



1st ANNUAL ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL



**SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP**



AWRA
Community, Conversation, Connections

The 2014 Alaska Fish Film Festival features over 20 short films that focus on the connections between people and fish, the unique life cycle and habitat needs of different species, how ordinary people are helping conserve fish and their habitats, and more. The films are from a variety of perspectives—from fishermen to subsistence users, researchers, volunteers, landowners, and the fish themselves.

The festival seeks to inspire fisheries conservation, grow appreciation for and awareness of Alaska's fisheries and the many ways in which we're connected to fish and all the goods and services they provide, and grow a collection of short films that can be shared with Alaskans and beyond.

Opening Show: Tuesday, October 21, 2014

The opening showing will take place following the welcoming social of the annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and Alaska Section American Water Resources Association in Juneau's Rockwells facility.

First Public Show: Sunday, October 26, 2014

A kick-off public showing hosted by the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School/Taku House Science Class will take place from 3:30-6:30pm at Juneau's Gold Town Nickelodeon theatre. This showing is made possible with support from The Salmon Project. Other follow-up showings are being arranged around the state.

Film Festival Logo Voting

The fabulous logos featured throughout this program were submitted by Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School/Taku House Science Class students. Be sure to vote for your favorite one - the winning logo will represent the Fish Film Festival/showings throughout the coming year!

2014 ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL - JUNEAU, ALASKA



1

NPRB Gulf of Alaska Project / Coastal Nurseries & Alaska's Groundfish (4:40)

Liz McKenzie / Sitka Sound Science Center
liz.creativeworks@gmail.com / (907) 752-7046

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) is supporting an integrated ecosystem research program in the Gulf of Alaska that is furthering our understanding of five important fish species and their environment. This film covers the study of the nearshore and coastal nursery areas for these fish.

Fish Eye View of Spawning Habitat from Pack Rafts (4:55)

Katrina Mueller / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
katrina_mueller@fws.gov / (907) 786-3637

Join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a float down Birch Creek near Talkeetna, Alaska to document spawning activity in a Susitna River tributary devoid of human-caused fish passage barriers. Spawning surveys and precise habitat measurements will be used as a management tool to predict the potential of streams with barriers to provide suitable habitat for salmon production.

4



2

Your Food is Your Environment (3:48)

Luke William / Chilkoot Indian Association
lwilliams@chilkoot-nsn.gov / (907) 766-2323

This is a film about the importance of a healthy watershed to the health and sustainability of the Chilkoot Indian Association's Tribal members' subsistence lifestyle. The video is shot entirely in Haines Alaska—the home of the Chilkoot Indian Association.

Salmon Connection (8:32)

Lisa Busch / Sitka Sound Science Center
lbusch@sitkascience.org / (907) 747-8878 ext. 5

This video project is an extension of our NSF-funded exhibit that shows the connection of salmon to the world around us, including our human communities here in Alaska. Sitka is a salmon town and we're proud to get that message out to the rest of the world! This film features local "stars" and shows how salmon figure into our natural world and the economic, cultural and educational parts of our community.

5



3

Local Variation: Climate Change on the Copper River Delta

Mark Blaine / U.S. Forest Service's PNW Research Stn. & OSU
mblaine@uoregon.edu

The expression of climate change happens in sometimes unexpected and counterintuitive ways as evidenced by the research of Gordon Reeves (USFS's Pacific Northwest Research Station) and Emily Campbell (Oregon State University). This video was funded by the PNW Research Stn. and produced by students and faculty at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication.

Fish of Steep Creek (16:00)

Pete Schneider / U.S. Forest Service
pschneider@fs.fed.us / (907) 789-6255

Underwater video of salmon with an education theme. Shot mostly on Steep Creek located at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau, Alaska and managed by the US Forest Service. This video focuses on the important role salmon play in the ecosystem and their unique life cycle and habitat needs. The footage provides an opportunity to see fish from a unique underwater perspective.

6

2014 ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL - JUNEAU, ALASKA



7 Salmon and Blow Flies (6:57)

Bob Armstrong

bob@discoverysoutheast.org / (907) 586-6611

Last year I went out with a couple of entomologists that were studying blow flies in Alaska. I learned that these insects play an important role in the nutrient transfer of Alaska's salmon and also have important connections with juvenile birds and flowers. This information inspired me to produce this video.

9 Crustaceans in Situ - Pribilof Domain King Crab in their Natural Essential Habitat (6:53)

Michelle Ridgway / Alaska Deep Ocean Science Institute

mishridgway@gmail.com / (907) 957-2277

Alaskan king and opilio crab assemblages occupy a wide range of Bering Sea habitats. Baby blue king crab thrive in shallow shell hash under sea ice, planktonic crab of all species are entrained in gyres in the water column, and adults of all species descend to canyon habitats thousands of meters deep. Ontogenetic and other ecological cues initiate migrations across habitats on diel and seasonal cycles. Our quest to better understand the habitats for these crab is an essential endeavor for advancing efforts to restore these flagging populations.



8 Alaska Salmon Project - King Maker Chickaloon Village (3:08)

Erin Harrington / The Salmon Project

eharrington@salmonproject.org / (907) 942-1323

The King Makers of Chickaloon Native Village have brought the salmon back to Moose Creek. The village participated in a habitat restoration project to return Moose Creek to its relic path after being straightened by the railroad nearly 100 years ago. The straightening of the river resulted in bedrock waterfalls that acted as a barrier for spawning salmon. Since the restoration, salmon have returned to the headwaters of Moose Creek. This is their story.

10 Baby Salmon Live Here (4:30)

Pat Race / The Salmon Project

pat@lrtd.com / (907) 586-3440

This film features juvenile salmon in urban Alaska.



11 Salmon in the Middle (5:00)

Robert Jones & 7th, 8th Grade Science Classes / DZ Middle School

robert.jones@juneauschools.org

This short film captures the efforts of the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Taku House Science class as they investigate the interconnections of various ecosystems and salmon. Students consider why salmon are important both to themselves, their families, their community and beyond.

INTERMISSION

2014 ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL - JUNEAU, ALASKA



12 From the Ocean to the Smoke House: A Copper River Salmon Story (6:25)

Emily Stolarczyk / Eyak Preservation Council
eyak@redzone.org / (907) 424-5890

This film features the Founder and President of the Eyak Preservation Council, Dune Lankard and his sister, Pamela who is famous for her smoked King Salmon. The Eyak's, a salmon people, have called the Copper River Delta home for thousands of years. Today, through the organization the Eyak Preservation Council, Dune leads a team dedicated to honoring Eyak heritage and preserving wild salmon habitat.

Fish Passage Restoration (1:44)

Meredith Pochardt / Takshanuk Watershed Council
meredith@takshanuk.org / (907) 766-3542

Culverts are often not placed with fish in mind and prohibit fish from reaching critical spawning and rearing grounds. Takshanuk has worked to identify and replace these culverts. Once the barrier is removed streams are allowed to live up to their full potential.

15



13 Restoring America's Salmon Forest (6:00)

Bethany Goodrich / Sitka Conservation Society
& Southeast Sustainable Partnership
bethany@sitkawild.org / (907) 747-7509

Nestled deep within our earth's largest temperate rainforest- conservation takes unique form. Meet a vibrant team of heavy equipment operators working deep in the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska. Learn about the Sitkoh River Restoration Project and the benefits of river and stream restoration.

Stream Watch Legacy: growing strong roots & making a difference for 20 years! (5:15)

Lisa Beranek / Kenai Watershed Forum
StreamWatch@kenaiwatershed.org / (907) 260-5449

Stream Watch volunteers are ordinary people making extraordinary efforts to protect Kenai Peninsula fish habitats. The program is jointly administered by KWF and Chugach National Forest. Volunteers complete a myriad of projects ranging from hands-on, river protection projects to sharing on-river, educational stewardship messages. Volunteers come from the local area but also out-of-state and out-of-country. Everyone is invited to make a difference!

16



14 Genetics for Sustainability: Management of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon (5:23)

Nathan Shoutis / Alaska Department of Fish & Game
shoutdiggit@gmail.com / (307) 438-1639

This film documents how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is using genetic data in real time to help manage the Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon fishery.

Copper River/Prince William Sound Family Fishermen (4:04)

Nelly Hand / Copper River/Prince William Sound Regional Seafood Development Association
nelly@copperrivermarketing.org / (907) 424-3459

Meet the family fishermen of the coastal community of Cordova, Alaska and the Copper River, Prince William Sound salmon fishery.

17

2014 ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL - JUNEAU, ALASKA



18 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge: Rivers of Life (11:51)

Mark Lisac / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Togiak NWR)
mark_lisac@fws.gov

Each summer the sparkling waters of Togiak National Wildlife Refuge swell with stunning numbers of Pacific salmon. Through such yearly migrations, returning fish nourish untold numbers of plants, animals and people, just as they have for thousands of years. The life cycle of the Pacific salmon, delivered like acts in a play, is the event that sustains life along Togiak's many waterways, literally transforming them into 'Rivers of Life'.

Salmon: The Hidden Migration (8:04)

Liz McKenzie / The Salmon Project and Encounters Salmon World
liz.creativeworks@gmail.com / (907) 752-7046

Most Alaskans and people everywhere know about the annual migrations of adult salmon to the river systems where they mate, spawn, and die. But there is another migration of salmon, equally long and just as essential for the health and vitality of these important fish. Surprisingly, this migration is largely overlooked even by the people who live along salmon streams and who depend on salmon for their livelihoods. This film explores the other half of the salmon's freshwater odyssey, and the secret, hidden migration that happens every spring.

21



19 Kanalku Falls Restoration Project (10:18)

Pete Schneider / U.S. Forest Service
pschneider@fs.fed.us / (907) 789-6255

Kanalku Lake, located near Angoon on Admiralty Island supports a natural run of sockeye salmon. This run helps support the annual subsistence harvest by Angoon residents. Historic low returns prompted the USFS, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and the community of Angoon to consider solutions. A proposal to blast a new pool below the falls to increase sockeye jump success was introduced by the USFS and funding was secured by ADF&G. Follow up surveys indicate this effort was a success. Here's the story.

It Takes a Watershed...to Raise a Salmon (5:15)

Liz McKenzie / The Salmon Project and Encounters Salmon World
liz.creativeworks@gmail.com / (907) 752-7046

In the popular consciousness, salmon are closely associated with particular river systems, ranging from the famous Yukon, Nushagak, and Kenai runs, on down to literally thousands of smaller streams, tributaries, and lakes. Salmon are virtually synonymous with Alaska's rivers, but there is more—much more—to the story. This film re-defines the meaning of a salmon stream, by showing viewers that the health of our great fish runs depends not just on water, but on the surrounding land and the entire living environment.

22



20 NPRB: Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Project (8:33)

Liz McKenzie / Sitka Sound Science Center
liz.creativeworks@gmail.com / (907) 752-7046

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) is supporting an integrated ecosystem research program in the Gulf of Alaska that is furthering our understanding of five important fish species and their environment. This film explains the focus and importance of the project.

Salmon Stewardship on the Tongass: Twelvemile Creek (12:47)

Bethany Goodrich / Sitka Conservation Society
& Southeast Sustainable Partnership
bethany@sitkawild.org / (907) 747-7509

The Sitka Conservation Society is not only dedicated to protecting the natural environment of the Tongass National Forest, but also to supporting the health and sustainability of the communities that depend on its resources. We partnered with local communities, the Tongass National Forest, and the National Forest Foundation to monitor fish ecology, engage local youth in hands-on activities, and train aspiring fisheries professionals.

23

2014 ALASKA FISH FILM FESTIVAL - JUNEAU, ALASKA



24

King Maker in Hatcher Pass (3:21)

Erin Harrington / *The Salmon Project*
eharrington@salmonproject.org / (907) 942-1323

Scott Walther didn't always think of himself as a King Maker. When he learned he had critical salmon spawning habitat running through his 200 acre property in Mat-Su he decided to do what he could to steward the land. Now, with 170 acres in a land easement he is helping salmon regenerate, ensuring healthy salmon populations for future generations. This is his story.

THE END!

If you have a fish story to tell that has some connection to conservation, the festival organizers encourage you to collect or continue collecting footage this next year to make an annual Alaska Fish Film Festival possible. For the latest information on the 2014 Alaska Fish Film Festival: www.seakfhp.org

Thank you from the Organizing Committee:

Bethany Goodrich

Tongass Policy and Communications Coordinator
Sustainable Southeast Partnership
907.747.7509 / bethany@sitkawild.org

Deborah Hart

Coordinator
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
907.723.0258 / coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org

Mark Kalke

Southeast Alaska Project Director
Trout Unlimited
907.321.4464 / mkaelke@tu.org

Katrina Mueller

Fisheries Outreach Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
907.786.3637 / katrina_mueller@fws.gov