

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP)
Science and Data Committee
Meeting Summary – May 29, 2013

Meeting Participants

SEAKFHP Steering Committee members and others present:

- ADF&G – Roger Harding
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore and Katharine Miller
- USFS: Sheila Jacobson and Julianne Thompson
- SAWC/Takshanuk Watershed Council: Brad Ryan
- UAS GIS Library: Jason Seifert for Kim Homan
- USFS PNW: Dave D'Amore

Introductions and Partner Updates – Debbie Hart, SEAKFHP coordinator, convened the meeting and provided a brief overview of the efforts to date by the SEAKFHP Science and Data work group and main objectives for the meeting.

Meeting participants introduced themselves and shared updates on projects or activities that are of interest to the larger group; a few highlights include:

- USFS – Sheila noted restoration work on 12 mile has begun with focus on road storage/culvert activities and collecting woody debris for future use as the project continues throughout the summer
- USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station – Dave shared a brief overview of outcomes from the Beyond Monitoring workshop held in Sitka in late April. He noted that there is a new Station director in Oregon and he is interested in doing forest restoration planning work in Alaska and Dave will keep us notified as that moves along. He also shared that they recently held a public celebration for their new building located out by the university, including a poll raising ceremony.
- SAWC – Brad gave a brief update on progress made on a restoration database project including wetland surveys in the Chilkoot watershed and recent mitigation efforts happening on Canary Creek.
- NOAA – Cindy notified folks that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council will be meeting in Juneau June 3-12 and shared that ShoreZone will be providing some coinciding presentations in Juneau. Also a new coordinator, Darren Schneider, has been hired for ShoreZone.
- ADF&G – Roger reminded folks that there is transition taking place within ADF&G; Sue has moved to a new position within Wildlife Division and will continue to oversee statewide LCC coordination, her duties to coordinate statewide NFHAP duties will now be taken on by Roger. He also noted that he has recently attended the Mat-Su and Southwest FHPs recent steering committee meetings. He noted that Erika Ammann was recently appointed chair for the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership and progress continues with the ADF&G/ADOT MOU.
- UAS GIS Library – Jason sat in for Kim and provided a brief update on the new efforts underway to advance hosting data in Southeast Alaska and to others across the state, specifically improvements in developing web map tools and additions for the Coastal Module (which will span the NPLCC boundary). He also shared their recent partnership with the statewide GINA node and the North Slope Bibliocode, noting this relationship could help tie together the recent efforts by this group to archive regional assessment reports and other publications.

National Fish Habitat Assessment Update – Debbie provided a brief overview of a recent

meeting with SEAKFHP S&D Committee members and representatives from Michigan State University (Jared Ross, Masters Student, program leads Dr. Infante and Dr. Daniel, and additional graduate student Kyle) to learn more about their efforts in coordinating data needs and potential links for the 2015 National Assessment specific to Southeast Alaska. Debbie noted a few follow-up items that will happen as a result of this discussion specifically some follow-up to come from Dr. Infante (in the form of handouts and a possible webinar) regarding drainage basin mapping work they are doing in SE Alaska. Julianne noted that it was a bit difficult to get a good picture of what they are working on and the follow-up could help us to better understand that, also she was able to forward Dr. Infante and Jared additional contact information for key staff in Southeast Alaska.

The group inquired if there was any coordination among the MSU group and the Alaska FHP/LCC grant submittal for improved hydrography throughout the state. Debbie will investigate and will continue to follow-up with Dr. Infante. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Assessment Archive Project for Southeast Alaska - Debbie shared a brief overview of the SEAKFHP efforts to develop a strategic action plan and highlighted the efforts of key Science and Data Committee members to identify and aggregate available fish habitat assessment information across Southeast Alaska to be used for a “snap shot” assessment overview in the plan. In addition, as a result of these efforts, identified and aggregated assessment information is now being archived on the SEAKFHP website under the “Resources” tab. A summary of recent efforts include:

- Sheila and Julianne worked to identify and aggregate USFS watershed assessments and restorations plans available across the Tongass National Forest. They have uploaded documents to an FTP site and Debbie will begin to migrate these onto the SEAKFHP website. Julianne noted that during this effort other important publications were added to the FTP site and may be important to stakeholders including the core citations they use for stream habitat analysis, and for comparing reference to managed watersheds (Bryant et al 2004, Woodsmith et al 2005, and Tucker/Caouette 2008 report).
- Neil identified and aggregated similar assessments for non-federal land owners and NGOs, these are provided on the SEAKFHP website under unique community headings.
- Roger identified watershed restoration documentation developed by ADF&G's FRED Division, as well as additional historic ADF&G reports of interest.
- Cindy provided ShoreZone links and a summary for SE Alaska. In addition publications from TNC regarding estuarine areas are now documented on the SEAKFHP website.
- The group discussed the benefit of adding data collection protocols and methodology information to this data gathering effort. Debbie will create a unique heading to capture these on the website.

The group discussed long-term data storage and revisited Jason's update on the UAS GIS Library efforts to provide links to publications through their map viewer. Debbie also noted the current archiving structure on the SEAKFHP website may change as new items are added but that this initial archive will be used to provide a place holding spot until other potential long-term archiving sources are identified. She also noted that the ARLIS library may be another long-term source for archiving and could host the final URLs that the UAS GIS Library will use in their linking efforts. Debbie will contact Celia Rozen at ARLIS Library and will also work with Jason and folks at the UAS GIS Library to identify the types of metadata needed for these publications to be included in their efforts to link to the North Slope Bibliobnode. **(ACTION ITEM)** Debbie will schedule a time to meet with Jason.

Discussion also included recent FHP and LCC efforts to collect lake and stream water temperatures. **(ACTION ITEM)** Roger will contact Sue and investigate further actions on this effort.

SEAKFHP Project Endorsement Process –Debbie provided a brief review of previous discussions on an effort of the committee to draft a guidelines document and application form for partners and stakeholders to use in submitting a request for SEAKFHP project endorsement. **(ACTION ITEM)** – Cindy will work with Neil and help convene a small group to review the draft SEAKFHP Project Endorsement Guidelines document as well as include current NFHP Board guidance and guidelines and application forms in use by other Fish Habitat Partnerships. Dave D'Amore offered to share a project criteria template.

Wrap Up/Action Items:

- NFHP Science and Data Committee/outreach to representatives at Michigan State University - Debbie will continue to track progress on the NFHP S&D Committee survey to FHPs as well as keep in contact with representatives from Michigan State University (Jared Ross, Masters student and program leads Dr. Infante and Dr. Daniel) for follow-up to learn more about their efforts specific to Southeast Alaska.
 - Debbie will also inquire if the MSU folks are involved (appraised) in the FHP/LCC effort to improve hydrographic data in Alaska.
- Assessment Project – Debbie will continue to archive various assessment information identified and aggregated by committee members. Committee members will continue to identify additional assessment information as well as forward data collection protocols or other documents of interest.
 - Debbie will work with Jason/UAS GIS Library on metadata needs for publications
 - Debbie will outreach to ARLIS library as possible long-term host for publications
 - Roger will work with Sue and investigate progress on FHP/LCC efforts to collect lake and stream water temperatures.
- SEAKFHP Project Endorsement Criteria – Cindy will work with Neil to convene a small group to review the draft SEAKFHP Project Endorsement Guidelines document as well as include current NFHP Board guidance and guidelines and application forms in use by other Fish Habitat Partnerships. Dave D'Amore offered to share a project criteria template.
- The next SEAKFHP S&D Committee meeting is anticipated for mid-late July. Cindy will work on a venue and sending out save the date information.