



**SOUTHEAST ALASKA**  
**FISH HABITAT**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



# **Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership**

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[www.seakfhp.org](http://www.seakfhp.org)

NFHP/Federal Caucus Meeting – January 29, 2014



# **SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**



## Presentation Objectives

- Provide brief overview of the candidate Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP)
- Share geographically and regionally unique attributes of Southeast Alaska
- Demonstrate how the SEAKFHP has risen to become a robust candidate Partnership
- Introduce our draft strategic plan and current request to National Fish Habitat Board for formal recognition (March 2014)



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Vision

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





# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Mission

**Our partnership works to support cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across Southeast Alaska with consideration of economic, social and cultural interests of local communities in our endeavors**



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Who We Are

Federal, state and local governments  
Tribal entities  
Non-profit organizations  
Private individuals



## Structure and Capacity

**Part-time coordinator-- Debbie Hart**  
Supporting partnership co-chairs  
11-member Steering Committee  
Science and Data Committee  
Other ad hoc committees as needed





# SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



## Current Partners

- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *NOAA*
- *U.S. Forest Service*
- *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*
- *University of Alaska Southeast*





# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Participating Members

### Steering Committee Members

- **Neil Stichert\***, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Juneau Field Office – SEAKFHP Co-chair
- Mark Kaelke, Trout Unlimited – SEAKFHP Co-chair
- **Cindy Hartmann Moore\***, NOAA NMFS Alaska Region, Office of Habitat Conservation (S&D Co-chair)
- **Sheila Jacobson\***, USFS Tongass National Forest
- Roger Harding\*, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Brock Tabor\*, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Norman Cohen, The Nature Conservancy
- Jessica Kayser, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
- Raymond Paddock, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Bill Lucey, City and Borough of Yakutat
- K Koski\*, At-large seat

### Science and Data Committee Members\*

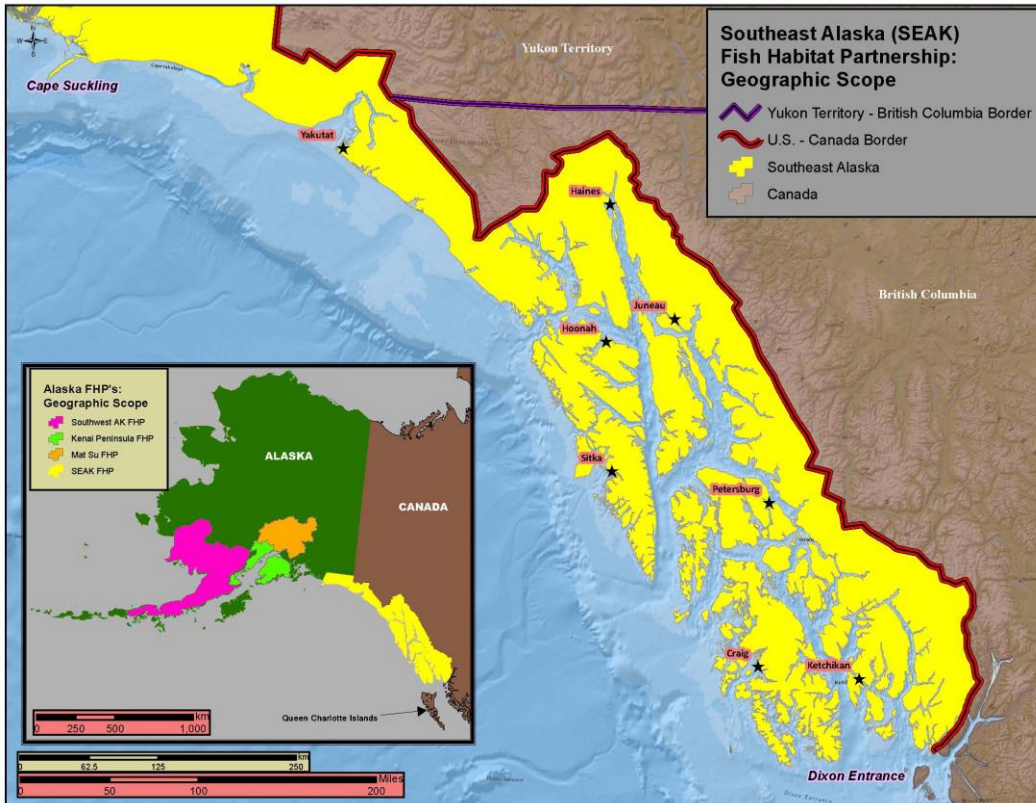
- Jeff Nichols, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (S&D Co-chair)
- Gretchen Pikul, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Julianne Thompson, USFS Tongass National Forest**
- **Dave D'Amore, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory**
- Christine Woll, The Nature Conservancy
- Brad Ryan, Takshanuk Watershed Council
- **Katharine Miller, NOAA NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center**
- **Allison Bidlack, Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center**
- Shannon Atkinson, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- **Kim Homan, University of Alaska GIS Library**
- Scott Harris, Sitka Conservation Society
- **Bill Hanson (USFWS) liaison to the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative**



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Geographic Scope

- Watersheds and waterways connecting Icy Bay to Dixon Entrance
- Lakes, rivers, estuaries and nearshore/ marine areas





# Southeast Alaska

## A complex landscape and biogeography



- Largest contiguous mature coastal temperate rainforest in the nation, home to the Tongass National Forest
- Covers nearly 45,000 mi<sup>2</sup>, including 12,000 mi<sup>2</sup> of marine waters, with a shoreline length > 16,000 miles
- Freshwater habitats abound, including > 20,000 lakes and ponds
- Tides range -4 to +21 feet
- 30- 160" of rainfall
- >1,000 named islands
- > 5,000 mapped anadromous fish streams

# People and Economy of Southeast

- 33 communities- Only three connected to mainland road system
- Multi-cultural- Tlingit, Haida, Tshimshian
- 70% of population lives in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka
- 1,500,000 tour visitors each year



## **Economy:**

- Fishing
- Tourism
- Government
- Mining
- Timber Harvest & Silviculture



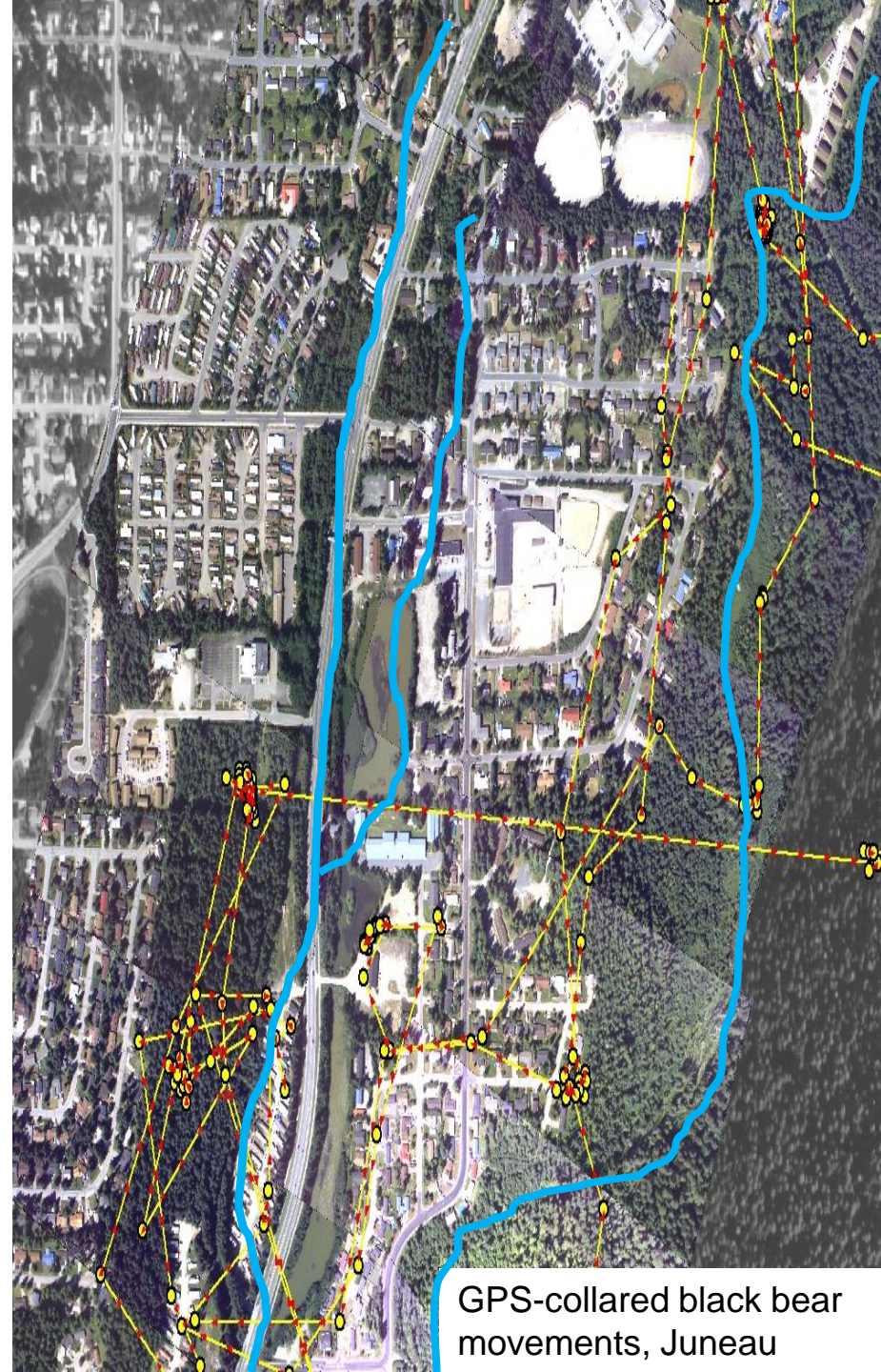
# A Region of People With Strong Connections to Fish

- 96% of Alaskans surveyed say salmon are essential to the Alaskan way of life.
- Human Use of Salmon
  - Nearly 90% of rural households in Southeast Alaska use salmon.
  - On average, a rural resident uses 75 pounds of pink, chum, coho, Chinook, and sockeye salmon
- Robust subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries support this economy with use values exceeding \$466,000,000 annually in Southeast.



# Aquatic Habitat Challenges in Southeast Alaska

- Development encroachment on riparian corridors and streams
- Storm water discharge into salmon streams
- Weak regulatory climate for wetland and stream protection
- Fish passage barriers (1,200+)
- Post industrial logging landscape- 400,000 acres – state, federal, and private
- Existing and expanded mining activities and exploration
- Climate change



GPS-collared black bear movements, Juneau

# Why Another Partnership in Alaska?

- Complex geography
- Professional expertise dispersed across the region
- Interjurisdictional management of fish habitat, riparian areas, flows, watersheds and forestlands
- High public interest in maintaining fisheries
- Declining budgets
- NFHP construct gets people to the table



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Core Functions

- Grow diversity and capacity of partnership
- Develop organizational strength and perseverance
- Provide services to partners and Southeast communities
- Develop regionally relevant fish habitat conservation strategies



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Funding of Candidate Partnership to Date:

Funded through competitive application to the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. Matching funds secured through Trout Unlimited. \$110,000 in combined support through April 2014

USFWS Coastal Program (through December 2014)—Funds Coordinator travel, symposia planning, and support services

In-kind support-- Trout Unlimited (fiscal sponsor), USFWS (WebEx and teleconference services), and Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (symposia co-sponsor)

Future coordination funding uncertain without National FHP support, exploring variety of funding sources



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Partner Services

- Foster interagency & regional communication
- Facilitate regional funding opportunities
- Provide project technical review and endorsement
- Support regional assessment and data sharing
- Coordinate relevant conservation strategies for protection, enhancement, and restoration of fish habitat
- Provide annual symposium and event facilitation







# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Web Site and Resources Archive at [www.seakfhp.org](http://www.seakfhp.org)

### Regional Data Repositories and Resource Providers

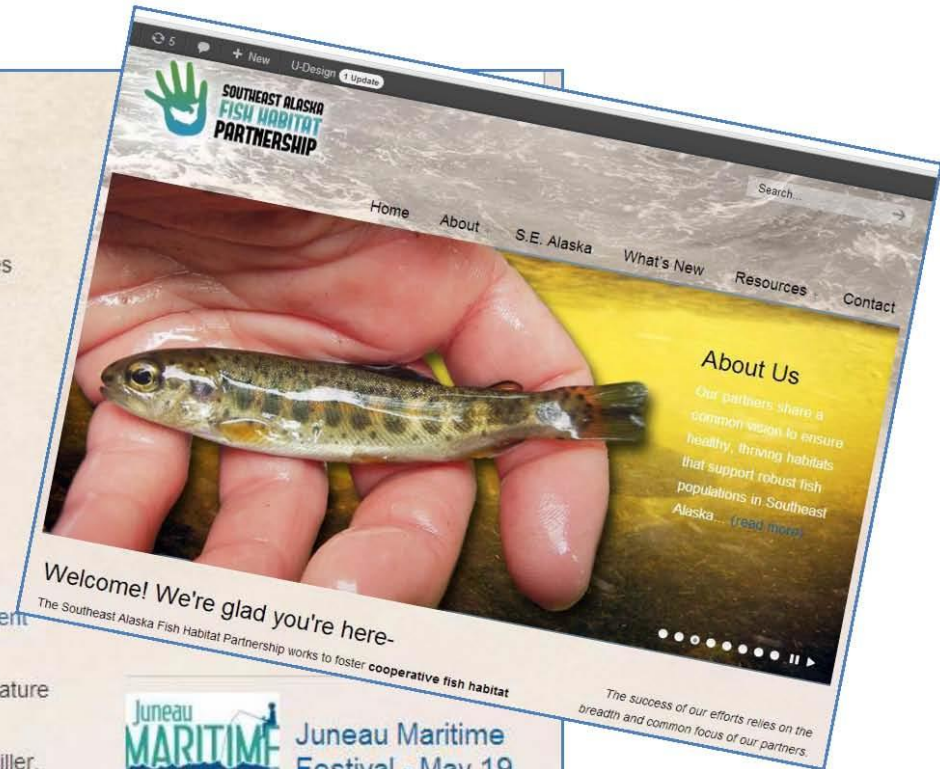
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Anadromous Waters Catalog
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's – Alaska's Clean Water Actions (Impaired water bodies/waters to watch)
- Alaska Fish Passage Studies and Resources - provided by ARLIS (Alaska Resources Library and Information Services)
- NOAA's Essential Fish Habitat Mapper
- ShoreZone- Alaska Coastal Inventory and Mapping Project
- Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center
- University of Alaska GIS Library
- North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

### Habitat Assessment Resources

- US Forest Service National Watershed Condition Framework
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Alaska fish passage inventory and assessment database
- Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion Assessment for Southeast Alaska (The Nature Conservancy/Audubon Society)
- Assessment of Southeast Alaska's Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems - Katharine Miller, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
- An Estuarine Habitat Classification for a Complex Fjordal Island Archipelago - Schoch et al. 2013 Estuaries and Coasts
- A Conservation Action Plan for Estuarine Ecosystems of Southeastern Alaska - The Nature Conservancy, 2011

### Assessment Protocols and Agency Guidance Documents

- A user guide for performing stream habitat surveys in Southeast Alaska (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)
- Surface-water data manual for ADF&G's statewide aquatic resources coordination unit (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)



Juneau Maritime  
Festival - May 19,  
2013

Celebrate Juneau's  
maritime history, culture  
and commerce at the 4th  
Annual Juneau Maritime  
Festival[...]



Salmon Production  
from the Tongass  
National Forest



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Conservation Priorities:

- Protect fish habitat in freshwater, estuaries and near-shore areas
  - Coordinate efforts to expand Anadromous Waters Catalog and Reservations of Water
  - Facilitate regional prioritization of intact watersheds for higher levels of protection
- Maintain and restore water quality and quantity in the region,
- Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas
  - Support region-wide restoration prioritization and planning
  - Align organizational approaches to fish passage at road/stream crossings
  - Facilitate regional adoption of best management practices for restoration, including restoration effectiveness monitoring



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Accomplishments:

- Organizational Development
  - Broad partner support
  - Formal Governance Structure
  - Functioning Committees
  - Funding Support
  - Strong NFHP relationships
- Partner Services
  - Promoted Regional Discussions
  - Elevate regional assessments and guidance documents
  - Robust Website and Data Archive
  - Public Events
  - Project Endorsements
- Strategic Action Plan
  - Conservation Priorities

**CONNECT INFORM PARTICIPATE**

**SALMON 2100: The Future of Wild Pacific Salmon**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2012**  
Social: 4:30—5:30PM  
Presentation: 5:30—6:30PM

**CENTENNIAL HALL JUNEAU, ALASKA**

Event Sponsored by:  
**Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership**

For more information contact:  
Coordinator@SEAlaskaFishHabitat.org  
Partners of the SEAKFHP include: Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, USFWS, NOAA, USFS, ADH&G, ADEC.  
Become a Partner too!

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership is proud to sponsor a provocative conversation on the future of salmon populations in Alaska. Speaker: Dr. Robert Lackey is a professor of fisheries science and adjunct professor of political science at Oregon State University. In his co-edited anthology *Salmon 2100*, diverse authors grapple with the single question of what is it really going to take to have wild salmon populations through 2100? Dr. Lackey will share a retrospective look at the *Salmon 2100* project and offer his vision on policy, social changes and restoration practices providing instructive insights to wild salmon preservation with closing thoughts on how these apply to salmon populations in Southeast Alaska.

**The Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium**

Join the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership for focused sessions promoting informed aquatic resource management and effective fish habitat conservation activities in SE Alaska

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHED COALITION**

alaskawatershedcoalition.org  
alaskawatersheds@gmail.com  
seakfhp.org  
coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org

**A Framework for Setting Watershed-Scale Priorities for Forest and Freshwater Restoration for the Prince of Wales Island**

**Watershed Condition Framework**

<sup>11</sup> Albert, D., L. Baker, S. Howell, K. V. Koski, and R. Rosforth. 2008. A Framework for Setting Watershed-Scale Priorities for Forest and Freshwater Restoration on Prince of Wales Island, Juneau, AK. The Nature Conservancy. (Photo insert - Cover page of report)

<sup>12</sup> US Forest Service. 2013. Watershed Condition Classification Technical Assessment and associated watershed condition class rating and high priority assessment program for the Tongass (<http://2009.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/>). (Photo insert captures cover page of report)

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Forest Service. 2008. Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. Final Environmental Impact Statement Plan Amendment. Ketchikan, AK: Tongass National Forest.

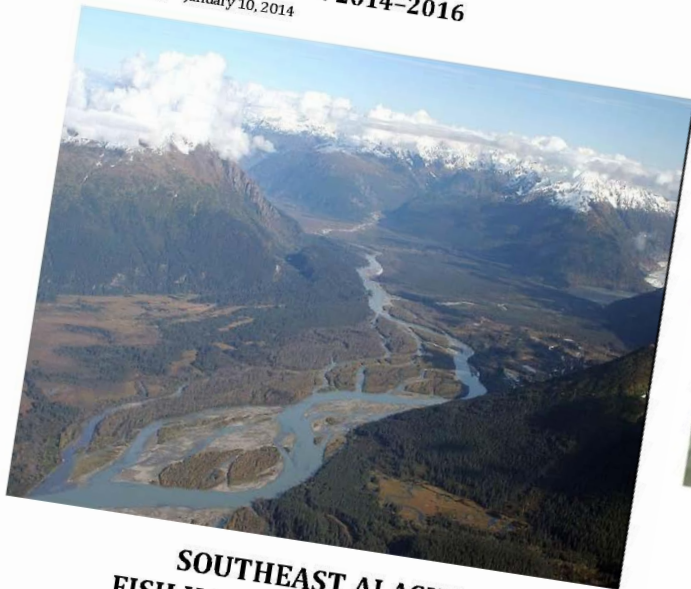
<sup>14</sup> USFWS Coastal and Partners Programs Strategic Plan. 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2006. Our Wealth Maintained: A Strategy for Conserving Alaska's Diverse Wildlife and Fish Resources. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska. xviii+824p.



## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2014-2016

DRAFT VERSION 1.9 January 10, 2014



## SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Cooperative Fish Habitat Conservation  
in Southeast Alaska

NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
PARTNERSHIP

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](http://www.fishhabitat.org)



### VISION

Partners of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership share a common vision to ensure healthy, thriving habitats that support all life stages of resident, anadromous, estuarine, and marine-dependent fishes across their historical range in Southeast Alaska.

### MISSION

The mission of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership is to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration, and management across Southeast Alaska with consideration of the economic, social, and cultural interests of local communities in our endeavors.

### CONSERVATION GOALS

- Protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore-marine areas in Southeast Alaska
- Maintain water quality and quantity in those areas
- Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded areas.



### PARTNERSHIP FUNCTIONS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The SEAKFHP Steering Committee recognized initial focus of the partnership would be on habitat-related issues, organizational development needs of an early forming partnership and a provision of services<sup>22</sup> to regional stakeholders. It is anticipated this early strategic focus will provide the greatest benefits to targeted aquatic resources and key habitat areas in Southeast Alaska as well as to SEAKFHP partners and stakeholders who share desired outcomes of thriving fish populations, healthy habitats and vibrant communities across the region. As such, four strategic operational priorities, termed *core functions* of the partnership were identified and are detailed throughout the plan.

### CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

- Support fish habitat *conservation actions* across Southeast Alaska.
- Provide *services to partners* that foster regional cooperation and understanding that result in improved on-the-ground conservation efforts across Southeast Alaska;
- Grow *diversity and capacity* of the SEAKFHP by linking natural resource science and management with regional interests, local and traditional values and community needs; and
- Build *organizational strength & perseverance* of the SEAKFHP for long-term sustainability and functionality.

<sup>22</sup> Photo insert - 2013 Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium, a co-hosted event sponsored by the SEAKFHP.



*Goal: Facilitate regionally-relevant strategies to support cooperative fish habitat conservation and management in Southeast Alaska*

- Overview
- Vision & Mission
- Fact Sheet
- Partners +
- Steering Committee
- Documents

# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

**Objectives**

- o information sharing
- o interagency and partner coordination and collaboration
- o strategic funding facilitation/allocation

## Our Purpose

We formed to bring together local communities, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and residents to conserve fish habitat across Southeast Alaska utilizing coordinated strategies and local partnership actions ... [\(read more\)](#)



## Welcome! We're glad you're here-

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership works to foster **cooperative fish habitat conservation** in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across the **southern panhandle of Alaska** including the dynamic watersheds and waterways that make up the

*The success of our efforts relies on the breadth and common focus of our partners*

**Join the Partnership**



**Thank You!**

**Any Questions?**