SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Achieving Fish Habitat Conservation in Southeast Alaska through Partnership

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UAF Fisheries Seminar – April 19, 2013

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Achieving Fish Habitat Conservation in Southeast Alaska through Partnership

Presentation Abstract:
It is believed that many benefits result when multiple partners come together to share resources, align strategic actions, and speak with a united voice about the conservation and value of productive and intact fish habitats at local, regional and national scales. The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) formed under this hypothesis and works to foster cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across the southern panhandle of Alaska with specific emphasis in the dynamic watersheds and waterways that make up the Alexander Archipelago. SEAKFHP formed in 2011 to bring together local communities, tribal groups, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and individual residents to assess fish habitat needs in the region, develop coordinated conservation strategies and facilitate local 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 (NFHAP). The mission of NFHAP is to “protect, restore, and enhance the nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.” As a backbone to this national initiative a nationwide assessment program has been established and conservation action plans have been mobilized by a network of partnerships across the United States. Lessons learned from these efforts help to inform development of the SEAKFHP action plan.

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Acknowledgements

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
- 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
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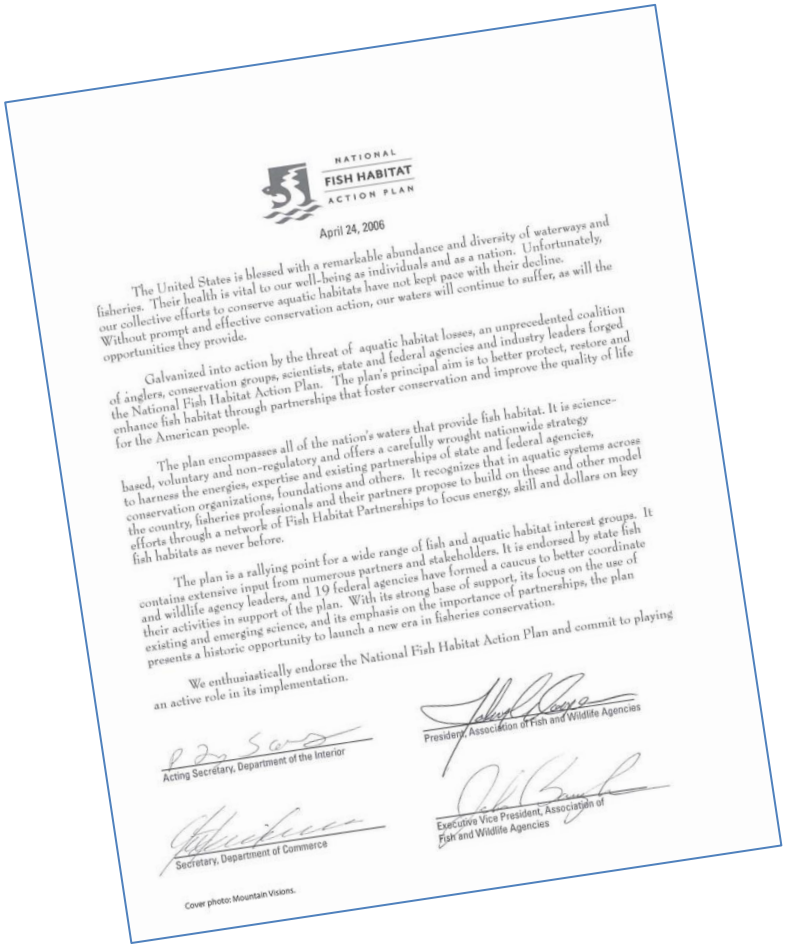
Key Messages

- Share overview of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP)
- Introduce the National Fish Habitat Partnership network
- Discuss the role science and data play in these efforts
- Share common conservation strategies
- Share overview of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
- Discuss developing conservation strategies for Southeast Alaska
- Discuss ways to get involved

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

The NFHAP Story



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

April 24, 2006

The United States is blessed with a remarkable abundance and diversity of waterways and fisheries. Their health is vital to our well-being as individuals and as a nation. Unfortunately, our collective efforts to conserve aquatic habitats have not kept pace with their decline. Without prompt and effective conservation action, our waters will continue to suffer, as will the opportunities they provide.

Galvanized into action by the threat of aquatic habitat losses, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The plan's principal aim is to better protect, restore and enhance fish habitat through partnerships that foster conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

The plan encompasses all of the nation's waters that provide fish habitat. It is science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory and offers a carefully wrought nationwide strategy to harness the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, foundations and others. It recognizes that in aquatic systems across the country, fisheries professionals and their partners propose to build on these and other model efforts through a network of Fish Habitat Partnerships to focus energy, skill and dollars on key fish habitats as never before.

The plan is a rallying point for a wide range of fish and aquatic habitat interest groups. It contains extensive input from numerous partners and stakeholders. It is endorsed by state fish and wildlife agency leaders, and 19 federal agencies have formed a caucus to better coordinate their activities in support of the plan. With its strong base of support, its focus on the use of existing and emerging science, and its emphasis on the importance of partnerships, the plan presents a historic opportunity to launch a new era in fisheries conservation.

We enthusiastically endorse the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and commit to playing an active role in its implementation.

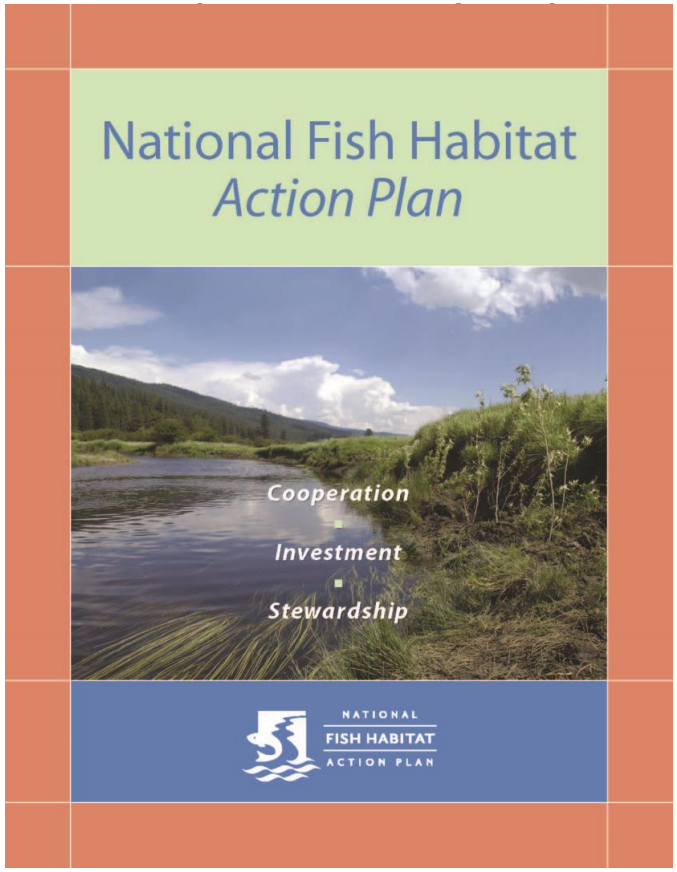
Acting Secretary, Department of the Interior

President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

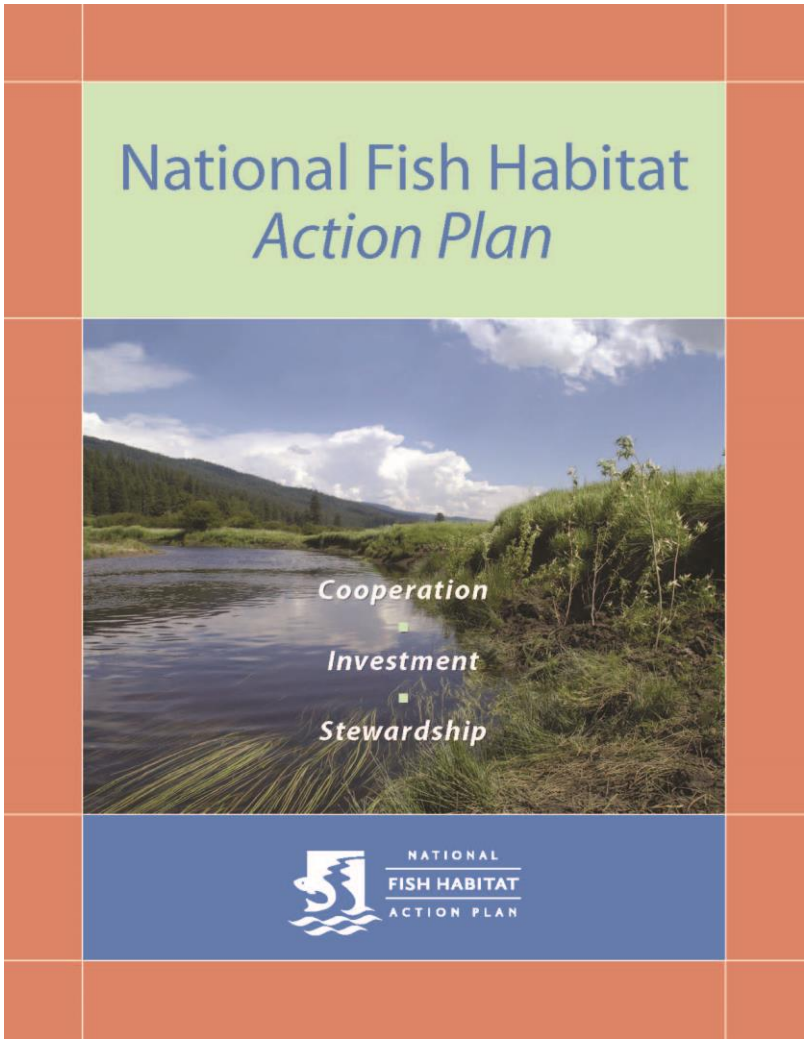
Secretary, Department of Commerce

Executive Vice President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Cover photo: Mountain Visions.



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



Plan Attributes

- A national call to action
- Mirrors the efforts of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Science-based on a landscape scale
- Identify priority needs and acknowledge gaps
- Partnership-driven
  - Build upon existing collaborative efforts
  - Encourage public-private partnerships
- Monitor and disseminate results

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

This mission will be achieved by:

- Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals
- Setting national and regional fish habitat conservation goals
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats

Goals:

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species

More Information: www.fishhabitat.org

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

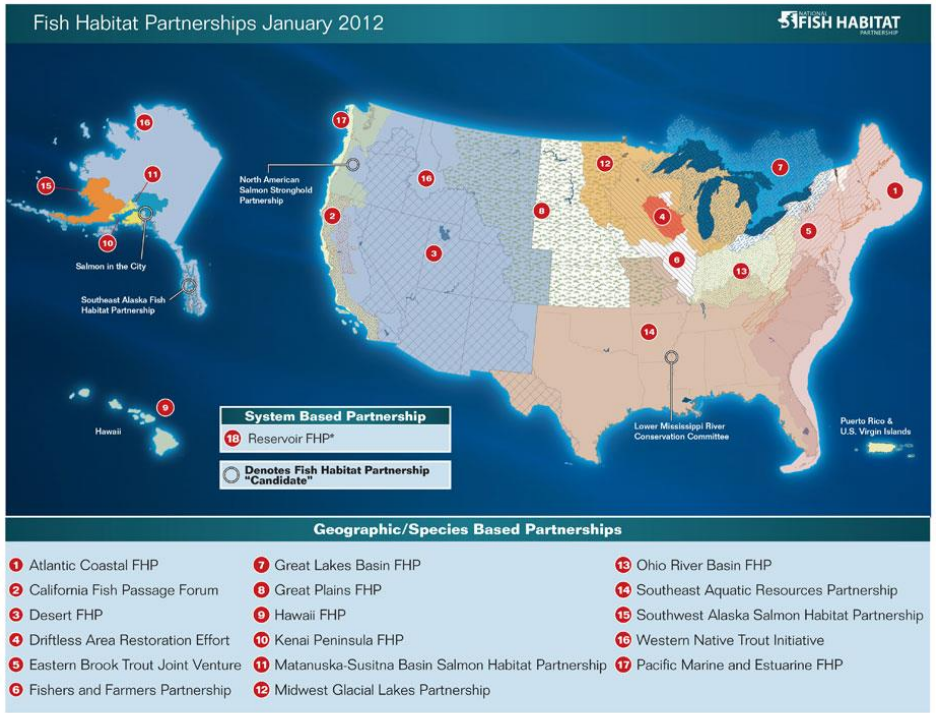
Accomplishments

National Partnership Network

- By 2012 18 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) covering all 50 states
- 4 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



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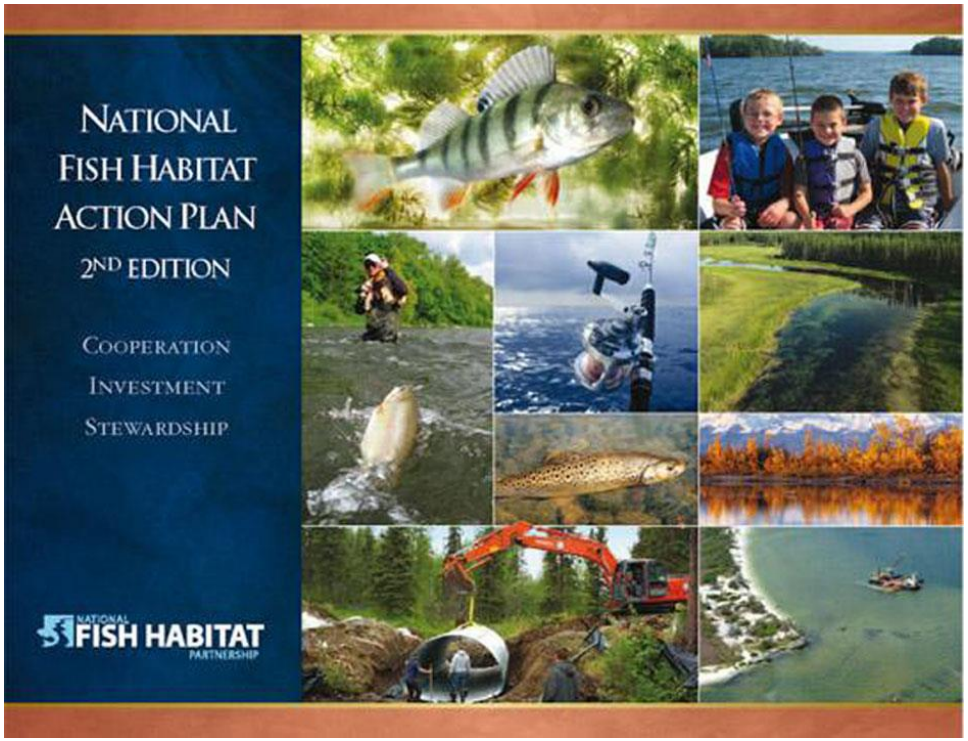

2nd Edition

- Action plan was updated in 2012 (www.fishhabitat.org)
- Revised to advance and support individual FHPs – the working units of the plan
- Focus remains on protecting healthy intact habitats and reversing declines of damaged habitat
- Included federal partner MOU

➢ New legislation proposed

➢ Multi-State Conservation grant awarded for FHP organizational development

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Individual Partnership Roles

- Provide leadership at local and regional levels
- Work with existing programs to promote cooperation and coordination
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners
- Develop a strategic vision and implementation plan
- Leverage local and regional funding sources
- Develop consistent habitat evaluation measures and criteria compatible with national measures
- Support applied on-the-ground projects

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Role of Fish Habitat Partnerships

Fish Habitat Partnerships are the primary work units of the National Fish Habitat Partnership and take the lead in getting projects implemented "on-the-ground." These partnerships are formed around important aquatic habitats, distinct geographic areas, "keystone" fish species or system types. The Fish Habitat Partnerships:

- Provide leadership that develops projects at regional and local levels;
- Work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination and improve results;
- Engage key audiences and the general public to build support for fish habitat conservation;
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners;
- Collaboratively develop a compelling strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;
- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;
- Use adaptive management principles including evaluation of project success and functionality;
- Develop appropriate regional habitat evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures; and
- Execute projects that address fish habitat conservation that make a difference.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP'S IDENTITY

- Base our actions on science and data
- Focus our resources on making a measurable difference
- Measure our outcomes
- Monitor and disseminate our results
- Encourage public-private partnerships
- Build on existing collaborative efforts
- Don't stop until the job is done

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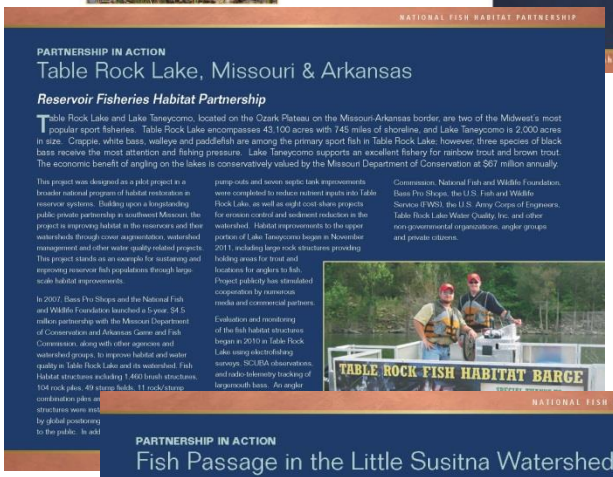


NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Table Rock Lake, Missouri & Arkansas

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

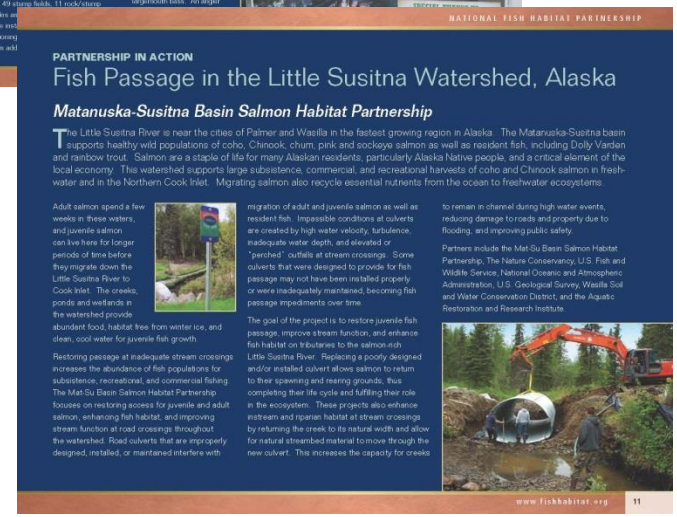
Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo, located on the Ozark Plateau on the Missouri-Arkansas border, are two of the Midwest's most popular sport fisheries. Table Rock Lake encompasses 43,100 acres with 745 miles of shoreline, and Lake Taneycomo is 2,000 acres in size. Crappie, white bass, walleye and paddlefish are among the primary sport fish in Table Rock Lake; however, three species of black bass receive the most attention and fishing pressure. Lake Taneycomo supports an excellent fishery for rainbow trout and brown trout. The economic benefit of angling on the lakes is conservatively valued by the Missouri Department of Conservation at $67 million annually.

This project was designed as a pilot project in a broader national program of habitat restoration in reservoir systems. Building upon a longstanding public-private partnership in southwest Missouri, the project is improving habitat in the reservoirs and their watersheds through cover augmentation, watershed management and other water quality related projects. This project stands as an example for sustaining and improving reservoir fish populations through large-scale habitat improvements.

In 2007, Bass Pro Shops and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation launched a 5-year, $4.5 million partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, along with other agencies and watershed groups, to improve habitat and water quality in Table Rock Lake and its watershed. Fish Habitat structures including 1,460 brush structures, 104 rock piles, 49 stump fields, 11 rock/stump combination piles an structures were inst by global positioning to the public. In add pump-outs and seven septic tank improvements were completed to reduce nutrient inputs into Table Rock Lake, as well as eight cost-share projects for erosion control and sediment reduction in the watershed. Habitat improvements to the upper portion of Lake Taneycomo began in November 2011, including large rock structures providing holding areas for trout and locations for anglers to fish. Project publicity has stimulated cooperation by numerous media and commercial partners.

Evaluation and monitoring of the fish habitat structures began in 2010 in Table Rock Lake using electrofishing surveys, SCUBA observations, and radio-telemetry tracking of largemouth bass. An angler Commission, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc. and other non-governmental organizations, angler groups and private citizens.

TABLE ROCK FISH HABITAT BARGE



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Fish Passage in the Little Susitna Watershed, Alaska

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

The Little Susitna River is near the cities of Palmer and Wasilla in the fastest growing region in Alaska. The Matanuska-Susitna basin supports healthy wild populations of coho, Chinook, chum, pink and sockeye salmon as well as resident fish, including Dolly Varden and rainbow trout. Salmon are a staple of life for many Alaskan residents, particularly Alaska Native people, and a critical element of the local economy. This watershed supports large subsistence, commercial, and recreational harvests of coho and Chinook salmon in freshwater and in the Northern Cook Inlet. Migrating salmon also recycle essential nutrients from the ocean to freshwater ecosystems.

Adult salmon spend a few weeks in these waters, and juvenile salmon can live here for longer periods of time before they migrate down the Little Susitna River to Cook Inlet. The creeks, ponds and wetlands in the watershed provide abundant food, habitat free from winter ice, and clean, cool water for juvenile fish growth.

Restoring passage at inadequate stream crossings increases the abundance of fish populations for subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishing. The Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership focuses on restoring access for juvenile and adult salmon, enhancing fish habitat, and improving stream function at road crossings throughout the watershed. Road culverts that are improperly designed, installed, or maintained interfere with migration of adult and juvenile salmon as well as resident fish. Impassible conditions at culverts are created by high water velocity, turbulence, inadequate water depth, and elevated or "perched" outlets at stream crossings. Some culverts that were designed to provide for fish passage may not have been installed properly or were inadequately maintained, becoming fish passage impediments over time.

The goal of the project is to restore juvenile fish passage, improve stream function, and enhance fish habitat on tributaries to the salmon-rich Little Susitna River. Replacing a poorly designed and/or installed culvert allows salmon to return to their spawning and rearing grounds, thus completing their life cycle and fulfilling their role in the ecosystem. These projects also enhance instream and riparian habitat at stream crossings by returning the creek to its natural width and allow for natural streambed material to move through the new culvert. This increases the capacity for creeks to remain in channel during high water events, reducing damage to roads and property due to flooding, and improving public safety.

Partners include the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Aquatic Restoration and Research Institute.

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NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Benefits

- Clean and sufficient amount of water to support aquatic resources
- Healthy, resilient habitats that are critical to fish and wildlife, water conservation, flood control, and people
- Improved recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing, fish and wildlife viewing, and other uses of aquatic resources
- Strong local economies
- Effective use of limited funds to produce measureable benefits to fish and people
- Improved understanding of habitat connectivity and how aquatic systems function and are maintained

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Economics of Fish Habitat

- $125.O billion and over 1 million jobs – total economic activity from saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing
- $116.2 billion and over 1 million jobs – total economic activity from commercial fishing
- 8.2 billion pounds of coastal and marine fish worth $4.5 billion were landed in 2010
- $144.6 million in direct economic value and 1100 jobs on the $28 million invested by NFHP since 2006
- $805.7 million and 19,300 jobs – projected long-term value of the future benefits of habitat restored by NFHP to date

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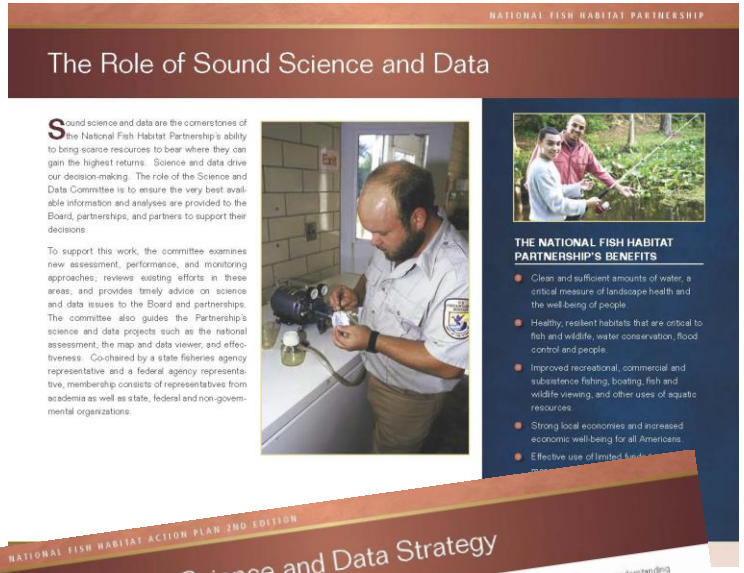

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

The Role of Sound Science and Data

Sound science and data are the cornerstones of the National Fish Habitat Partnership's ability to bring scarce resources to bear where they can gain the highest returns. Science and data drive our decision-making. The role of the Science and Data Committee is to ensure the very best available information and analyses are provided to the Board, partnerships, and partners to support their decisions.

To support this work, the committee examines new assessment, performance, and monitoring approaches; reviews existing efforts in these areas; and provides timely advice on science and data issues to the Board and partnerships. The committee also guides the Partnership's science and data projects such as the national assessment, the map and data viewer, and effectiveness. Co-chaired by a state fisheries agency representative and a federal agency representative, membership consists of representatives from academia as well as state, federal and non-governmental organizations.

THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP'S BENEFITS

- Clean and sufficient amounts of water, a critical measure of landscape health and the well-being of people.
- Healthy, resilient habitats that are critical to fish and wildlife, water conservation, flood control and people.
- Improved recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing, boating, fish and wildlife viewing, and other uses of aquatic resources.
- Strong local economies and increased economic well-being for all Americans.
- Effective use of limited fu

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN 2ND EDITION

Appendix 5: Science and Data Strategy

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan's science and data strategy is focused on the physical, chemical, and biological processes of aquatic systems and is built on the following four objectives:

- Identifying causative factors for declining fish populations in aquatic systems;
- Developing and implementing an integrated landscape approach that includes the upstream/downstream connections of large-scale habitat condition factors;
- Classifying and then assessing the condition of the nation's fish habitats; and
- Providing partners easy digital access to key habitat information to support their work.

The strategy assists partners in understanding priorities for projects and how to arrest, prevent, and reverse declines in both freshwater and coastal systems. We use an integrated landscape approach with consistent methodologies to demonstrate linkages between upland and coastal systems nationally. To facilitate this approach, a map-based interactive data system using web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) technology allows partners to quickly view the current status of their local waters. The data system will allow users to assess what is likely impairing the waters, determine potential solutions, identify who has used similar restoration approaches, and learn how their waters are changing in response to conservation efforts.

Our strategy also assists partners in understanding why fish and aquatic resources in both freshwater and coastal systems have declined. It will also focus on factors that can stop and reverse this decline and retain the improved or another desired condition. These factors include:

- Connectivity of habitats. Can fish reach all of the habitats they need to complete their life cycle and maximize their production?
- Hydrologic alteration. For rivers, streams and tidal areas refers to how the annual, seasonal, and daily water flow cycles that aquatic organisms rely on and need to maximize production have been changed by our actions. This includes

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Science and Data Strategy

- Identify factors for declining fish populations or diversity in aquatic systems
- Classify and assess the condition of the nation's fish habitats
- Provide partners easy digital access to key habitat information to support their work

Focus on Common Factors

- Connectivity of habitats
- Hydrologic alteration
- Direct habitat alteration
- Water quality alteration
- Alteration of aquatic communities

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

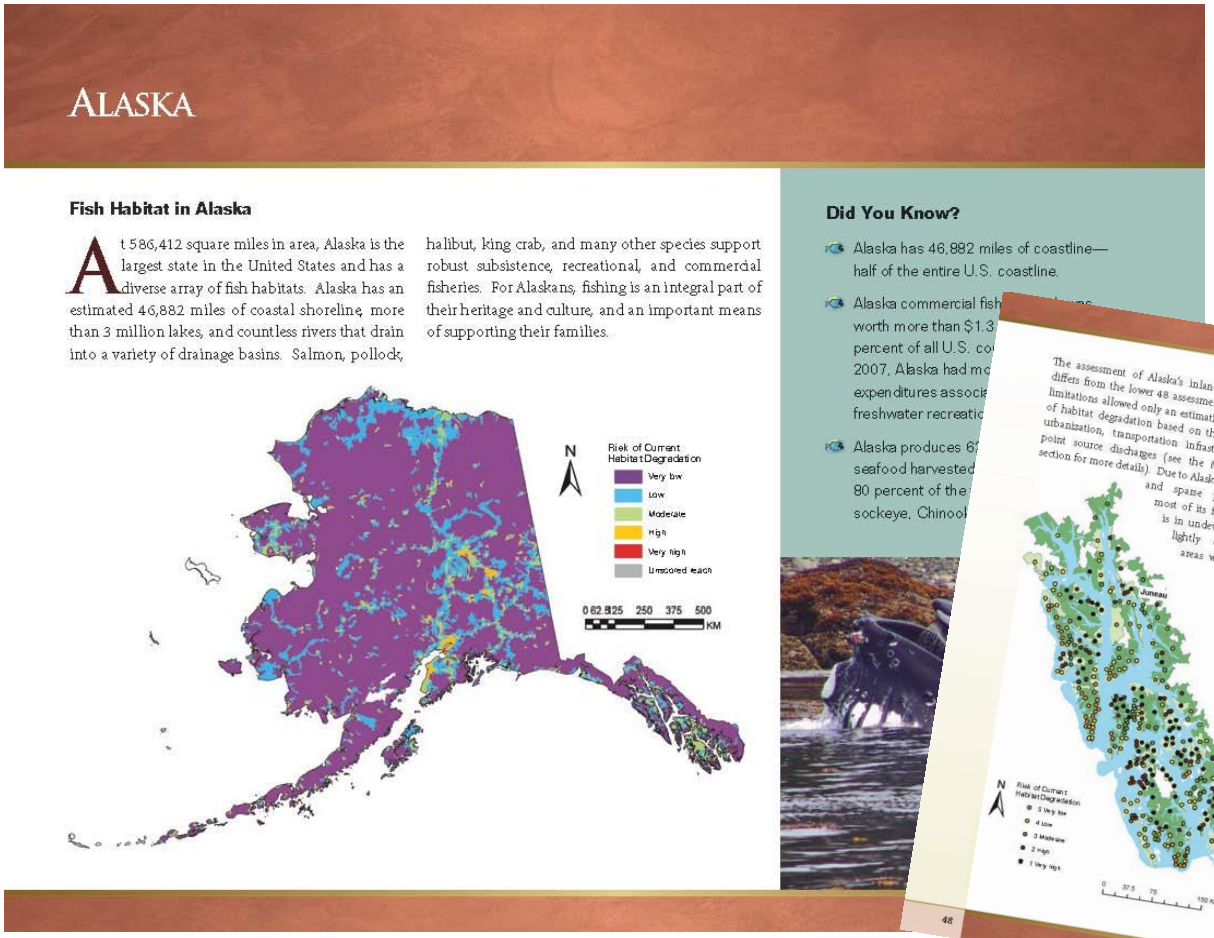
National Assessment Strategy

- Assessment completed in 2010: "Through a Fish's Eye: The status of Fish Habitats in the United States, 2010
- 1st national-scale look at habitat conditions across the U.S.
- Strengths and weaknesses identified in initial assessment
- Next assessment to be released in 2015, current framework developed to address gaps in 2010 assessment
- Framework designed to support local partnership efforts and needs
- Will incorporate Alaska's anadromous waters catalog data and elevate NHD work in Southeast Alaska

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Assessment Strategies For Alaska

- Inland Assessment
- Coastal Assessment



ALASKA

Fish Habitat in Alaska

At 586,412 square miles in area, Alaska is the largest state in the United States and has a diverse array of fish habitats. Alaska has an estimated 46,882 miles of coastal shoreline, more than 3 million lakes, and countless rivers that drain into a variety of drainage basins. Salmon, pollock, halibut, king crab, and many other species support robust subsistence, recreational, and commercial fisheries. For Alaskans, fishing is an integral part of their heritage and culture, and an important means of supporting their families.

Did You Know?

- Alaska has 46,882 miles of coastline—half of the entire U.S. coastline.
- Alaska commercial fish
worth more than $1.3
percent of all U.S. co
2007, Alaska had mo
expenditures associa
freshwater recreatio
- Alaska produces 6
seafood harvested
80 percent of the
sockeye, Chinook

The assessment of Alaska's inland fish habitats differs from the lower 48 assessment in that data limitations allowed only an estimation of the risk of habitat degradation based on the amount of urbanization, transportation infrastructure, and point source discharges (see the Methodology section for more details). Due to Alaska's large size and sparse population, most of its fish habitat is in undeveloped or lightly developed areas where the risk of habitat degradation is low. Fish habitat around urban centers has a higher risk of degradation. Protection of Alaska's intact habitats is a very efficient use of limited resources. It is much more efficient and effective to protect and restore essentially intact habitats than it is to attempt to restore highly degraded areas.

A substantial portion of Alaska's economic activity occurs on or around the water, including commercial and recreational fishing, marine transportation, oil and gas exploration, mineral mining and timber harvesting and log storage. The extent to which these activities negatively affect fish habitat has not been thoroughly assessed. An assessment of the coastal waters of southeast Alaska was completed for this report, using a methodology different from either the coastal assessment of the lower 48 states or the assessment of Alaska's rivers. In the map of southeast Alaska, each dot on the map represents an estuary, with the color indicating which habitats are more and less degraded. The assessment results indicate that the highest risk of current habitat degradation occurs in areas with the highest concentration of roads (including forest roads) and high-intensity forest harvest. High amounts of sediment in the estuaries are also linked to areas with high risk of current habitat degradation. A high risk of degraded habitat also is associated with the few urban areas such as Juneau, the state capital.

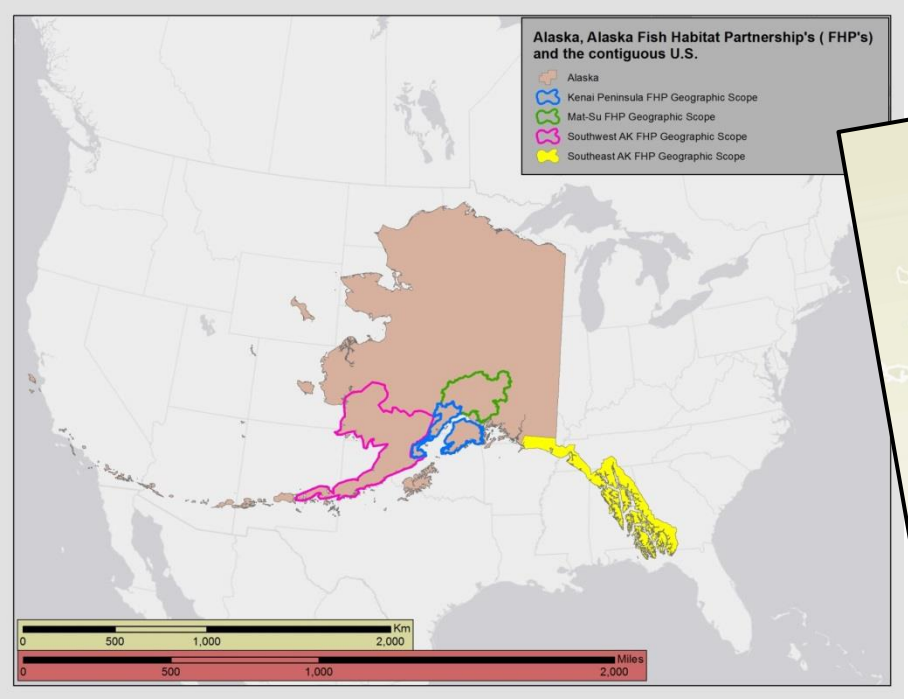
Human Activities Affecting Fish Habitat

Urban land use/wetland loss

Forty-three percent of the surface area of Alaska is wetlands. On a state-wide basis, less than 2 percent of these wetlands have been developed. However, in many communities, wetlands may be the only land type available for development. In urbanized and developed areas of Alaska, such as Anchorage, it is estimated that over half of the wetlands have been lost to transportation corridor construction, utility installation, buildings, and other development projects. Wetland loss fragments habitat and

48

Fish Habitat Partnerships Working in Alaska



Western Native Trout Initiative Strategic Plan, January 2008

Western native trout species and their general distribution patterns

WNTI's target native trout species include:

- Apache trout
- Bonneville cutthroat trout
- Bull trout
- California trout
- Coastal cutthroat trout
- Colorado River cutthroat trout
- Gila trout
- Greenback cutthroat trout
- Lahontan cutthroat trout
- Little Kern golden trout
- Paiute cutthroat trout
- Redband trout
- Rio Grande cutthroat trout
- Westslope cutthroat trout
- Yellowstone cutthroat trout

Figure 1 (left) illustrates the species' general distribution. See Appendix III for list of species' scientific names.

Other native trout and char in the western states and Alaska (such as Dolly Varden, grayling, rainbow trout, lake trout, and arctic char), are not included in the initial western native trout analysis or strategic plan. These additional species may be included in future revisions of the WNTI Strategic Plan, or concerned partners may petition the WNTI steering committee to add specific species.

Coastal Cutthroat
Bull
Westslope
Yellowstone Cutthroat
Colorado River Cutthroat
Redband
Lahontan Cutthroat
Bonneville Cutthroat
Greenback Cutthroat
Paiute Cutthroat
Rio Grande Cutthroat
Little Kern Golden
California Golden
Gila
Apache

Figure 1. General range distribution of western native trout

Page 4

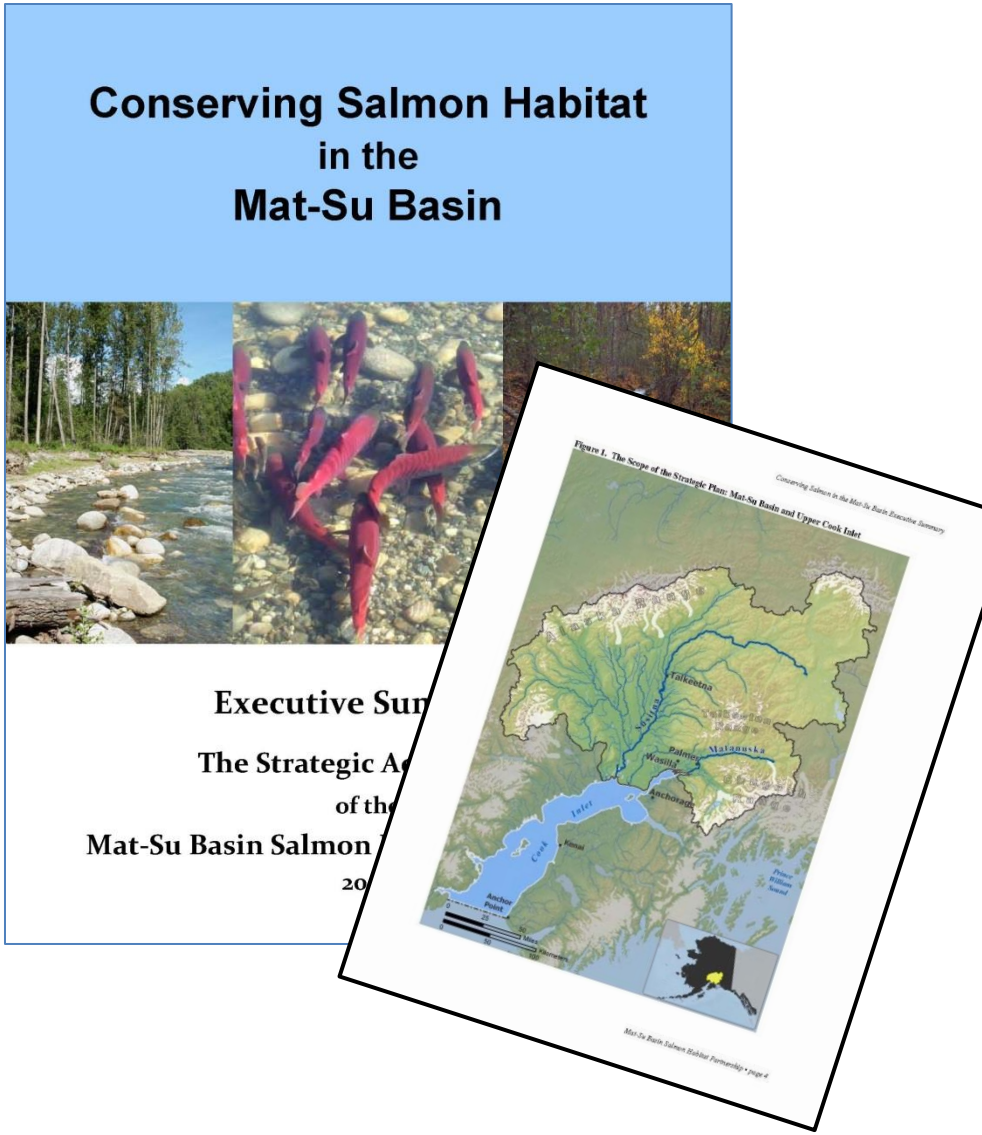
- Mat-Su Salmon Partnership
- Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
- Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- *Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
- *Salmon in the City

**candidate status*

Emphasis on Strategic Action

Focal Issues for the Mat-Su

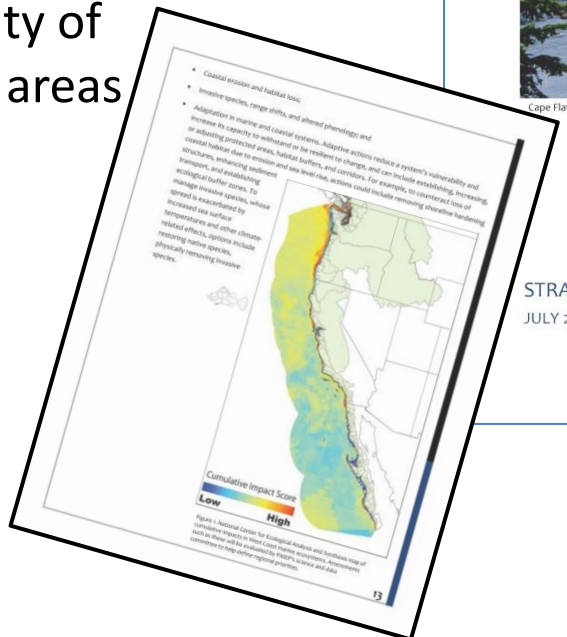
- Alteration of riparian areas
- Filling of wetlands
- Impervious surfaces and storm water runoff
- Septic systems
- Culverts that block fish passage
- Loss/alteration of water flow or volume
- Loss of estuaries and nearshore habitats
- Increased predation from Northern Pike



Emphasis on Strategic Action

Focal Issues for Coastal Pacific North West

- Juvenile fish habitat in nearshore areas
- Wetland, intertidal, and subtidal nearshore habitat connectivity
- Water quality and quantity of estuarine and nearshore areas



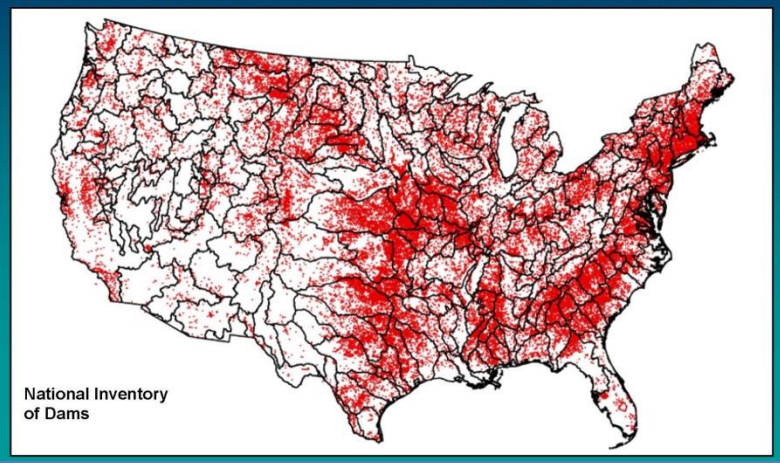
NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Common Conservation Strategies

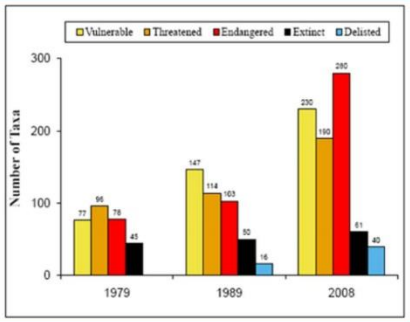
- Protect intact and healthy waters
- Restore hydrologic conditions for fish
- Reconnect fragmented fish habitats
- Restore water quality

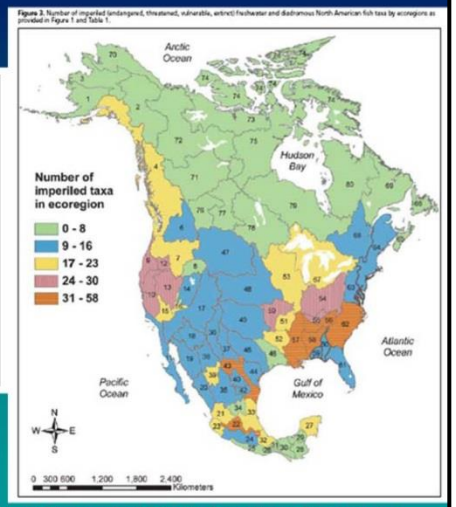
Impacts to Nation's aquatic resources

- ~79,000 dams 25 ft high, impound at least 50 acre-ft
- ~240 billion gallons/day withdrawn from surface waters



Protection status, future threats





Figures from Jelks et al. Conservation status of imperiled North American freshwater and diadromous fishes. Fisheries: August, 2008.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Key Messages

- ✓ Share overview of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP)
- ✓ Introduce the National Fish Habitat Partnership network
- ✓ Discuss the role science and data play in these efforts
- ✓ Share common conservation strategies
- Share overview of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
- Discuss developing conservation strategies for Southeast Alaska
- Discuss ways to get involved

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*
- *K Koski*

Connect - Inform - Participate

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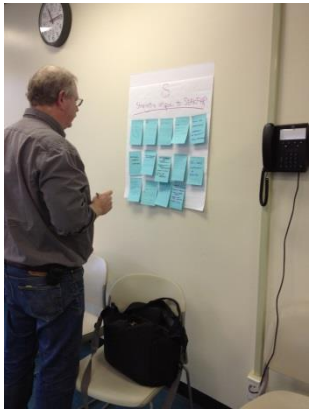
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership



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

- Develop regionally-relevant fish habitat conservation strategies
- Help identify and shape local projects that benefit and build awareness about Alaska's native fishes
- Leverage resources to strategically protect intact habitats and restore key habitats that have been degraded
- Serve as a forum for information sharing
- Enhance regional capacity for on-the-ground fisheries and habitat conservation

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Vision

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

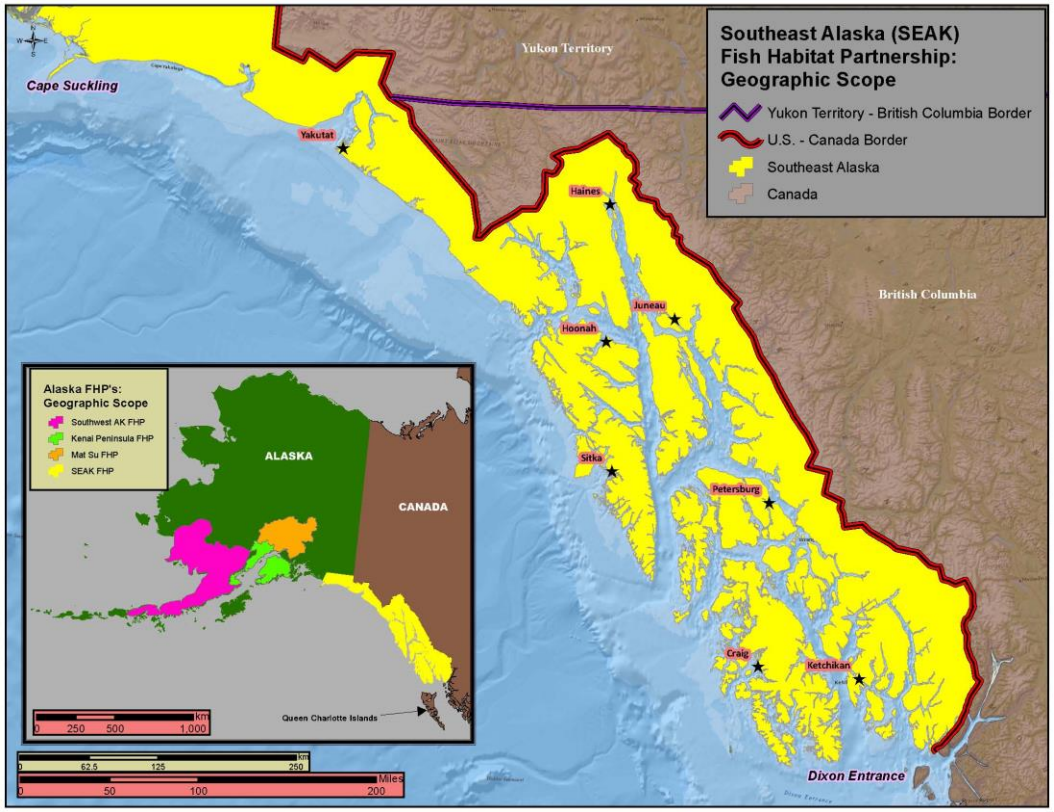
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Mission

Our partnership works to facilitate and foster regionally relevant strategies to support cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across Southeast Alaska

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

Current 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

Partner Services: some examples

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

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Potential Conservation Strategies:

- Coordinate efforts to expand ADF&G's Anadromous Waters Catalog and ADEC's Reservations of Water
- Facilitate regional prioritization of intact watersheds for higher levels of protection
- Support region-wide restoration prioritization and planning
- Align organizational approaches to fish passage
- Facilitate regional adoption of best management practices for restoration, including restoration effectiveness monitoring

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

How you can get involved:

- Checkout our website and join our mailing list www.seakfhp.org
- Become a SEAKFHP partner
- Share your ideas and needs with our Steering Committee
- Participate on our Science and Data Committee
- Review and comment on the SEAKFHP Strategic Plan
- Get involved with your local watershed partnership
- Engage with the Southeast Alaska Cluster Initiative
- Participate in future meetings and symposia

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership