



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



# **Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership**

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Raincountry Flyfishers Meeting – April 23, 2014



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



## Presentation Summary:

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP, [www.seakfhp.org](http://www.seakfhp.org)) works to foster cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across Southeast Alaska. SEAKFHP formed in 2011 to bring together local communities, tribal groups, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and individual residents to improve interagency and stakeholder communication, foster collaborative approaches to assess fish habitat needs, raise awareness of conservation efforts happening across the region, develop broadly supported conservation goals and strategies and facilitate localized partnership actions. This focus on a bottom-up, locally driven, voluntary and non-regulatory effort was inspired by the approach outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and implemented through regionally based Fish Habitat Partnerships spread across the nation (NFHAP, [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)). In March of 2014, SEAKFHP was formally recognized as the 19<sup>th</sup> National Fish Habitat Partnership and becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> in Alaska. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the partnership and its strategic action plan which highlights the importance of maintaining abundant intact watersheds spread across Southeast Alaska, identifies stressors to current fish habitat conditions, elevates shared conservation goals held by SEAKFHP partners, and includes action steps the partnership will work towards over the next three years to develop collaborative approaches to fish habitat conservation efforts in the region.



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**  
 419 6<sup>th</sup> 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 resident, anadromous, estuarine and marine-dependent fishes across their historical range in Southeast Alaska.

**Mission**  
 We work to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration and management across Southeast Alaska with consideration of economic, social and cultural interests of local communities in our endeavors.

**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 Partnership 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-ground conservation efforts across Southeast Alaska
- Facilitate regionally relevant fish habitat conservation strategies across Southeast Alaska - specific conservation priorities are to protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and the nearshore/marine areas of Southeast Alaska, maintain and restore water quality and quantity in the region, and restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas.

**Growing Partner Network**  
 Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Sitka Conservation Society – Trout Unlimited – The Nature Conservancy  
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game – City and Borough of Yakutat – Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service – NOAA – US Forest Service – Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
 Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center – University of Alaska GIS Library  
 Prince of Wales Watershed Association – Southeast Alaska Guidance Association

The SEAKFHP is 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)

**NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**

**For More Information Contact**  
 Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership  
 Deborah Hart, Coordinator  
[coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org](mailto:coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org)

**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**

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



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Mission

**Our partnership works to support cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across Southeast Alaska**



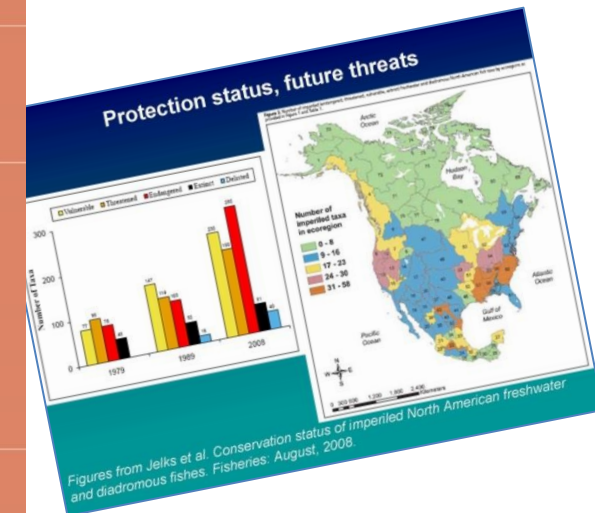
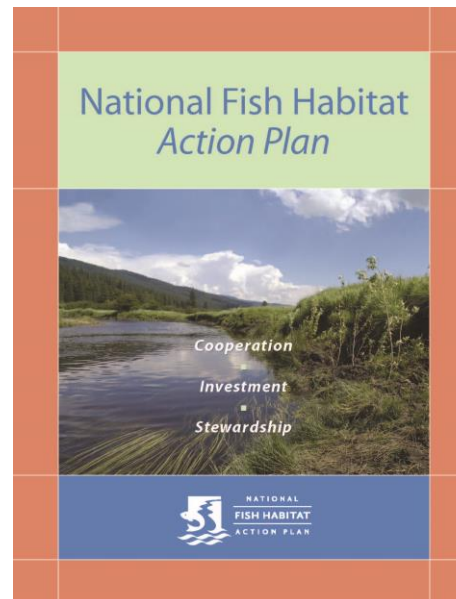
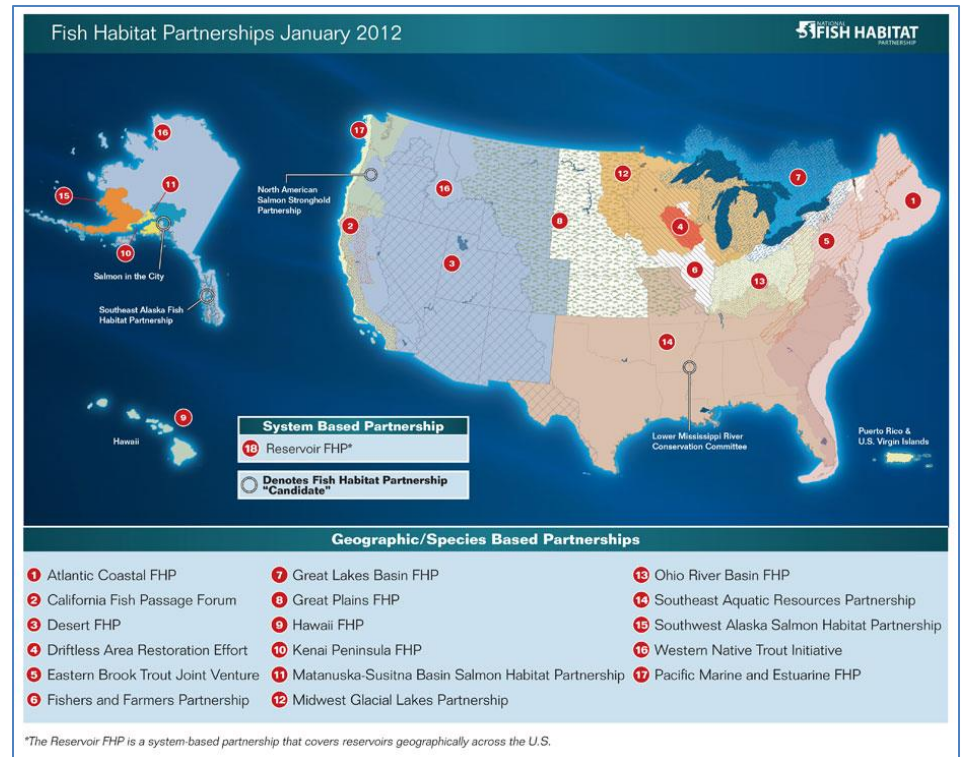


## National Partnership Network

- By 2014 19 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) covering all 50 states
- 3 candidate partnerships under consideration;
- Provided new funding stream for regional FHP development and on-the-grounds conservation projects
- Conducted 341 on-the-grounds conservation projects in 46 states
- Created the “10 Waters to Watch” program

## National Assessment Framework and Database

- Convened National Science and Data Team
- Completed first ever national assessment of fish habitat in the United States, 2010
- Created national data archive and web viewing tools





# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

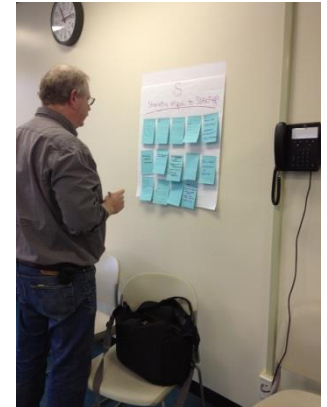
## Who We Are

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



## Structure and Capacity

- 11-member Steering Committee
- Science and Data Committee
- Other ad hoc committee's as needed
- Staff includes part-time coordinator and other partner representatives as able



## What We Aspire to Accomplish

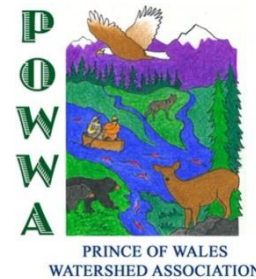
- Support collaborative fish habitat conservation strategies and associated actions
- Leverage resources to strategically protect intact habitats and restore key habitats that have been degraded
- Serve as a forum for information sharing and support interagency and stakeholder communications
- Enhance regional capacity for on-the-ground fisheries and habitat conservation projects



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

## Growing List of 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
- POW Watershed Association
- Trout Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sitka Conservation Society
- University of Alaska Southeast – GIS Library
- Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center
- SAGA





# 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
- Brad Ryan, 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

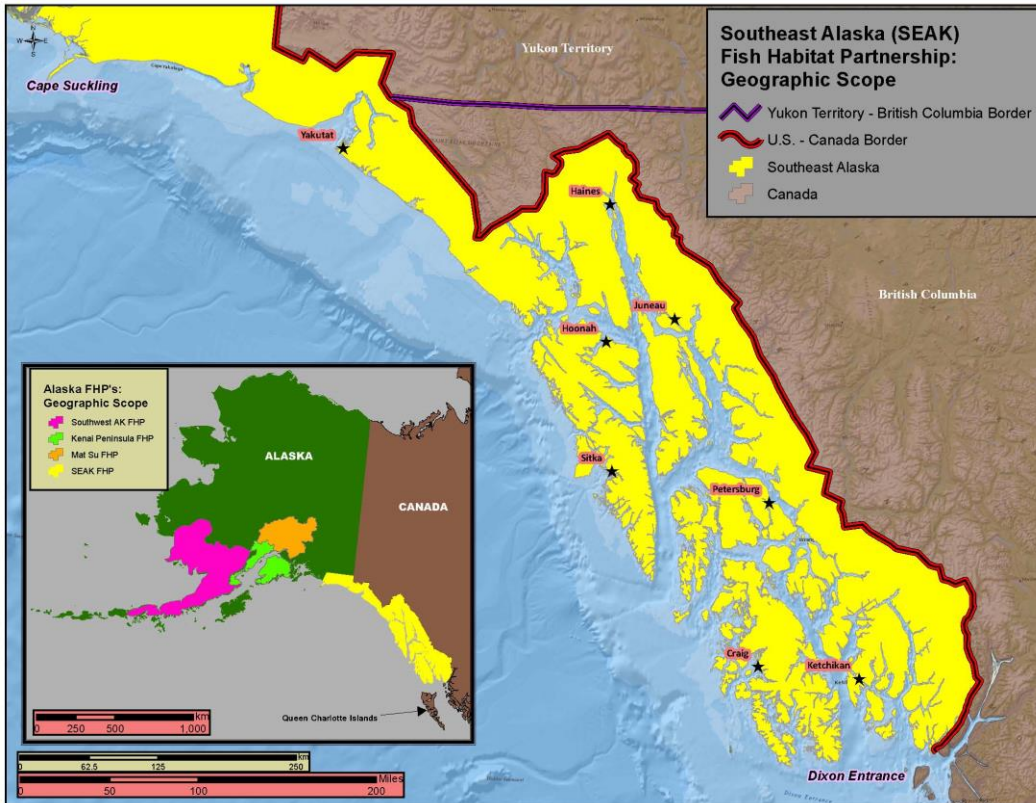




# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Geographic Scope

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





# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Core Functions

- Support fish habitat *conservation actions* across Southeast Alaska
- Provide *services to partners* that foster regional cooperation and understanding that result in improved on-the-grounds conservation efforts
- Grow *diversity and capacity* of partnership
- Develop *organizational strength and perseverance*



# 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 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

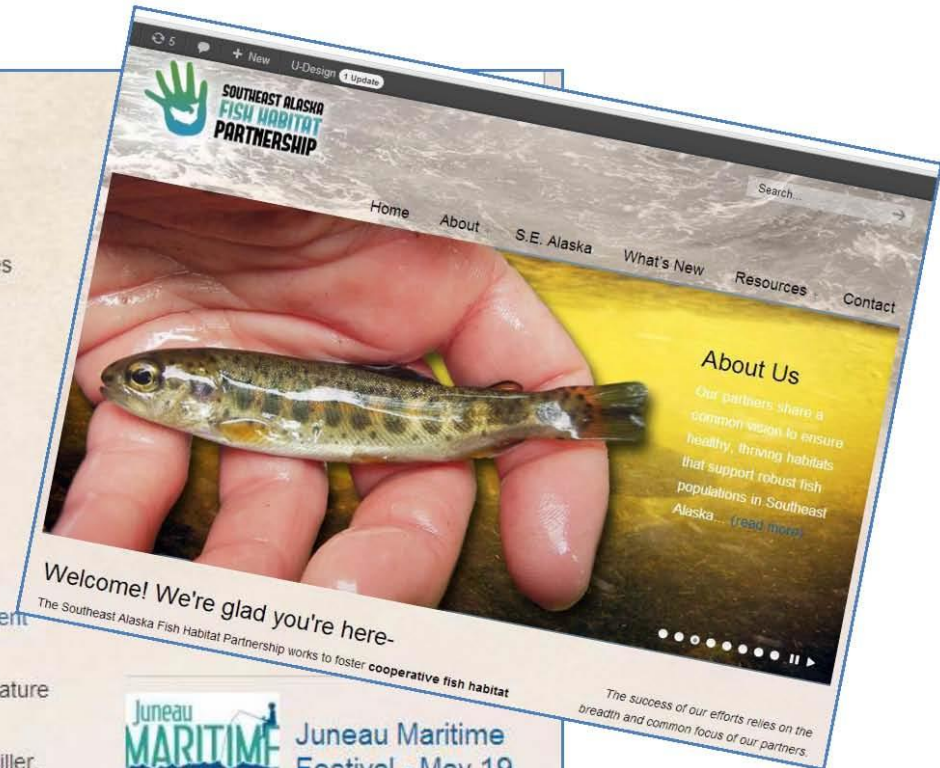
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Anadromous Waters Catalog
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's – Alaska's Clean Water Actions (Impaired water bodies/waters to watch)
- Alaska Fish Passage Studies and Resources - provided by ARLIS (Alaska Resources Library and Information Services)
- 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 Fjoridal 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

## Recent Accomplishments:

- Organizational Development
  - Broad partner support
  - Formal Governance Structure
  - Functioning Committees
  - Funding Support
  - Strong NFHP relationships
- Partner Services
  - Facilitating Communication
  - Elevating Regional Assessments and Guidance Documents
  - Sharing Information - Robust Website and Data Archive
  - Hosting Public Events
  - Promoting Project Endorsements
- Strategic Action Plan
  - Elevating Regional Conservation Priorities

**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

alaskawatershedcoalition.org  
alaskawatersheds@gmail.com

**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2014-2016**  
DRAFT VERSION 1.9 January 30, 2014

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA  
FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**  
Supporting Cooperative Fish Habitat Conservation  
in Southeast Alaska

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# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## Conservation Priorities:

- Protect fish habitat in freshwater, estuaries and near-shore areas
  - Support efforts to expand the Anadromous Waters Catalog
  - Facilitate regional prioritization of intact watersheds for higher levels of protection
  - Support collaborative efforts that evaluate transboundary development effects to fish and their habitats and that prevent and control aquatic invasive species
- Maintain and restore water quality and quantity in the region
  - Support baseline and water quality monitoring programs
- Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas
  - Support region-wide restoration prioritization and planning
  - Foster aligning approaches to fish passage at road/stream crossings

# Risks and Stressors to Fish Habitat in Southeast Alaska

- Changing Environmental Conditions
- Habitat Loss
- Loss of Habitat Connectivity and Complexity
- Degraded Water Quality and Quantify
- Ecosystem Imbalance
- Fishing Pressure
- Mariculture, Aquaculture and Hatcheries

Appendix 2. Recognized risks and associated stressors to fish in key habitat areas across Southeast Alaska identified as part of SEAKFHP's initial strategic planning effort, this list will be refined and used in future efforts to refine the partnership's conservation strategy.

Risks and associated stressors to fish habitat	Freshwater Headwaters	Freshwater Floodplains	Estuarine Ecosystems	Nearshore-Marine Ecosystems
<b>Changing Environmental Conditions</b>				
global climate change	X	X	X	X
ocean acidification			X	X
catastrophic events	X	X	X	X
tsunami debris			X	X
<b>Habitat Loss</b>				
urban/community development		X	X	X
shoreline dredge and fill			X	X
<b>Loss of Habitat Connectivity and Complexity</b>				
timber harvest and logging practices	X	X	X	X
energy development via hydro/tidal projects	X	X	X	X
road/stream crossings	X	X	X	X
<b>Degraded Water Quality and/or Quantity</b>				
mining development	X	X	X	X
contaminated sites	X	X	X	X
marine vessel transportation contaminates			X	X
mixing zone contaminates	X	X	X	X
alteration of hydrology	X	X	?	?
<b>Ecosystem Imbalance</b>				
introduction and persistence of invasive species	X	X	X	X
algal blooms			X	X
<b>Fishing Pressure</b>	?	X	X	X
<b>Mariculture, Aquaculture &amp; Hatcheries</b>	?	?	X	X

*Appendix 2 of the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan, found on page 29*



# Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

## How you can get involved:

- Checkout our website and join our mailing list [www.seakfhp.org](http://www.seakfhp.org) (follow us now on Facebook too!)
- Help elevate all the good work being done by entities working in SE Alaska  
<http://www.seakfhp.org/resources/regional-data-sources/>
- Become a SEAKFHP partner
- Get involved with your local watershed partnership
- Engage with the Southeast Alaska Cluster Initiative
- Participate in future meetings and symposia
- Share your ideas and needs with our Steering Committee







**Thank You!**

**Any Questions?**