SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Who we are and the need for a formal Science and Data Committee

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www.seakfhp.org

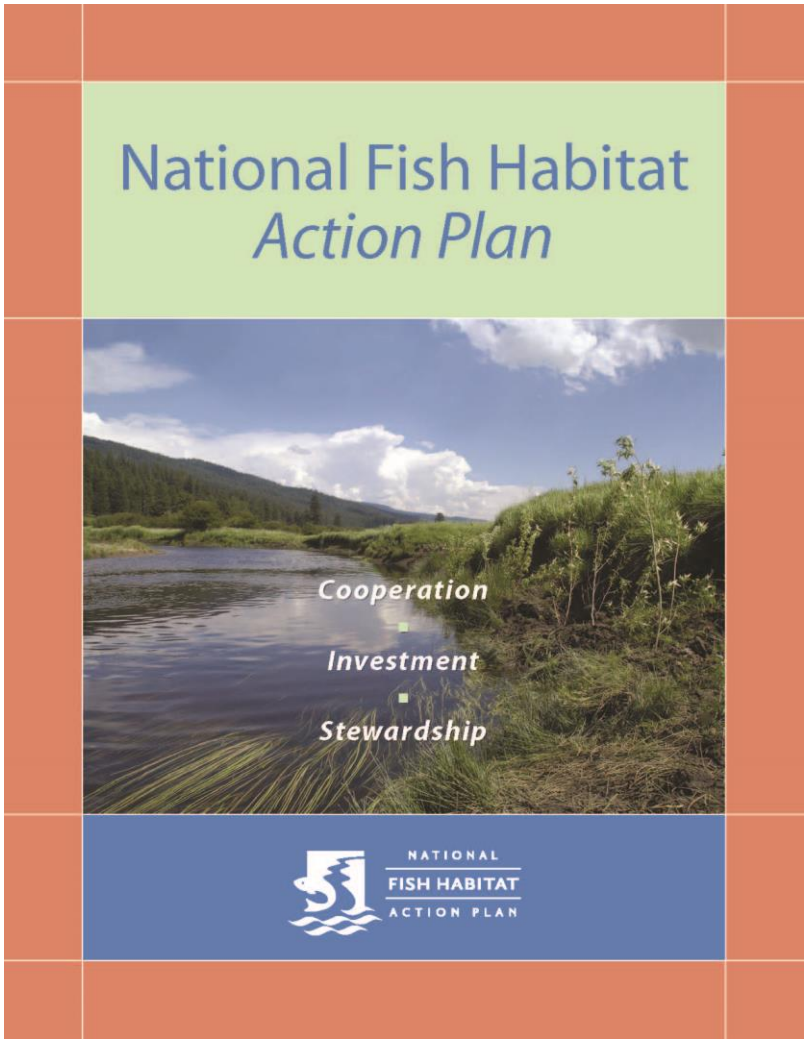
March 22, 2013

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Key Messages and Meeting Objectives

- Share Information
  - National Fish Habitat Action Plan
    - National Fish Habitat Partnership (and what FHPs are)
    - National Assessment and Science and Data Roles
  - Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership
    - General Overview
- Convene SEAKFHP's Science and Data Committee
  - Share Anticipated Roles and Responsibilities
  - Encourage participation and feedback

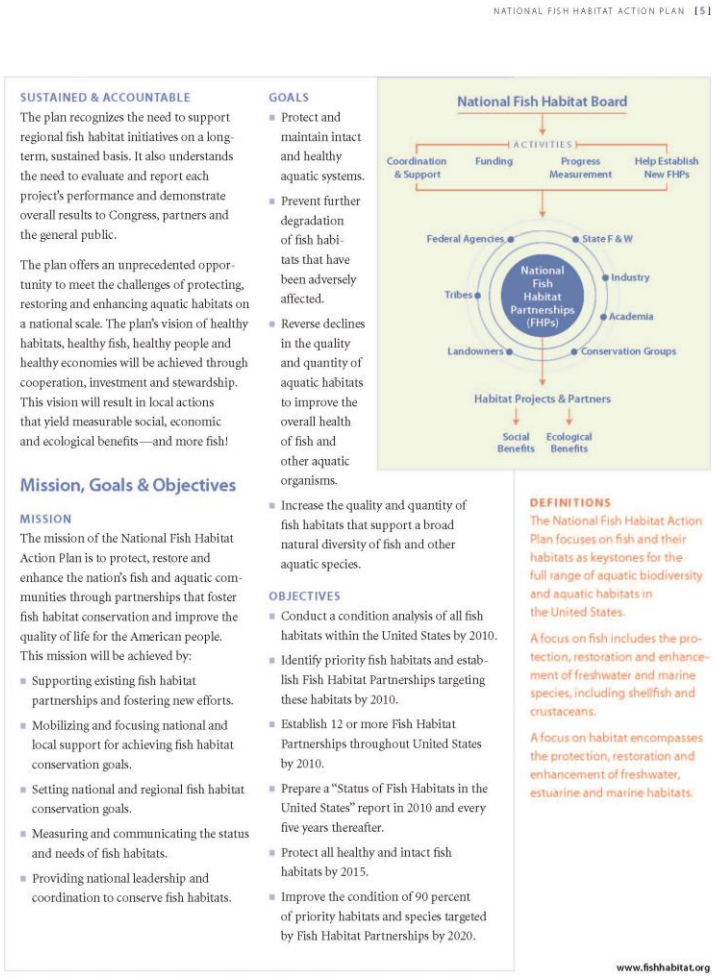
NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



National Fish Habitat Action Plan

- A national call to action in 2006
- Based upon collective experience across US
- Partnership driven
- Science-based on a landscape scale
- Non-regulatory

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN [5]

SUSTAINED & ACCOUNTABLE

The plan recognizes the need to support regional fish habitat initiatives on a long-term, sustained basis. It also understands the need to evaluate and report each project's performance and demonstrate overall results to Congress, partners and the general public.

The plan offers an unprecedented opportunity to meet the challenges of protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. The plan's vision of healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment and stewardship. This vision will result in local actions that yield measurable social, economic and ecological benefits—and more fish!

Mission, Goals & Objectives

MISSION

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.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
- Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.
- Prepare a "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.
- Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.
- Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020.

DEFINITIONS

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan focuses on fish and their habitats as keystones for the full range of aquatic biodiversity and aquatic habitats in the United States.

A focus on fish includes the protection, restoration and enhancement of freshwater and marine species, including shellfish and crustaceans.

A focus on habitat encompasses the protection, restoration and enhancement of freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats.

www.fishhabitat.org

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

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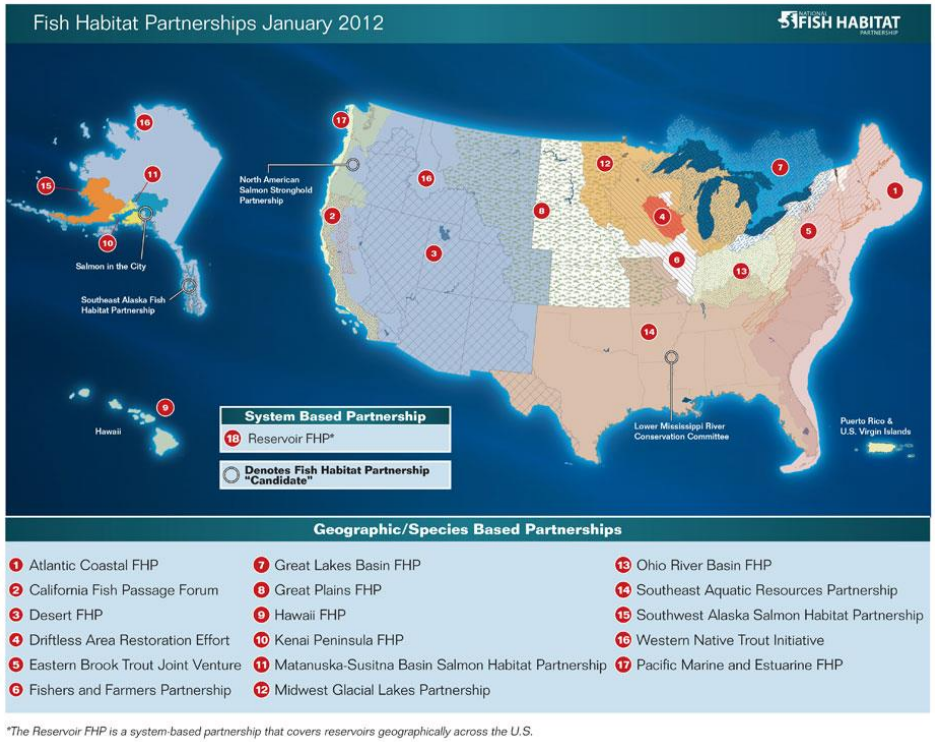
More Information: www.fishhabitat.org

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Accomplishments

National Network

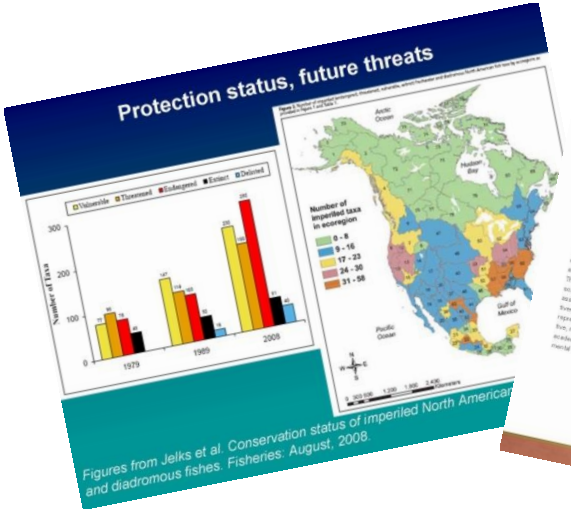
- By 2012 18 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs)
- 4 candidate partnerships
- Provided new funding stream for regional FHP development and on-the-grounds conservation projects
- Conducted 341 conservation projects in 46 states
- Created the “10 Waters to Watch” program



*The Reservoir FHP is a system-based partnership that covers reservoirs geographically across the U.S.

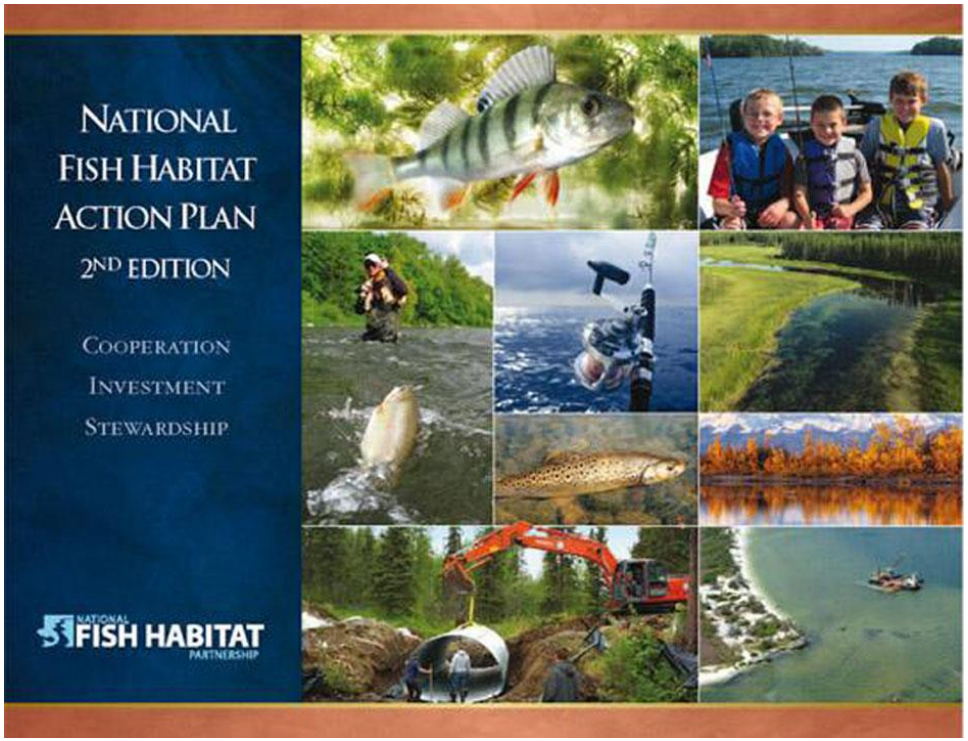
National Assessment Framework and Database

- Completed first ever national assessment of fish habitat -Though A Fishes Eye – the status of fish habitats in the United States, 2010
- Created data archive and web tools



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

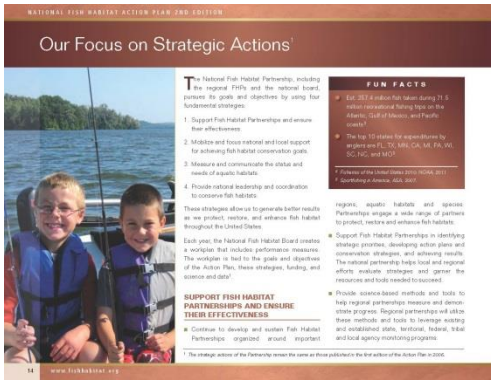
2nd Edition of the Action Plan



- Action plan was updated in 2012 (www.fishhabitat.org)
- Original goals but with greater detail
- Revised to advance and support individual FHPs – the working units of the program
- Federal partner MOU

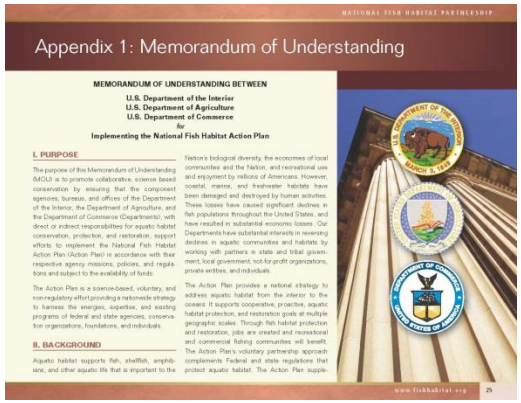
➢ New legislation proposed

➢ Multi-State grant awarded for FHP organizational development


Our Focus on Strategic Actions

FUN FACTS

SUPPORT FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS AND ENSURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS


Appendix 1: Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
for
Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

I. PURPOSE

II. BACKGROUND

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:

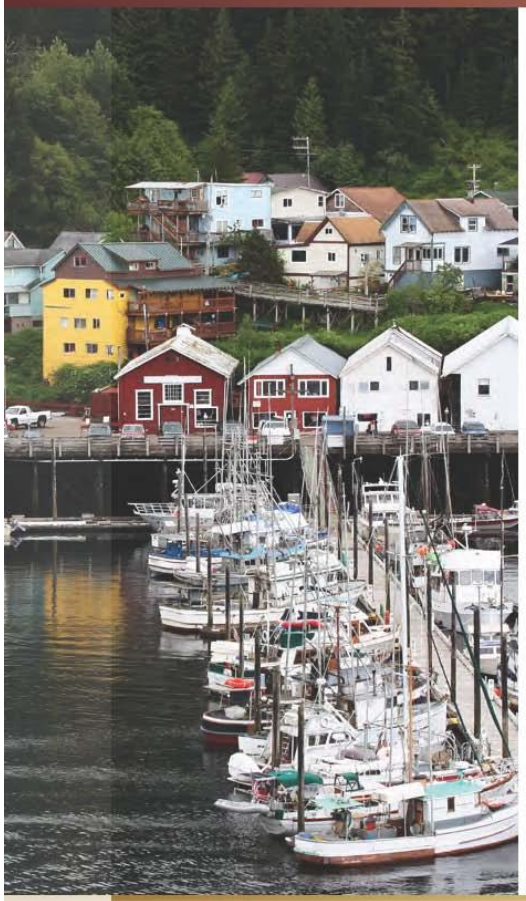
- Provide leadership that develops projects at regional and local levels;
- Work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination and improve results;
- Engage key audiences and the general public to build support for fish habitat conservation;
- Involve diverse 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.

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.

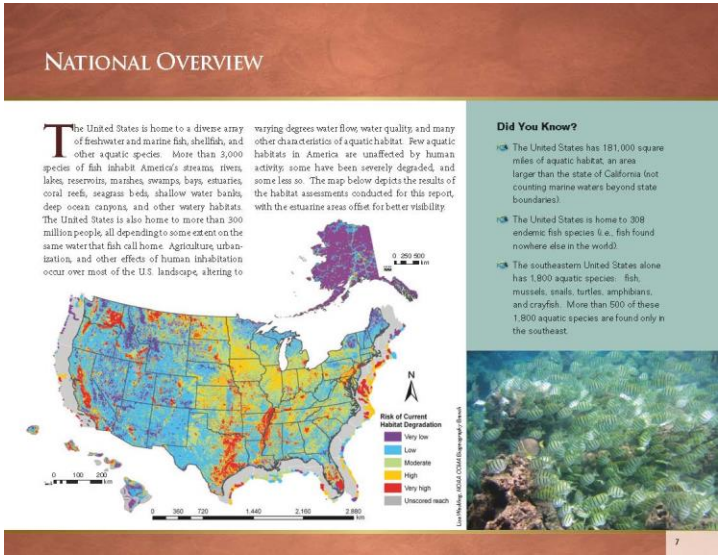
The strategy assists partners in understanding priorities for projects and how to arrest, prevent, and reverse declines in both freshwater and coastal systems. We use an integrated landscape approach with consistent methodologies to demonstrate linkages between upland and coastal systems nationally. 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

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

National Fish Habitat Assessment Strategy



- 2010 Assessment complete
- Next assessment to be released in 2015, current strategy developed
- Designed to support local partnership efforts and needs
- Will incorporate Alaska's anadromous waters catalog data
- Elevate NHD work in Southeast Alaska

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

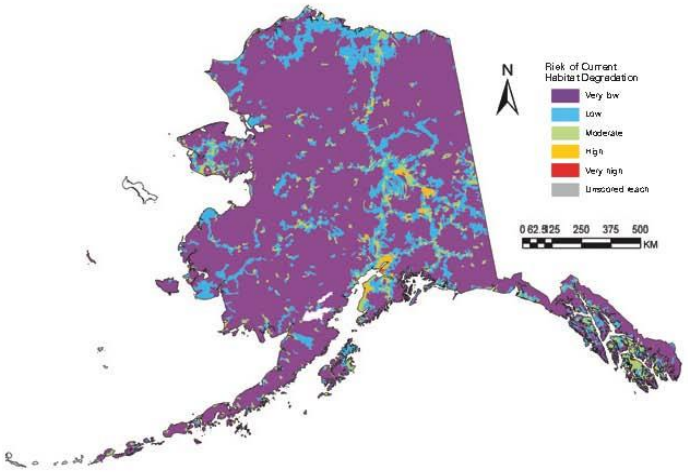
National Fish Habitat Assessment Strategy For Alaska

- Inland Assessment
- Coastal Assessment

ALASKA

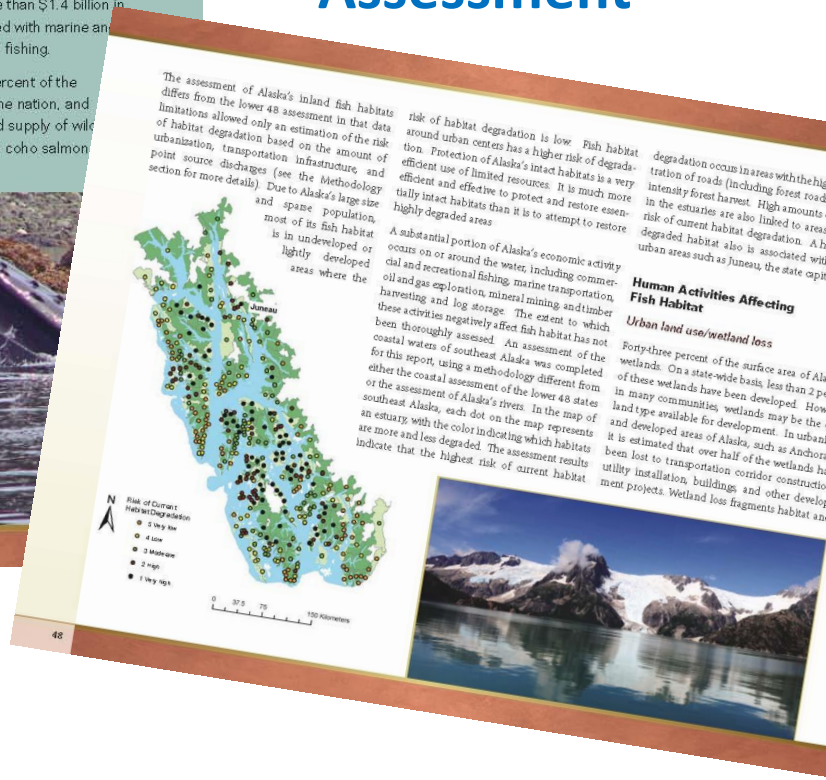
Fish Habitat in Alaska

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.



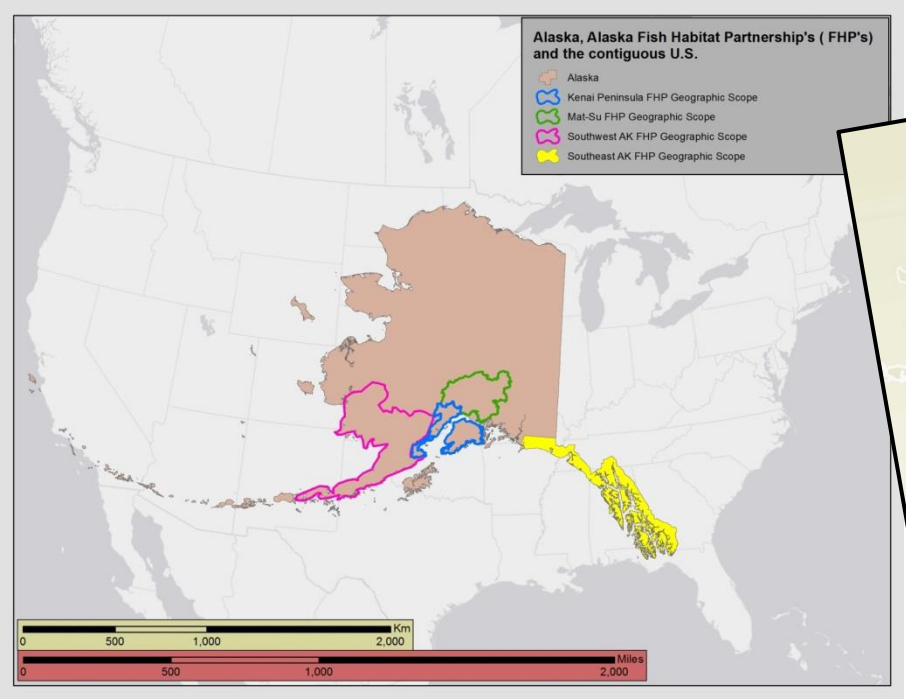
Did You Know?

- Alaska has 46,882 miles of coastline—half of the entire U.S. coastline.
- Alaska commercial fishery catch was worth more than $1.3 billion in 2009, 34 percent of all U.S. commercial catch. In 2007, Alaska had more than $1.4 billion in expenditures associated with marine and freshwater recreational fishing.
- Alaska produces 62 percent of the seafood harvested in the nation, and 80 percent of the world supply of wild sockeye, Chinook, and coho salmon.



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Fish Habitat Partnerships Working in Alaska



- 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*

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Goal: *Facilitate regionally-relevant strategies to support cooperative fish habitat conservation and management in Southeast Alaska*

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Objectives
- information sharing
- interagency and partner coordination and collaboration
- strategic funding facilitation/allocation

Regional Issues & Focal Projects

Freshwater Watersheds
- *Region-wide multi-jurisdictional fish passage inventory and database*
- *Watershed assessment to support habitat restoration and protection*
- *Anadromous Waters Cataloging*
- *Protect fish habitat through reservation of water*
- *Storm water monitoring and outfall mapping in anadromous streams*
- *Regional methodology for developing municipal riparian setbacks*
- *Restoration monitoring and performance evaluation*
- *Merger of hydrographic datasets into USGS National Hydrographic Dataset*

Estuarine
- *Region-wide estuarine classification*

Marine
- *Marine debris and stranded fishing gear removal*

Coordination
- *Topical workshops and conferences*
- *Staffed Fish Habitat Partnership coordination of services*
- *Regional digital watershed library*

Timeline: A Partnership in Progress

2010
- Western Native Trout Initiative funded *Reservations of Water in Trophy Cutthroat Trout Lakes Project*
- State, federal, and non-governmental organizations held scoping meeting;
- Workgroup formed to explore creation of a Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP)
- SEAKFHP formation formally discussed at American Fisheries Society meeting (Alaska Chapter)

2011
- WNTI funded *Coastal Cutthroat Trout in Alaska: an assessment of distribution, life history, and status*
- Workgroup sponsored a fish passage workshop in Juneau (47 registered attendees, 7 speakers)
- Workgroup drafted Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Request for Candidacy Letter
- Trout Unlimited submitted SEAKFHP Request for Candidacy Letter to the National Fish Habitat Board
- SEAKFHP recognized by National Fish Habitat Board as a Candidate Partnership

Next Steps:
1. Establish a steering committee that represents the range of interests in the region
2. Develop mission/operating procedures; identify geographic scope; formalize goals/objectives
3. Pursue funding for facilitation and coordination of near-term SEAKFHP organizational development
4. Evaluate habitat condition, known threats, and opportunities
5. Initiate planning process to identify strategic priorities
6. Apply to NFHAP board for formal recognition

Photo courtesy of K.Mueller/USFWS

Potential Partners

Trout Unlimited (Alaska Program)
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
The Nature Conservancy (Southeast Alaska Field Office)
Southeast Alaska Land Trust
Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Sealaska Regional Corporation
Alaska Native Village Corporations
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
City and Borough of Juneau
City and Borough of Yakutat
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Region)
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (Habitat Conservation Division)
U.S. Forest Service (Alaska Region and Alaska Forestry Sciences Lab)
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Alaska District)

For more information:

Neil Stichert	Mark Kaelke	K. Koski	Roger Harding	Sheila Jacobson
USFWS	Trout Unlimited	NOAA NMFS	ADFG Sportfish Division	U.S. Forest Service
907-780-1180	907-321-4464	907-586-7471	907-465-4311	907-826-1629
neil_stichert@fws.gov	MKaelke@tu.org	K.Koski@noaa.gov	roger.harding@alaska.gov	sajacobson@fs.fed.us

9/23/11

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Current Partners

- *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *NOAA*
- *US 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*
- *K Koski*

Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

TROUT UNLIMITED

SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHED COALITION

CONNECT - INFORM - PARTICIPATE

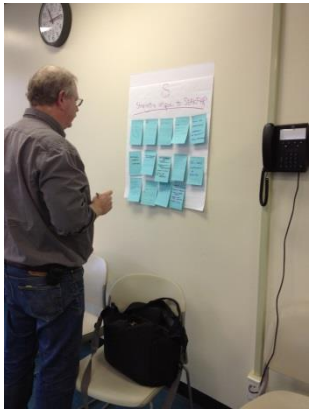
The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

nature.org

CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

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 Work Group – now transitioning into formal 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 robust fish populations across Southeast Alaska

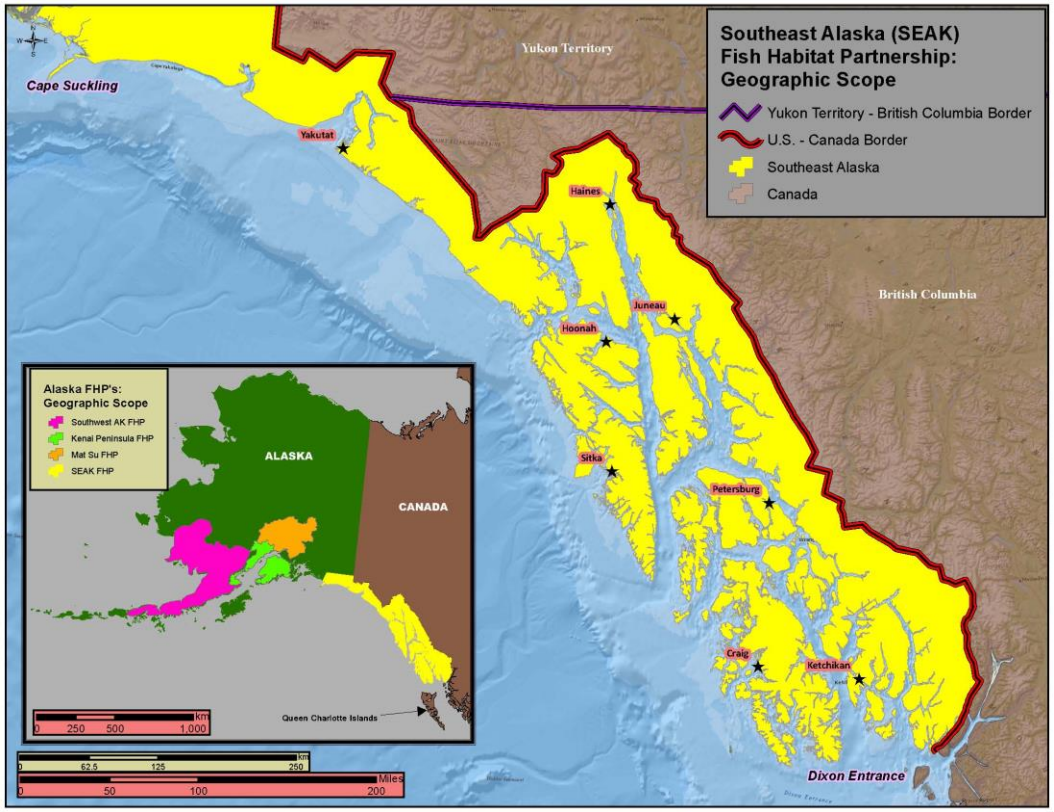
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

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

Our 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

Science and Data Committee

Purpose

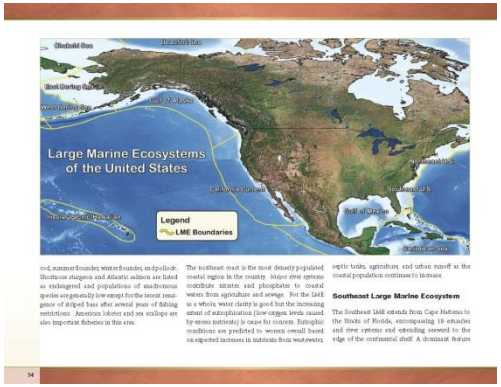
Provide scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals and objectives of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership in a scientifically sound and strategic manner.

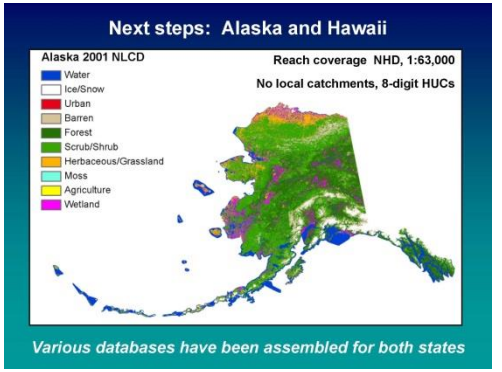
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Science and Data Committee

Duties and Roles

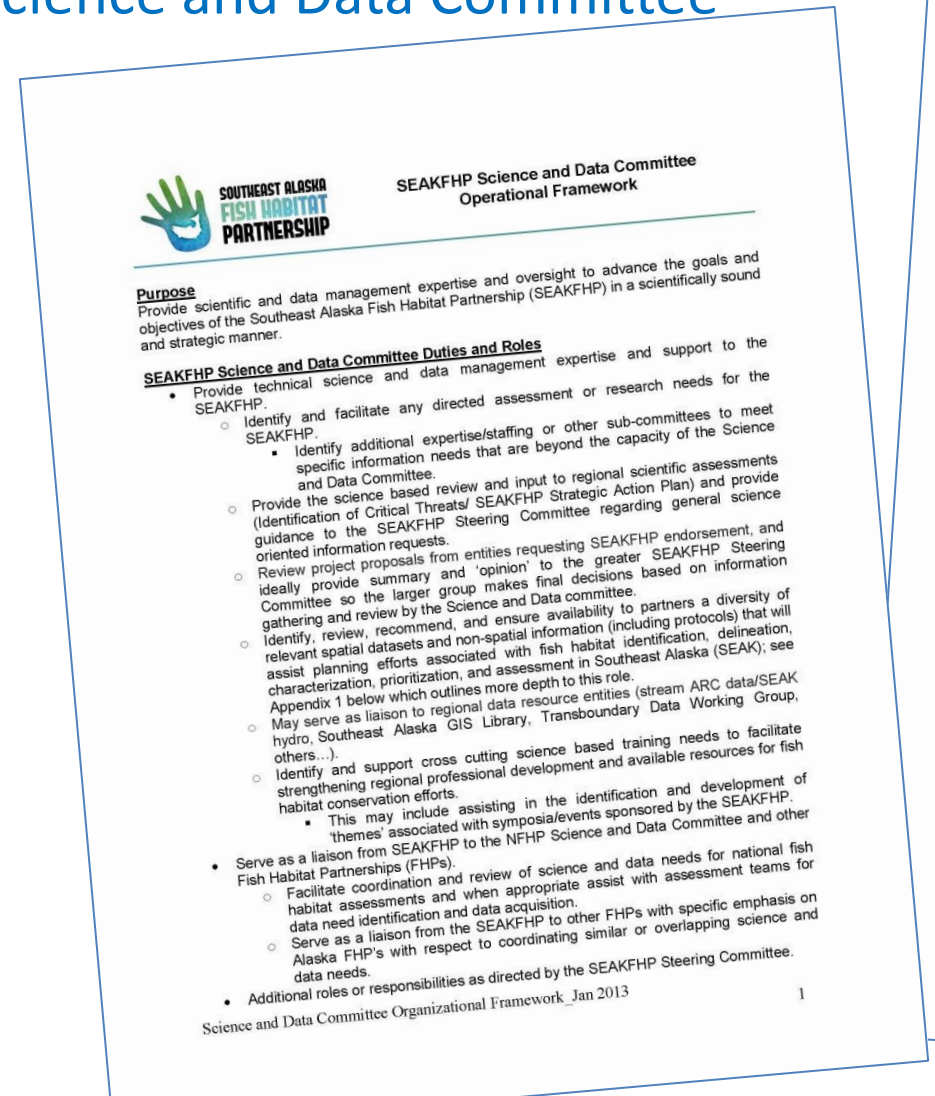
- Provide technical science and data management expertise and support to the SEAKFHP.
- Serve as a liaison from SEAKFHP to the NFHP Science and Data Committee and other Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs).
- Additional roles or responsibilities as directed by the SEAKFHP Steering Committee.





Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Science and Data Committee



SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee Operational Framework

Purpose

Provide scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals and objectives of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) in a scientifically sound and strategic manner.

SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee Duties and Roles

- Provide technical science and data management expertise and support to the SEAKFHP.
  - Identify and facilitate any directed assessment or research needs for the SEAKFHP.
    - Identify additional expertise/staffing or other sub-committees to meet specific information needs that are beyond the capacity of the Science and Data Committee.
  - Provide the science based review and input to regional scientific assessments (Identification of Critical Threats/ SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan) and provide guidance to the SEAKFHP Steering Committee regarding general science oriented information requests.
  - Review project proposals from entities requesting SEAKFHP endorsement, and ideally provide summary and 'opinion' to the greater SEAKFHP Steering Committee so the larger group makes final decisions based on information gathering and review by the Science and Data committee.
  - Identify, review, recommend, and ensure availability to partners a diversity of relevant spatial datasets and non-spatial information (including protocols) that will assist planning efforts associated with fish habitat identification, delineation, characterization, prioritization, and assessment in Southeast Alaska (SEAK); see Appendix 1 below which outlines more depth to this role.
  - May serve as liaison to regional data resource entities (stream ARC data/SEAK hydro, Southeast Alaska GIS Library, Transboundary Data Working Group, others…).
  - Identify and support cross cutting science based training needs to facilitate strengthening regional professional development and available resources for fish habitat conservation efforts.
    - This may include assisting in the identification and development of 'themes' associated with symposia/events sponsored by the SEAKFHP.
- Serve as a liaison from SEAKFHP to the NFHP Science and Data Committee and other Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs).
  - Facilitate coordination and review of science and data needs for national fish habitat assessments and when appropriate assist with assessment teams for data need identification and data acquisition.
  - Serve as a liaison from the SEAKFHP to other FHPs with specific emphasis on Alaska FHP's with respect to coordinating similar or overlapping science and data needs.
- Additional roles or responsibilities as directed by the SEAKFHP Steering Committee.

Committee Membership Structure

- Committee structure, appointments, term-limits, etc… will be broad as the committee initially forms and begins to work through the duties outlined above. The following are initial considerations for committee formation.
- Total committee size is aimed towards 10 individuals with members having scientific expertise or data management experience. Both freshwater and marine interests will be represented on the committee. (It is recognized at the early stages of committee development that building capacity for both freshwater and marine interests will be needed and that at some point tasks may be differentiated based upon expertise and capacity of the committee.)
- Initial outreach to build capacity on the committee will be broad and include the following:
  - 2-USFS Tongass Forest Managers (one seat aimed at a fish ecologist and one for a hydrologist) and 1-USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, PNW
  - USFSW Habitat Restoration Biologist (Neil has expressed interest)
  - NOAA (Cindy will act as liaison initially and may link in the NMFS Science Center specialist based upon availability or as needs arise)
  - USGS/Water Resources Group (outreach needed for possible interest)
  - ADF&G (Jeff has expressed interest)
  - ADEC
  - 1 to 2 representatives from the University of Alaska Southeast and University of Alaska Fairbanks (outreach will be through the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center, ACRC and the UAS GIS Library to help with university links)
  - TNC (outreach to GIS specialist and Science Director)
  - CCTHITA (Local and Traditional Knowledge expert)
  - Other data stewards (perhaps with SEAK-Hydro or ShoreZone, or other data centers/offices such as the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, NPLCC)
  - Others with specific expertise or an interest such as K Koski, Don Martin, and Scott Harris

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Science and Data Committee

Upcoming Tasks

- Help inform the SEAKFHP Strategic Action Plan process and produce a “Regional Assessment Summary”
- Review project endorsement criteria and establish request process
- Support 2015 National Assessment efforts

Anticipated Time Commitment

- Monthly meetings of S&D Committee
- Work group assignments as interest and time allow

Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Any questions for us?

Questions for you…

- Are you interested in becoming involved?
- Do you know of others who may be?
- Are there other efforts going on we should be aware of?
- Any general feedback?

Please contact our coordinator with questions or any feedback – coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org