

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership  
Science and Data Sub-Committee Meeting Summary  
October 22, 2012

SEAKFHP Steering Committee Members present:

- USFS –Sheila Jacobson, meeting Chair
- NOAA – Cindy Hartmann Moore
- ADEC – Brock Tabor
- ADF&G – Roger Harding and Jeff Nichols

Advisors and guests present:

- SEAKFHP Coordinator: Debbie Hart, meeting recorder

Introductions – Sheila convened the subcommittee meeting and outlined the task at hand: discuss formation of a SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee and develop a list of roles and responsibilities that would guide the committee in capacity formation as well as provide direction on efforts and activities.

Discussion Items

- Debbie provided a draft set of committee roles the group reviewed; these came from roles used by other fish habitat partnership science and data committees including the NFHP and PMEP Science and Data Committees. These included:
  - Serve as a liaison from SEAKFHP to the NFHP Science and Data Committee
  - Facilitate any directed assessment or research needs for the SEAKFHP
  - Provide the science based review/input to the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan (Regional Scientific Assessment/Identification of Critical Threats)
  - Review project proposals from entities requesting SEAKFHP endorsement
- Sheila added these to the list of roles for consideration:
  - Oversee and recommend various protocols (restoration best practices/AWC entries, etc...)
  - Serve as liaison to data resources entities: stream ARC data/SEAK hydro
  - Provide guidance to the SEAKFHP Steering Committee regarding general science oriented requests
- Roger attended the early formation of the NFHP Science and Data Committee and noted the importance of this subcommittee and their link to connecting to the NFHP. It was also noted that Cecil may be able to provide guidance in reference to the NFHP and should be included in any future subcommittee discussions.
- The group discussed timing and process for the committee formation and agreed it was best to outline a set of roles before looking to build capacity on the committee. Roger offered to explore the makeup of the WINTI Science and Data Committee to help inform staffing of the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee.
- Depending upon the final geographic scope of the partnership the SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee may want to have a stratified approach with some focused on freshwater/estuarine issues and another on nearshore/marine issues. This could help address workload and capacity concerns.
- The group discussed using a punch card approach to identify both external (National) and internal (local projects/Strategic Plan actions) issues the committee would address
- The group discussed how information resources available in SE become available to others and discussed a role for the committee in developing a fact sheet to help provide guidance to various data sources.
- The group discussed the ability of the committee to help inform the SEAKFHP Steering Committee in the development of needed symposium topics or technical workshops.

- The group discussed the role of the committee in reviewing proposals seeking SEAKFHP endorsement. Brock mentioned the ADEC's ranking criteria used to score proposals; included as an attachment. The group discussed how the committee could also offer guidance on project proposals to better incorporate sound practices, noting this could provide a service and raise the level of project submittals. The group agreed an interim process may be helpful to have as the SEAKFHP continues to work its way through the strategic planning process. This group could provide the interim project endorsement process/scoring criteria to the SEAKFHP Steering Committee for their approval.

SEAK Hydro Data –The group held a lengthy conversation on the SEAK Hydro data set, its importance in SE Alaska and the multi-agency involvement in its creation and maintenance. Debbie noted that the recent Multi-State grant awarded to Alaska FHPs was due to the success of the SEAK data set and the desire to model this in other areas of the state (Kenai/Chugach National Forest).

Jeff provided background on formation of the data set and the support for the program now through the UAS GIS Library: [http://seakgis.alaska.edu/news\\_events.php?nID=7#nogo](http://seakgis.alaska.edu/news_events.php?nID=7#nogo)

#### Wrap Up/Action Items:

- Develop a draft set of Science and Data Committee roles (see summary below)
  - Jeff suggested adding coordination among FHPs
- Create an interim process for SEAKFHP endorsement and present to Steering Committee
- Look towards how to staff the committee
  - look to develop a set of expectations for folks on the committee
- Fact sheet on data layers – Jeff offered to create a fact sheet that can help non-biologists better understand fish/hydrology/geology data sets
- Debbie will ask Cecil to help provide input on what data is missing in Alaska and participate in the subcommittee's next meeting
- Debbie will check the status of the other candidate fish habitat partnership (Salmon in the City/Salmon Stronghold) and make an updated outreach to those as well as other AK FHPs.

#### Summary of identified SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee Roles

- Serve as a liaison from SEAKFHP to the NFHP Science and Data Committee
- Facilitate any directed assessment or research needs for the SEAKFHP
- Provide the science based review/input to the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan (Regional Scientific Assessment/Identification of Critical Threats)
- Review project proposals from entities requesting SEAKFHP endorsement
- Oversee and recommend various protocols (restoration best practices/AWC entries, etc...)
- Serve as liaison to data resource entities: stream ARC data/SEAK hydro
- Provide guidance to the SEAKFHP Steering Committee regarding general science oriented requests
- Assist in coordinating science and data needs among all Alaska and adjacent fish habitat partnerships
- Provide internal education to partners (fact sheets)
- Inform SEAKFHP Steering Committee on workshop/training/outreach needs