

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP)  
Science and Data Committee  
Meeting Summary – March 22, 2013

Meeting Participants/Contacts

SEAKFHP Steering Committee and S&D Work Group Members present:

- ADF&G – Roger Harding and Jeff Nichols
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- USF&WS – Neil Stichert
- SEAKFHP At-Large Member: K Koski

Invited Guests and potential SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee Participants present:

- TNC: Christine Woll
- Takshanuk Watershed Council: Brad Ryan
- NOAA: Katharine Miller
- ACRC: Allison Bidlack
- UAS GIS Library: Kim Homan
- USFS PNW: Dave D'Amore and Rich Edwards

Others expressing interest in participating with the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee but unable to attend the meeting:

- Sitka Conservation Society: Scott Harris
- NPLCC: Bill Hanson (USFWS)
- USFS: Sheila Jacobson and Julianne Thompson

Others we will continue to keep in contact with as the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee proceeds:

- Sitka Science Center: Victoria O'Connell
- TNC: Dave Albert
- NOAA: Jason Gasper, Chris Lunsford, Linda Shaw
- UAS: David Tallmon, Sherry Tamone
- UAF: Anne Beaudreau, Shannon Atkinson
- ADF&G: Jackie Timothy, Lauren Sill, Steve Heintz
- ADEC: Brock Tabor and Gretchen Pikul
- NPS: Scott Gende and Chad Soiseth
- Shorezone: Selena Cordeau
- Kai Environmental: Cathy Needham
- SEAK Land Trust: Diane Mayer
- SEAWHEAD: Bob Christensen

Introductions – Debbie Hart, SEAKFHP coordinator, convened the meeting and introduced Neil Stichert, USFWS/SEAKFHP Steering Committee chair who provided a brief overview of the SEAKFHP partnership, efforts to date by the SEAKFHP Science and Data work group, and reasons for outreaching to a larger group now as the partnership moves ahead to convene the formal SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee.

Meeting participants introduced themselves and a few of the SEAKFHP S&D work group participants shared their reasons for being involved in the partnership and on the S&D workgroup, and some perspectives on what they see this formal committee can accomplish.

National Fish Habitat Partnership Overview – Debbie provided a presentation on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, the national initiative that led to creation of 18 recognized fish habitat partnerships across the U.S. and 4 candidate partnerships in the process of working towards formal recognition by the National Fish Habitat Board (including the SEAKFHP). She provided an overview of the resulting formation and actions of the National Fish Habitat Partnership including a broad overview of the national fish habitat assessment strategy and formal assessment completed in 2010 (Through a Fish's Eye – the Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2010) as well as plans for an update to the assessment in 2015.

Estuarine and Coastal Assessment of Southeast Alaska – Katharine Miller shared a presentation on work she did to provide coastal assessment information to the national assessment completed in 2010. She provided in depth discussion of how the original 2010 assessment was developed and specifically how assessment information from Alaska was included. Katharine shared insights into how this information will be updated in the 2015 assessment, specifically looking at a case study underway now occurring in coastal areas along the Gulf of Mexico. The group discussed the challenges associated with a national assessment, spatial challenges, and difficulties in aligning data layers among regional areas and across different geographies. The group discussed regional needs in Southeast Alaska and ways the assessment may better inform these and how a group like the SEAKFHP S&D Committee may play a role in that.

SEAKFHP and the need for a formal Science and Data Committee - Debbie continued her presentation providing background on the development of the SEAKFHP with an overview of the partnership's structure and work plans. She gave a brief outline to the formation of the partnership's Science and Data committee and spoke to a few accomplishments made by the ad hoc working group. She noted that now that the partnership has matured to a place with a formal identity (completed organizational structure, website, etc...) it is time to outreach to others in the regional science and data community to look to build capacity for the formal S&D Committee. She noted the framework document that was developed to outline specific roles and responsibilities for the committee as well as highlighted 3 initial tasks the formal committee would be asked to work on initially – these included development of a regional fish habitat assessment summary for Southeast Alaska (in essence conducting an inventory of habitat assessments completed in the region); guiding development of the SEAKFHP project endorsement criteria, and contributing to data gathering for the 2015 National Assessment. She outlined general time commitment obligations suggesting monthly meetings of the formal committee and work assignments based upon interest and need.

Open Discussion –Discussion opened among the group sharing feedback on convening the committee. There was general support the efforts of the partnership and specific tasks laid out for the science and data committee. Individuals shared how they or their organization could contribute moving forward. A working meeting of the S&D Committee will be scheduled for early to mid-April, giving meeting participants and others a chance to continue to consider ways they can contribute.

#### Wrap Up/Action Items:

- Debbie will link presentations provided during the meeting to the SEAKFHP website and make them available to others who could not attend the meeting.
- A working meeting of the SEAKFHP S&D Committee will be scheduled for April.
- Anticipated participation on the SEAKFHP S&D Committee at this time:
  - ADF&G – Roger Harding and Jeff Nichols
  - ADEC – Brock Tabor and Gretchen Pikul
  - NOAA NMFS, Alaska Region Office of Habitat – Cindy Hartmann Moore

- NOAA NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center - Katharine Miller
- USF&WS – Neil Stichert
- USFS: Sheila Jacobson and Julianne Thompson
- SEAKFHP At-Large Member: K Koski
- TNC: Christine Woll
- Sitka Conservation Society: Scott Harris
- Takshanuk Watershed Council: Brad Ryan
- UAS GIS Library: Kim Homan
- USFS PNW: Dave D'Amore and Rich Edwards – liaison capacity
- ACRC: Allison Bidlack – liaison capacity/facilitation of research needs
- NPLCC: Bill Hanson (USFWS) – liaison capacity