

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
December 6, 2012

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members present:

- USFWS - Neil Stichert, Meeting Chair and Steering Committee Co-chair
- Trout Unlimited - Mark Kaelke, Steering Committee Co-chair
- USFS – Ron Medel for Sheila Jacobson
- ADF&G – Roger Harding and Jeff Nichols (alternate)
- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Jessica Kayser
- ADEC – Brock Tabor
- The Nature Conservancy – Norman Cohen (Christine Woll, alternate)
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart
- Yakutat City and Borough: Bill Lucey
- Sitka Conservation Society: Scott Harris
- NOAA NFHP Coordinator: Erika Ammann
- ADF&G AKSSF Program: Peter Bangs and Debbie Maas

Welcome and Introductions – Neil Stichert provided welcoming comments and introduced presenters Peter Bangs and Debbie Maas from ADF&G's Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund Program. Neil also welcomed Ron Medel from the USFS stationed in Ketchikan who sat in for Sheila Jacobson, NOAA NFHP Coordinator Erika Ammann and guests Scott Harris from the Sitka Conservation Society and Bill Lucey, Yakutat Salmon Board Coordinator for the City and Borough of Yakutat.

Agenda and Meeting Objectives – Debbie provided a brief review of the agenda and outlined the following objectives for the meeting:

- *Learn about the evolution of the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund Program and gain an understanding how the framework for this program (both past and present) provides valuable information for the development of the SEAKFHP strategic plan*
- *Provide a brief review of Dr. Lackey's presentation and share follow-up media links*
- *Continue discussion on the collaborative spring 2013 symposium with SAWC, CCTHITA and learn about an event the Sitka Conservation Society is planning titled Beyond Monitoring – Adaptive Learning Workshop*
- *Share updates on the SEAKFHP strategic planning process and hear from Cindy regarding the recent ShoreZone Partnership meeting held Nov 28-29, 2012*
- *Share updates on SEAKFHP Logo/Website development*
- *Share updates from a meeting of the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee working group and review draft roles and responsibilities for the formation of the formal committee*
- *Share updates on the solicitation process for 3 open SEAKFHP Steering Committee seats*
- *Share updates from the National Fish Habitat Board and discuss the upcoming organizational training opportunity being offered in late January 2013*
- *Share updates from a recent SEAKFHP presentation to the Ocean Products Cluster Working Group (Nov 20, 2012)*

AKSSF Program Presentation – Peter Bangs and Debbie Maas provided an overview of the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund Program with specific insight to the changes that have

occurred to the program since its inception in 2001, most notably changes in funding (changes to earmark structure, decreasing amount coming to Alaska and Southeast Alaska specifically, and increased competition for funding among Pacific states) and narrowing of priorities (authorized uses for funds narrowed to ESA, subsistence and habitat projects with narrowed ability to include past project priority authorizations and objectives). <http://www.akssf.org>

Debbie Maas provided an overview of new web based reporting and archiving tools developed for the AKSSF Program. She walked the group through a new web portal that provides users an in depth overview of all of the AKSSF Program recipients, with direct links to project scope of works, summary documents, photos and a web viewer and query system that allows users to locate/query AKSSF funded projects in a variety of ways with good map visuals.

Steering Committee members discussed ways to raise awareness of the changes that have occurred to the AKSSF program, specifically identifying how these changes may be impacting projects in Alaska. **(ACTION ITEM)** They suggested adding this topic to the agenda for the next AK FHP meeting to inquire what FHPs may be able to do to help elevate specific Alaska needs under this program.

Peter shared the 2003 and draft 2008 Gap Analysis that helps outline the initial framework for the Sustainable Salmon Strategy in Southeast Alaska – **(ACTION ITEM)** Debbie (Hart) will archive these for future use during the SEAKFHP strategic planning effort. Debbie (Hart) noted that the discussion today highlights broad changes in the AKSSF program and gaps/project priorities identified through the sustainable salmon strategy effort may be of great importance for the SEAKFHP to consider as they move to develop specific regional fish habitat conservation strategies – she highlighted Peter’s note that one of the changes in the AKSSF program will be decreasing ability to provide for regional priority planning opportunities which may be where the SEAKFHP may want to direct its efforts.

SEAKFHP Sponsored Event Updates

- Dr. Lackey’s Presentation – The group did not spend time debriefing on the Dr. Lackey presentation but Debbie will provide a summary of all the media links that are now available for the Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium and archived opportunities to hear recorded summaries of Dr. Lackey’s presentation (from both the symposium and also from his Juneau presentation). **(Action Item)** Debbie will send a follow-up email with the summary/web link information.
- Spring 2013 Symposium – Neil and Jess provided updates on the meeting with SAWC/CCTHITA/ SEAKFHP representatives (Jess, Raymond, Neil and Debbie) who met on December 5th to discuss details of a spring 2013 Watershed Forum.
 - Highlights from the working group meeting included:
 - Discussion focused on challenges with dates, specifically the challenge of venue availability, and conflicts with spring break. Raymond and Neil explored the availability of the Andrew Hope Building and the group agreed this would be a better venue and allow for greater date flexibility than Centennial Hall. It was agreed possible dates for the symposium are March 18-22 or April 22-26 with the April dates being the preferred dates by SAWC and SEAKFHP representatives.
 - The work group reviewed each partner’s symposium goals and preferred session themes. There is good alignment on the topic of restoration. Raymond will continue to confer with CCTHITA representatives on their preferred symposium topics and any shoulder training needs. Ideas that were identified in the survey prepared by SAWC and CCTHITA included climate change, Brownfield sites and broad restoration topics. Raymond noted his new position as an ACRC committee member for CCTHITA and

- the group discussed that CCTHITA may want to outreach to Allison regarding possible interest by ACRC to facilitate/populate a climate change session at the symposium.
- The workgroup plans to meet again in the next week or so to solidify dates, reserve the venue and draft an agenda.
 - SAWC offered to host the registration website and CCTHITA has provided draft registration materials.
- Neil and Jess provided a detailed overview of the different symposium themes discussed by the partners. Scott Harris from the Sitka Conservation Society shared a brief update on plans they have to host a workshop titled *Beyond Monitoring – Adaptive Learning Workshop* in late April and inquired if there may be opportunities to collaborate with exiting symposium plans.
 - Neil asked for feedback from Steering Committee members and meeting attendees on themes for the symposium; either to keep it broad and flexible with the other partner goals or look to be more targeted. Feedback from the SEAKFHP Steering Committee and meeting participants included:
 - General recommendations included keeping a focus on restoration/prioritization while including at least one broad session (one morning) to cover or set the stage for the more in depth restoration sessions (example: Assessment/status updates/USFS work on effectiveness monitoring/transitional look at different restoration projects/response to loss of funds/etc)
 - Norman recommended adding some form of presentation on the value of restoration in Southeast Alaska and noted the recent challenges that have occurred with helping the general public and related industries understand some of the current restoration effort that is occurring.
 - Bill Hanson offered some general comments on planning for the symposium noting the benefits of adding shoulder topics/training that help broaden the audience and encourage greater attendance. He recommended all SEAKFHP Partners consider how best to get folks from their respective organizations (and other stakeholders they would like to see attend) to the symposium (a few ideas included scheduling internal meetings or consider shoulder symposium opportunities that will broaden attendance).
 - **(ACTION ITEMS)** SEAKFHP, SAWC and CCTHITA representatives will continue to meet to develop the timeline, venue and agenda for the Spring 2013 “*Southeast Alaska Environmental Forum*”. Scott Harris of the Sitka Conservation Society will also join in these discussions to share ideas they have for session/discussion/training opportunities. Debbie and Mark will share with other meeting planners the SEAKFHP Steering Committee discussion and recommendations for session themes, and the idea of a keynote/or lecture on value of restoration. SEAKFHP Partners are encouraged to consider how best to get folks from their respective organizations to the symposium Debbie will share by email dates/venue opportunities as they finalize very soon.

SEAKFHP Strategic Planning: Due to timing limitations of the meeting Debbie recommended moving some of the strategic planning updates to the January meeting. She welcomed Cindy to provide a brief update on the ShoreZone Partnership meeting held Nov 28-29 in Anchorage. Cindy gave an overview of what the program is and how the partnership began. She provided some specific detail on the mapping processes used to map ~72% of the Alaska coastline and how to access the high resolution photos and other imagery on the web through two web sites one hosted by NOAA and one by TNC. Debbie noted she was able to attend the first part of the meeting that introduced the scope of the ShoreZone program and highlighted the value of the tools and resources available through the two web sites. She offered that this partnership

may help the SEAKFHP in considering its geographic scope and aid in the discussions that have occurred on how best to include nearshore and marine topics in the SEAKFHP strategic plan. Debbie noted the large group involved in the ShoreZone Partnership and recommends linking with them to remove any duplicate of effort and build capacity on nearshore and marine issues the SEAKFHP may work on. **(Action Items)** Debbie will work with Cindy to arrange a presentation on the ShoreZone Partnership and also an overview of the online tools available at: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/shorezone/> ; <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/shorezone/>. Steering Committee members were also encouraged to review these web sites and post comments on the TNC blog site. Debbie will also share this site with Kevin who may want to use some of the photos for the website.

(Action Items)The strategic planning discussion planned for today's meeting was moved to the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in January. As a result the geographic scope discussion will occur then. Debbie will continue to explore use of the TNC CAP process as part of the SEAKFHP strategic planning effort and will confer with Dave Albert and set a date for the next planning meeting.

SEAKFHP Logo and Web Presence: Neil provided an update to the group on the SEAKFHP logo and website development; he shared the final theme logos Kevin provided and asked the group to pick one for Kevin to refine as a final. **(Action Items)** The group agreed to support the hand logo theme and provided Neil feedback on small refinements to the fish design. Neil will update Kevin on logo theme improvements and ask that he complete a final. Debbie will continue to provide Kevin web content to populate the SEAKFHP web site.

SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee – Jeff provided an overview of the Science and Data Committee working group meeting (Nov 28, 2012) and reviewed the roles/responsibilities developed for the formation of the committee. Steering Committee members were asked to provide feedback to the working group on these draft roles. **(Action Items)** Debbie will share a summary of the Science and Data Subcommittee workgroup meeting and route the draft committee roles out to steering committee members for feedback. The work group will look to meet again in January to begin staffing the Committee.

SEAKFHP Solicitation for open SC seats – Due to timing constraints the group did not get a chance to discuss this topic in detail. The solicitation for the 3 open steering committee seats has been shared in informal venues (CCTHITA/Ocean Product Clusters Working Group) and will be broadly shared via email and Southeast Alaska media outlets once the logo is complete. The due date for letters of interest is January 4th 2013 and the letters will be reviewed by Steering Committee members during the January meeting

New Business and Miscellaneous Items:

- Debbie provided a brief update on the NFHP sponsored organizational development and training program being created for all FHPs. She thanked all who responded to the call from RiverNetwork staff on organizational needs for the SEAKFHP. The RiverNetwork (Wendy Wilson) will be developing a broad program with web based tools and face to face workshops as a result of response to their survey of all FHPs. To kick things off there will be a workshop taking place in Portland, Oregon January 29-31. If there are enough spots open this opportunity will be available to candidate FHPs and Debbie asked the group for feedback on how best to proceed with securing attendance for SEAKFHP. The group agreed it would be worth our attendance and that Debbie could work through Sue to hopefully attend the January Fish Habitat Excellence Workshop.
- Mark provided historic reports from ADF&G; **(Action Items)** Debbie will scan copies and provide them to the Steering Committee; Roger Harding will access additional ADF&G archives as needed for other broad scale assessments completed by ADF&G in the 1970/80's and route to Debbie for distribution to the Steering Committee.

- A number of agenda items were not covered due to timing considerations; as a result **(Action Item)** Debbie will send out email updates on a number of topics to help Steering Committee members and others be informed about recent items including: summary of follow-up articles on the Mat-Su Symposium and Dr. Lackey's Presentation; SEAKFHP presentation to the Ocean Products Cluster working group (Nov 20); and recent NFHP Partnership Committee meeting (Nov 29).
- **(Action Item)** New business items not discussed at the Dec 6th meeting will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Outlook to future SEAKFHP meetings and tasks:

- **Upcoming Dates**
 - NFHP Science and Data Committee meeting for all FHPs – Dec 12, 2012
 - 2013 NFHP Board Meetings – January 16, 2013/February 26-27/June 25/26, October 21-25
 - NFHP Organizational Development Workshop – January 29-31, 2013
 - Alaska Marine Science Symposium – January 21-25, 2013
 - Alaska Forum on the Environment – February 4-8, 2013
 - JECD Innovation Summit – February 11-13, 2013
 - NOAA Restoration Grant Application Due – February 19, 2013
<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/coastalrestoration.html>
 - SAWC/CCITA/SEAKFHP – TBD Watershed Forum Spring 2013 (March or April)
- **SEAKFHP SC Pending Action Items**
 - Steering Committee members recommended adding a topic to the agenda for the next AK FHP meeting to inquire what FHPs may be able to do to help elevate specific Alaska needs in context of the AKSSF Program. Debbie will archive the AKSSF Framework documents for future use during the SEAKFHP strategic planning effort.
 - Debbie will send a follow-up email with the web links from Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposia/Dr. Lackey media summaries.
 - SEAKFHP, SAWC and CCTHITA representatives will continue to meet to develop the timeline, venue and agenda for the Spring 2013 Environmental Symposium. Scott Harris of the Sitka Conservation Society will also join in these discussions to share ideas they have for session/discussion/training opportunities. Debbie and Mark will share with other meeting planners the SEAKFHP Steering Committee discussion and recommendations for session themes, and the idea of a keynote/or lecture on value of restoration. SEAKFHP Partners are encouraged to consider how best to get folks from their respective organizations to the symposium (set-up internal meetings or consider shoulder symposium opportunities that will broaden attendance). Debbie will share by email dates/venue opportunities as they finalize.
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- **Parking Lot Items**

- Future discussion needed on advocacy
- Future discussion needed on SEAKFHP forest component role
- Future discussion needed on the overlaps between upland restoration and riparian/in-stream projects. Should SEAKFHP integrate or segregate its focus?
- Future discussion needed on how SEAKFHP will approach transboundary issues
- Future discussion needed on how SEAKFHP may support smaller conservation groups compete for available funding in light of administrative/grant requirements