the robust watershed assessment, restoration planning, and prioritization efforts that have gone into developing the approaches outlined in your proposal to address habitat threats in the watersheds of North Kuiu Island and Luck Lake located on Prince of Wales Island. Our committee believes the projects addressed in this proposal lead the way in our region toward successful process-based instream restoration. In addition, this proposal specifically addresses a number of SEAKFHP and NFHAP goals and will help guide how the SEAKFHP develops its restoration-focused habitat conservation strategies for the broader region of Southeast Alaska.

SEAKFHP offers that the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership endorsement logo (attached) be placed on project products and correspondence as desired. If you have any questions regarding the review of your application, please contact the SEAKFHP coordinator, Deborah Hart, at coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org.

SEAKFHP is made up of resource managers, scientists and professionals from different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental entities working together to conserve habitat for resident, anadromous, estuarine and marine dependent fishes in Southeast Alaska. We commend your efforts in fish habitat conservation and for forging public-private partnerships. Congratulations and we look forward to news as the initiative progresses!

Best Regards,

Mark Kaelke Neil Stichert

Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Disclaimer: The application of the techniques used, and effects of the efforts on identified habitats or analogous system are not endorsed beyond the scope of the current project, as it is defined. SEAKFHP expressly endorses projects as stand-alone efforts, only. This endorsement does not imply SEAKFHP commitment of funds, staff time or circumvention of laws. SEAKFHP is endorsing this project with the understanding that the project must obtain all relevant federal and state permits prior to initiating appropriate work.

Partners sharing a common vision to ensure healthy, thriving habitats that support robust fish populations in Southeast Alaska

*Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Trout Unlimited – The Nature Conservancy – City and Borough of Yakutat**
US Fish and Wildlife Service – NOAA – US Forest Service* – Alaska Department of Fish and Game**
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska**
**Invited partners*