

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
May 1, 2013

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members present:

- USFWS - Neil Stichert, Meeting Chair and Steering Committee Co-chair
- Trout Unlimited - Mark Kaelke, Steering Committee Co-chair
- USFS – Sheila Jacobson
- ADF&G – Roger Harding
- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition – Jessica Kayser
- ADEC – Brock Tabor
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- CCHITA: Jennifer Hanlon (alternate for Raymond Paddock and Helene Bennett)
- Yakutat City and Borough: Bill Lucey
- SEAKFHP At-Large Member – K Koski

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart
- NOAA NFHP Coordinator: Erika Ammann

Welcome and Introductions – Neil provided welcoming comments and led introductions. Jennifer Hanlon introduced herself and sat in as an alternate representative for CCHITA. Debbie provided a few additional membership updates – Sue Rodman has taken on a new position within ADF&G in the Wildlife Division and will continue to work on LCC projects but has given over the statewide NFHP coordination for ADF&G to Roger Harding; transitions will occur over the next two months and as a result Roger will now have a statewide presence with other Fish Habitat Partnerships in Alaska as well as retain his SEAKFHP steering committee seat for ADF&G. Brock shared an update on position changes at ADEC, he has transitioned in to a new position and Gretchen Pikul has taken over his previous position; Brock will remain our lead ADEC contact and Gretchen will serve in an alternate role as well as participate with the SEAKFHP Science and Data committee as her time allows.

Agenda and Meeting Objectives – Debbie provided a brief review of the agenda and outlined the meeting objectives. She also took this time to provide an overview of the organizational layout of the SEAKFHP website so partner members could be familiar with the variety of information now being archived on the website. She highlighted the working documents of the Steering Committee and the Science and Data Committee noting the posting of meeting agenda's and summaries as well as detailed information that is shared during meetings that might be referred at future times. Debbie will query committee members for improvements to the organizational structure and noted the intent is to archive information of use and interest to committee members and partners in general as well as provide thorough overview materials of the partnership for the general public or others with specific interest in SEAKFHP efforts and activities.

The following meeting topics were to be covered during the meeting:

- *Share Partner updates and plans for the summer field season*
- *Share updates on recent activities of the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee*
- *Share updates and upcoming plans for drafting the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan*
- *Provide an overview and review of the organizational flow of the SEAKFHP website*

- *Provide general updates on recent outreach and participation with other partnerships, committees and regional working groups (NPLCC/All AK FHPs/Cluster working groups/Collaborative Stewardship*
- *Review NFHP recognition plans and inventory participation opportunities for the NFHP Board and WAFWA summer meetings*
- *Share overview/updates from the recent SCS Beyond Monitoring Workshop held in Sitka March 28-30*
- *Share plans for a SEAKFHP coordinator evaluation survey*
- *Discuss the fall symposium and review potential fall dates*

SEAKFHP Partner Updates

In a round robin fashion attending meeting participants shared updates from their organization including upcoming summer field season plans.

- Neil provided an update on his work to compile watershed assessment information for the ongoing task of the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee and also provided an overview of upcoming field projects the USFWS will be involved in this summer.
- Roger provided a brief update on his new role as the statewide NFHP coordinator for ADF&G and some of his upcoming activities involving the other Alaska FHPs.
- Jess shared an update on SAWC's efforts to become an In Lieu Fee Program provider and referenced work with the Army Corp of Engineers and SAWC's recent submittal of a formal prospectus; she thanked the many SEAKFHP partners that are also participating on this effort and noted that future dialogs will occur to discuss more specifics of the instruments involved in the program. Jess also provided an update on SAWC's efforts to develop a regional network directory and the recent collaboration with the Tongass People and Place Program noting their work with 10 communities across Southeast Alaska advocating for priority community-based projects.
- Brock shared an update on upcoming ADEC projects including water quality work in Haines and Juneau and storm water assessment and mapping efforts taking place in Sitka, Juneau and Ketchikan.
- Erika Ammann provided an update on NOAA projects occurring in Southeast Alaska including a marine debris clean-up effort taking place in Tenakee Springs and fish passage improvements in Gustavus. She also discussed some of the timing constraints for the NOAA habitat restoration grant announcements noting that a formal budget amount has not yet been released and final granting awards cannot be made until the total amounts are known. Cindy also shared an update on a recent grant available for invasive species work.
- Bill provided an overview of activities underway and planned for the Yakutat area including recent work with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a nearshore marine fish inventory and work being done to catalog the genetic baseline for coho in the surrounding areas. Bill also shared a link to the Yakutat Wild website and noted the promotional video that is archived there: <http://www.yakutatwild.com/>
- Sheila provided an update on USFS activities including recent visits she, Julianne and others have recently completed to share best management practices across the region. She also provided a detailed overview of the Adaptive Management Workshop held in Sitka and noted the value of the workshop overall and especially the opportunities provided to engage in a close-out discussion on the restoration work at Sitkoh which provided good feedback on the things that went well and what can be improved upon. She also noted the value of getting folks out in the field on the last day of the workshop to discuss current USFS restoration practices and opportunities for improvements.
- Mark shared an update on TU activities noting their fiscal involvement in the Gustavus fish passage project and upcoming work involving invasive species in Montana Creek. He noted the primary focus for TU is to continue outreach efforts on the Tongass 77 initiative and recent efforts to gather sign on support.

- Jennifer shared an update on CCTHITA activities including efforts to update their application for an IGAP grant.
- K shared an update on a possible effort gaining momentum to look at improving fish habitat in Gold Creek (located in downtown Juneau) and suggested this may be a project the SEAKFHP may want to participate in.

SEAKFHP Science and Data Workgroup Update

Cindy provided an overview of the recent working meeting held by the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee which focused on three main topics: 1) initiation of an effort to inventory and archive regional fish habitat assessment information for Southeast Alaska, 2) review recent NFHP Science and Data Committee request to complete a survey for compiling FHP information for the 2015 National Assessment and how this work relates to recent outreach to researchers working at Michigan State University, including Jared Ross's recent master's research on watershed topics in Southeast Alaska, and 3) development of a process to complete the SEAKFHP project endorsement application and guidelines.

Bill noted the recent genetics work taking place in Yakutat and asked the group if this would be something others in the region would like to learn more about or work to foster greater participation on. He offered to send around some information to the group on efforts occurring in Yakutat and Debbie offered to put this on as an agenda item for the next SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee meeting

SEAKFHP Strategic Planning Update

Debbie shared an overview of recent documents archived on the SEAKFHP website specific to the partnership's strategic planning effort; these include an outline for the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan, a timeline of steps to be completed and a draft working copy of the plan. Debbie shared plans to hold small work group meetings during the month of May (once a week for those interested) to develop a draft set of conservation strategies and accompanying goals, objectives and action items. A draft of the small work group accomplishments will be sent to the full steering committee ahead of the next meeting.

SEAKFHP Outreach Efforts:

Debbie provided an overview of the various outreach efforts she and other SEAKFHP committee members have participated in recently.

- Debbie has made 3 formal presentations on the partnership since March including to the NOAA Alaska Region Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Roundtable, 2013 Southeast Alaska Environmental Forum, and the UAF SFOS Fisheries Seminar. Neil provided a similar presentation to the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center Coordinating Committee and to the Juneau Chamber of Commerce.
- Debbie has been representing the partnership on two Southeast Alaska Cluster working groups, the Ocean Products Cluster and the newly forming Research and Development Cluster. Through this outreach she has been asked by the JEDC sponsors of the Juneau Maritime Festival to help initiate some involvement of the partnership and as a result has put together two contest opportunities and is co-sponsoring these with some funding from Trout Unlimited (salmon dip contest and a "salmon and beer on the pier" contest for local restaurants). She asked if any partner groups would like to provide prize contributions or have an interest to serve as a contest judge.
- The group discussed the recent outreach by all the Alaska FHPs and the LCCs. Neil gave an overview of the recent regional gathering of all the Alaska FHP and LCC coordinators. Debbie also provided an overview of the recent LCC request for input to the statewide water temperature data document, Debbie encouraged committee members to get her comments and she will also do some outreach to Allison Bidlack at the ACRC to see how they may be involved in responding to this collaborative Alaska based LCC effort.

- The group also discussed two upcoming meetings that the partnership may want to provide outreach to – the NFHP Board meeting in June and the WAFWA meeting in July. Roger has offered to do the WAFWA presentation and Mark (or other Steering Committee member) will provide the update to the NFHP Board.

Fall Symposium: The group discussed dates for the fall symposium. Dates under consideration range from late October to mid-November 2013. Debbie will send around a list of open dates for rooms at Centennial Hall and solicit a date to lock in and reserve. A group will convene soon to discuss the workshop theme and develop the agenda. Jess provided feedback on the needs SAWC has for themes and agenda items for the fall symposium.

Coordinator Evaluation and Feedback Survey Coming Soon: Debbie will be sending around a coordinator evaluation survey for steering committee members to add to, she will also be soliciting comments for improvements in how to communicate SEAKFHP information to members and schedule meetings.

Action Items:

- Debbie provided an overview of the SEAKFHP web site and requested partners submit new photos or partner highlight updates for inclusion on the web. Debbie will send an email request to solicit for these as well as request feedback on the organizational structure of the site. She will also contact Kevin regarding some web maintenance items and seek his expertise in graphic improvements.
- Bill shared an update on the Yakutat Wild branding for Yakutat salmon including updates to their website, Debbie will link some of the content to the SEAKFHP website. He also shared an update on recent genetic sampling occurring in Yakutat and suggested the partnership consider how to play a role in supporting more of this effort throughout areas in Southeast Alaska. Bill will forward the group more detailed information on what is occurring in Yakutat and Debbie will add this as an agenda item for a future steering committee meeting.
- Sheila will provide a link for the Tongass salmon fact sheet and Debbie will post a link to this on the SEAKFHP website.
- Debbie shared an update on the SEAKFHP Strategic Planning process and the recent workspace that is now available on the documents page of the SEAKFP web site. She noted the three working documents, the strategic plan outline, plan completion timeline and draft document. Debbie will be scheduling small group work sessions during the month of May to complete the situation analysis Dave Albert suggested and begin to draft out partnership conservation strategies and action priorities.
- The group discussed the recent LCC request for input to the statewide water temperature data document, Debbie encouraged committee members to get her comments and she will also do some outreach to Allison Bidlack at the ACRC to see how they may be involved in this effort.
- Debbie shared an update on the Juneau Maritime Festival and involvement of the partnership to help co-sponsor two salmon food contests. She asked if any partner groups would like to provide prize contributions or have an interest to serve as a contest judge.
- The group discussed dates for the fall symposium. Debbie will send around a list of open dates for rooms at Centennial Hall and solicit a date to lock in and reserve.
- Debbie will be sending around a coordinator evaluation survey for steering committee members to add to, she will also be soliciting comments for improvements in how to communicate SEAKFHP information to members and schedule meetings.
- The next SEAKFHP Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 10th.

Outlook to future SEAKFHP meetings and tasks:

- **Upcoming Dates**

- All Alaska FHP Meeting – May 23rd
- SEAKFHP Strategic Plan small work group meetings – tentative May 8th , 16th , and 22nd
- SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee – tentative, May 29th
- SEAKFHP Steering Committee Meeting – Summer Meeting – tentative week of June 10th
- 2013 NFHP Board Meetings – June 25-26, October 21-25
- 2013 WAFWA Summer Meeting – July 19-24

- **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
- Future guest presenters:
 - Shorezone Partnership