STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2014–2016

Final Version 1.0 July 9, 2014

SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Cooperative Fish Habitat Conservation
in Southeast Alaska

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

The SEAKFHP is a partnership recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board and follows guidelines set out in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. More information at www.fishhabitat.org

Photo Credits: The photo on the first page captures an aerial view of the Taku River floodplain below the U.S./Canada border in Southeast Alaska (Jeff Nichols, ADF&G, June, 2008); photos on the following page highlight the many uses of aquatic resources in Southeast Alaska and include a top photo of drying salmon illustrating the importance of subsistence fishing in the region (A.R. Nanouk, USFWS, 2009), the middle photo captures commercial fishing interests (Wild Nature Images), and the last photo shares the bounty harvest from a productive sport fishing trip (Mark Kaelke).

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2014–2016

Prepared by:
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Fish Habitat Partnership Steering
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP) works to support cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across the southern panhandle of Alaska with specific focus on the watersheds and waterways that make up the Alexander Archipelago. Covering nearly seventeen million acres of this region is the Tongass National Forest, the largest national forest in the United States and a key producer of salmon. Partner expertise is currently focused on the ecology, distribution, and habitat requirements of resident and anadromous salmonid species and the management, restoration, and conservation of their habitat.

Our partners share a common interest to conserve and sustain the region's abundant and intact fish habitat[1], fisheries-based economy, and culture and quality of life these fish and aquatic resources bring to local communities. To achieve the broad mission of the partnership, this strategic action plan focuses on three **Conservation Goals** and is supported by four **Core Partnership Functions**. The intent of this plan is to share a blueprint on the actions the partnership will focus on to meet these goals. By fostering regional **Partnership Strategies**, strengthening collaboration, elevating work accomplished and planned by partners, incorporating science-based information, and articulating key priorities and needs shared across mixed-ownership watersheds and nearshore areas throughout Southeast Alaska, the partnership will achieve improved on-the-ground conservation outcomes across the region. Southeast Alaska communities and the numerous fish species that rely on these habitats will benefit.

In March of 2014, SEAKFHP became the 19th recognized National Fish Habitat Partnership and follows the guidelines outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP, www.fishhabitat.org). Our conservation goals and proposed partnership actions are closely tied to this national plan. In addition to guidance offered through the national plan success of the partnership relies on the collaboration, cooperation, and support of regional partners including federal, state, local and tribal governments, academic and research institutions, industry, nonprofit organizations, and citizens.

The SEAKFHP Steering Committee anticipates revisiting this plan in approximately 3 years. This plan was shared as part of the 2013 Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium and regional input was used to strengthen the plan and raise awareness of it across the region.

[1]Photo Credits: Above photo comes from the ShoreZone mapping archive (www.shorezone.org) and illustrates intact fish habitat in Southeast Alaska; this shot was taken from the tidal flats looking up the Dangerous River towards Harlequin Lake and the Yakutat Glacier. The photo on the next page captures spawning sockeye salmon, an important salmon species in Southeast Alaska.

VISION

Partners of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership share a common vision to ensure healthy, thriving habitats that support all life stages of resident, anadromous, estuarine, and marine-dependent fishes across their historical range in Southeast Alaska.

MISSION

The mission of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership is to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration, and management across Southeast Alaska with consideration of the economic, social, and cultural interests of local communities in our endeavors.

CONSERVATION GOALS

- Protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore-marine areas in Southeast Alaska
- Maintain water quality and quantity in those areas, and
- Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas.

VISION, MISSION AND CONSERVATION GOALS

This **Strategic Action Plan** (Plan) communicates the collective **vision** shared by partners of the **Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership** (SEAKFHP) to ensure healthy, thriving habitats that support abundant and sustainable aquatic resources across Southeast Alaska (Southeast). This plan documents organizational evolution and progress of the partnership to date. It also shares our assessment of conservation needs and opportunities given the unique character and geography of the southern panhandle of Alaska. Last, we hope to impart the importance of fish habitat conservation efforts in the largest contiguous coastal temperate mature rainforest in the nation, and in the world[2].

The Partnership's **mission** is to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration, and management across the region with consideration of economic, social and cultural interests of local communities in its efforts. This plan lays out a blueprint for the SEAKFHP to follow to meet this mission with measurable objectives and actions that partners and others can use to gauge progress and success in advancing shared **conservation goals**. The partnership has three initial priority **conservation goals**:

- **Protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore-marine areas in Southeast,**
- **Maintain water quality and quantity in those areas, and**
- **Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas.**

SEAKFHP partners include a diverse set of stakeholders with a shared interest to sustain Southeast's fish[3] and their habitat. Current expertise and the focus of SEAKFHP partners are on the habitats of resident and anadromous salmonid species in freshwater, estuarine, and nearshore-marine environments. As the partnership matures, focus may expand to other aquatic species and their habitat.

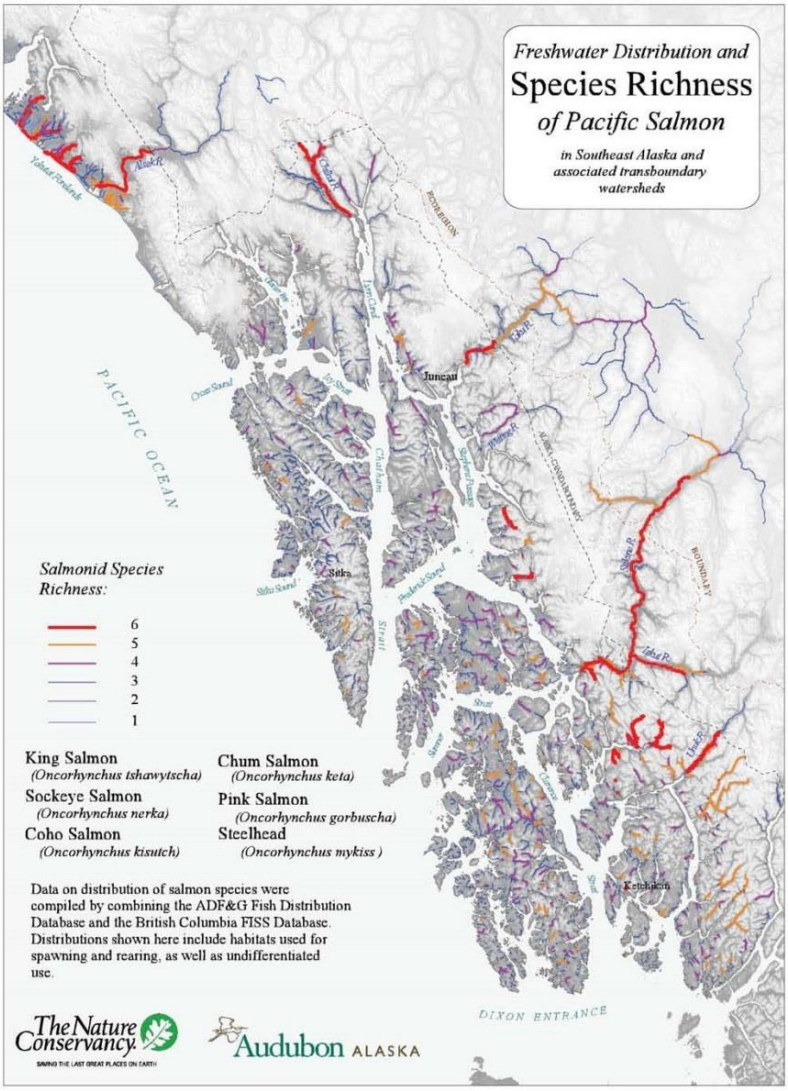
The SEAKFHP Steering Committee developed this plan under guidance provided by the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board and the Coordinator led much of the planning process. Additionally, the Plan was developed with close consideration of goals and objectives of the **National Fish Habitat Action Plan**, the **Alaska Wildlife Action Plan, Sustainable Salmon Strategy for Southeast Alaska, U.S. Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework**, and other guidance documents referenced throughout.

This Plan will serve as a living document for the partnership, charting the partnership's actions and serving as an archive of the partnership formation. Additional purposes for the plan include:

- Communicates the level of organization of the partnership to the National Fish Habitat Board and others, as well as fulfills a requirement for national fish habitat partnership recognition status.
- Identifies and elevates conservation goals shared by SEAKFHP partners and raises awareness of regional conservation needs and relevant data assessments and regional information resources.
- Identifies strategies and specific objectives and measurable actions for the partnership to achieve over the next 3 years.
- Identifies services, collaborations and funding sources SEAKFHP partners and stakeholders can leverage to address shared conservation goals.

[2] Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center – Pacific Coastal Temperate Rainforests Factsheet (www.http://acrc.alaska.edu/_docs/data_publications/factsheets/pacificcoastal.pdf)

[3] The Magnuson-Stevens Act, serves as a guiding document for the SEAKFHP and as such defines fish broadly as: "finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds."



WHY A FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA?

FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE AND NEEDS

Aquatic resources abound in Southeast Alaska and economic and cultural health are tied to abundant salmon and other valuable populations supporting fisheries. Alaska represents one of the last strongholds of Pacific salmon, and the coastal rainforest of Southeast includes a relatively undisturbed landscape compared to other areas along the Pacific Coast where salmon populations and other fish species have been significantly reduced from historic levels.

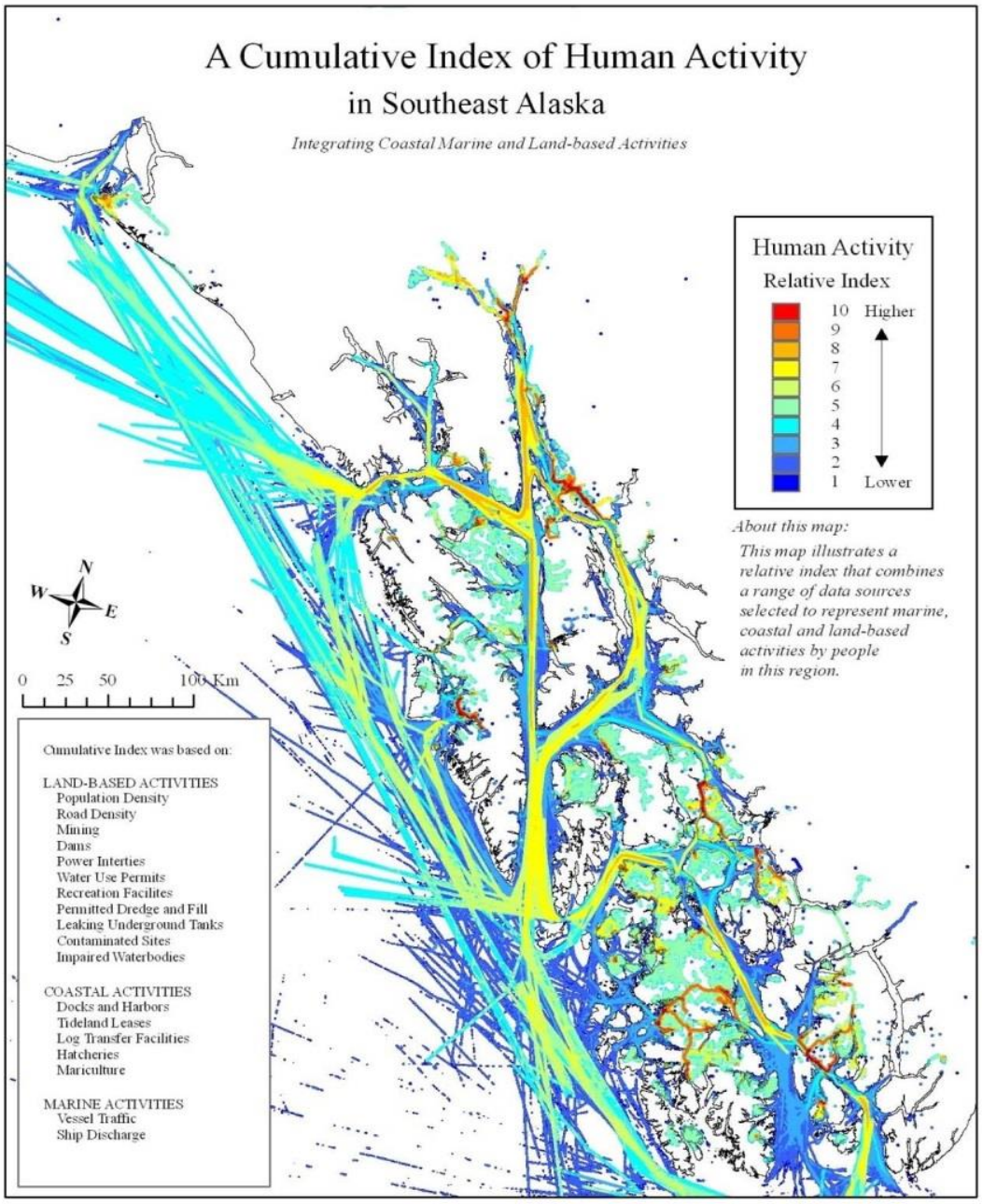
Recent evaluations suggest salmon fishery-related jobs in Southeast injected nearly $1 billion of revenue into the local economy and accounted for nearly 10% of all local jobs[4]. Total fishery related ex-vessel value was estimated at nearly $391 million in 2007[5]. Regional investigations identified roughly 13,750 miles of anadromous or potentially anadromous fish habitat in the region with numerous watersheds supporting a variety of salmon species[6]. Freshwater habitats abound in the area, including over 20,000 freshwater lakes and ponds covering nearly 400 mi^2 in area, and countless streams and rivers in excess of 35,000 miles of fluvial habitat. The region is defined by rainforests, glacial fiords, myriad rivers and streams, estuaries, mountains, and glaciers and ranks as one of the largest, most complex, and intact estuarine and temperate rainforest systems on earth.

[4] TCW Economics. 2010. Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska, Final Report, prepared for Trout Unlimited.

[5] Juneau and Southeast Alaska Economic Indicators Report, prepared by Juneau Economic Development Council, 2012.

[6] Albert, D. and J. Schoen. 2007. "A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest." In The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin, chap. 2.1: 1–46. Anchorage, AK: Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy. (Photo Insert – captured from Chapter 2, FIG 11. Freshwater distribution and species richness of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout in Southeast Alaska and transboundary waters of British Columbia.)

Alaska's productive fisheries are attributed to its extensive intact habitat and also as a result of progressive state and federal agency conservation practices and laws[7]. Although the majority of Southeast Alaska's watersheds and shorelines remain relatively pristine, some locations have experienced human-related disturbances from land use practices related to timber harvesting, mining, urbanization and shoreline development, or hydropower infrastructure. In some cases, either individual or cumulative disturbances[8] have had measurable effects on aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Protection and/or restoration are needed to maintain, repair or improve the structure and function of these habitats.



Similar to patterns in the Pacific Northwest, barriers to resident and anadromous fish passage occur on a significant percentage of inventoried culvert road/stream crossings in Southeast on U.S. Forest Service and Alaska Department of Transportation road systems. Southeast Alaska is also unique in the frequency of new hydropower development opportunities, with 19 licensed projects and 8 preliminary permits

[7] Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. Strategic Plan - Responsible Management of Alaska's Recreational Fisheries in the 21st Century. 2010 – 2014.

[8] TNC. 2011. Mapping Human Activities and Designing an Index of Cumulative Use within Estuarine and Nearshore Marine Ecosystems in Southeast Alaska. (Photo Insert – captured from Figure 2. A cumulative index of human activity in Southeast Alaska – integrating coastal marine and land based activities.)

pending for energy production. Both of these threats to aquatic habitat fragmentation can be largely reduced or mitigated with effective interagency coordination. Additionally, environmental stressors impact present habitat conditions including unknown effects of climate change and the presence and persistence of invasive species. Habitat assessment and monitoring are needed to assess these and other stressors that can impact the productivity of these important habitats.

Preserving and stewarding the abundance and quality of intact habitat in Southeast Alaska is essential to the long-term success of important fish populations[9] and other important fishery resources into the future, and is one of the guiding principles of the Partnership.

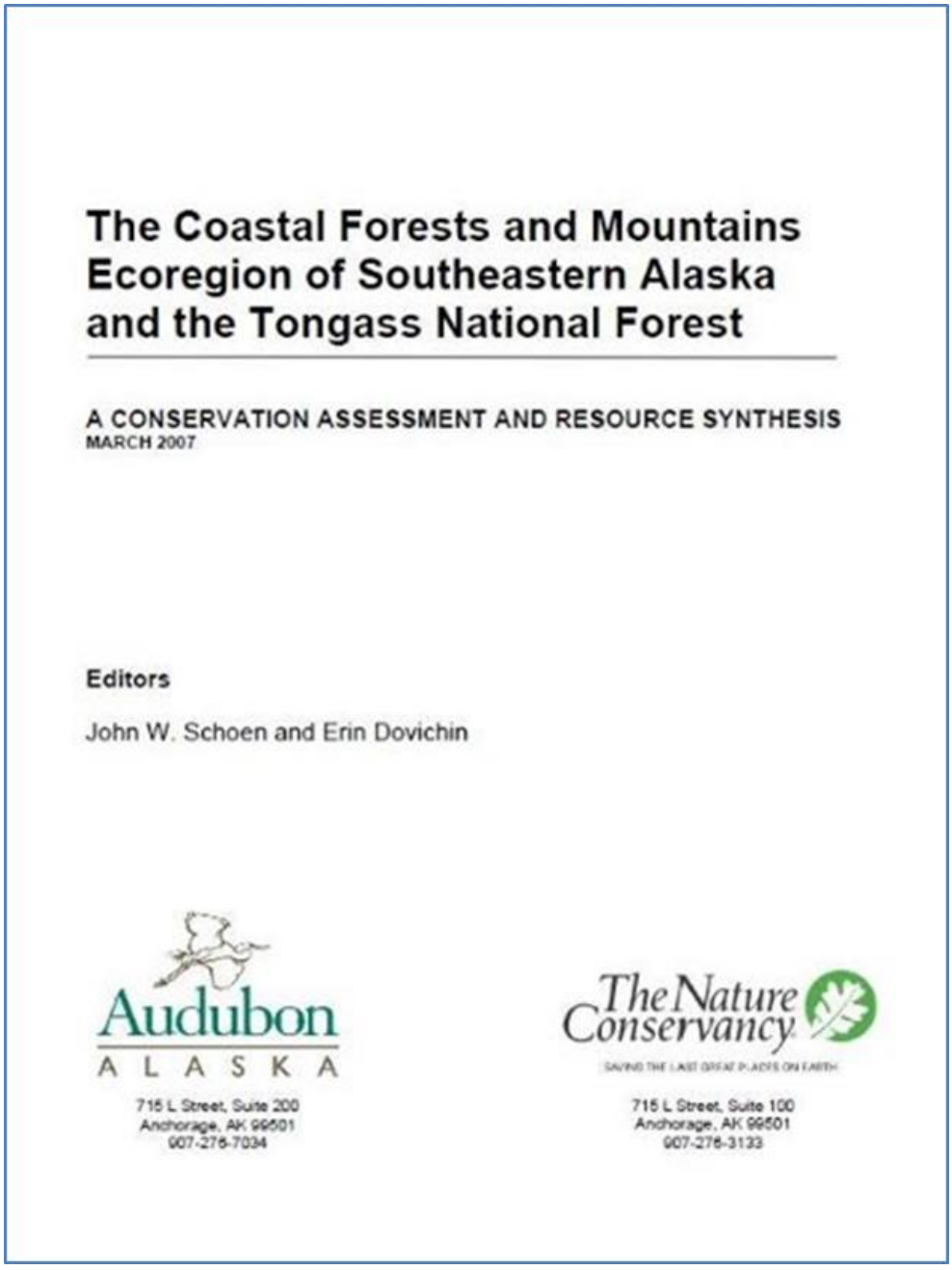
PARTNERSHIP BASED UPON EXPERIENCE

There are a number of agencies and organizations throughout Southeast involved in conservation and habitat restoration, with most restoration efforts primarily involving fish passage improvements, riparian management, and in-stream habitat enhancement.

To date, most fish habitat conservation and restoration efforts in the region have been conducted by large organizations such as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the largest land owner in Southeast Alaska, or through small collaborative efforts with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with agency partners. Restoration projects in the last 15 years, particularly through the development of watershed councils and other regional collaboratives, have expanded throughout Southeast in response to community concerns and environmental issues. Across Southeast, there are up to a dozen NGO's and state and federal agencies involved in some aspect of habitat restoration. Independent actions by these entities in the region may have inadvertently constrained the development of collective regional strategies and actions beneficial to the region as a whole. Most of these entities have conducted restoration based on their own vision and/or various agency priorities; however, they often encounter

[9] Photo Insert: Juvenile steelhead (NOAA Fish Atlas of Alaska, https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/FishAtlas/speciespage.htm)

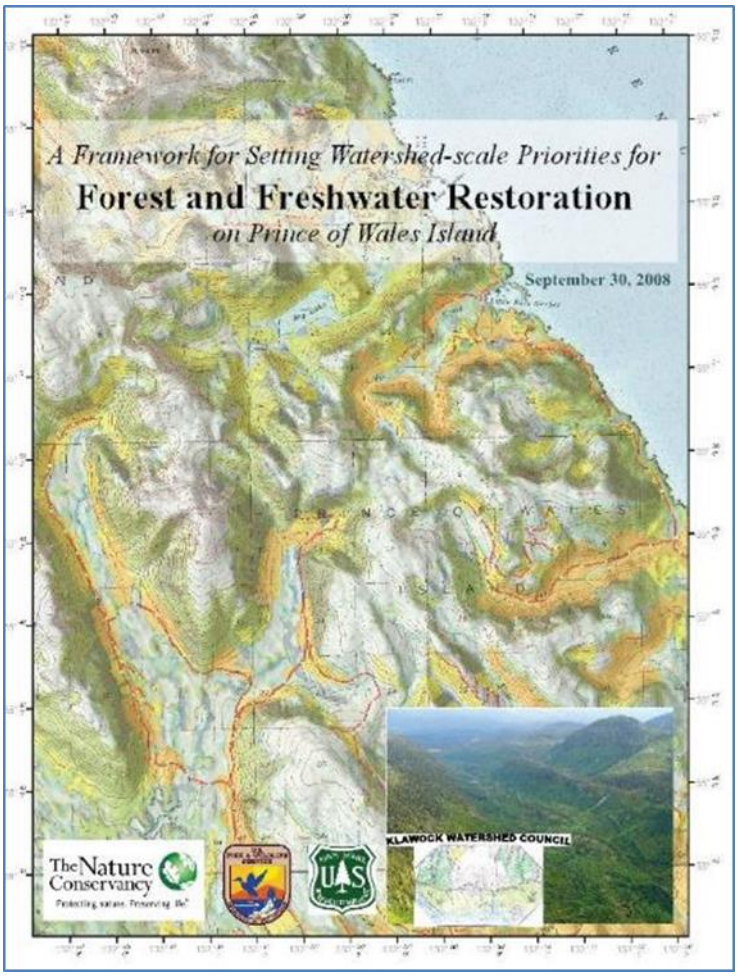
problems securing adequate funding, acquiring the necessary expertise for assessment and design, or having the capacity to thoroughly monitor the effectiveness of their actions. With the exception of recent USFS activities, restoration in Southeast has been conducted without a detailed watershed assessment or a limiting factor analysis; consequently, projects are often implemented using piecemeal approaches rather than being more holistic and process-centered.

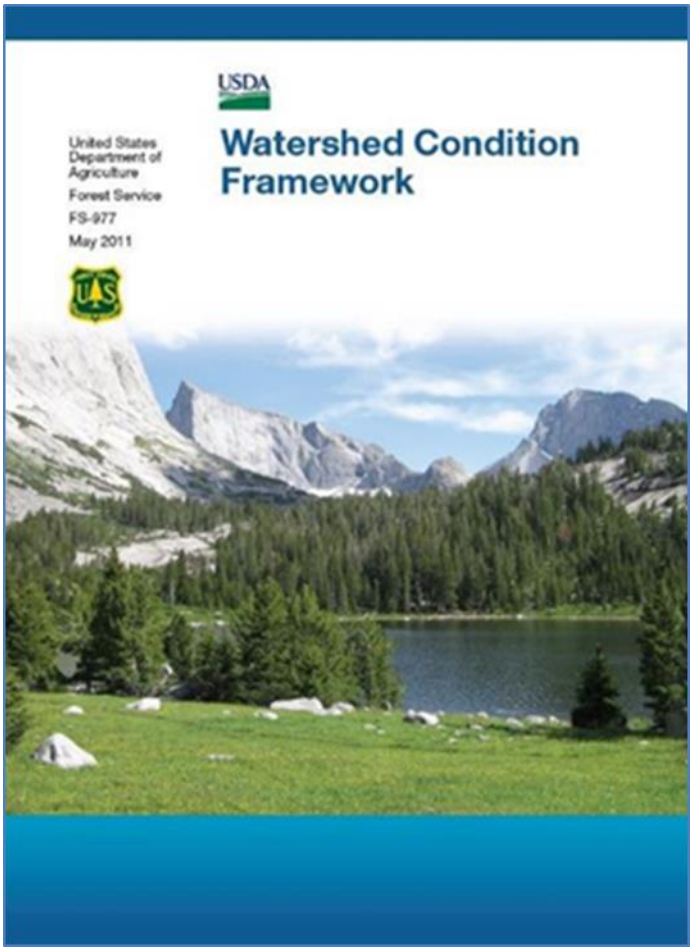


In recent years, Audubon and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) joined forces in a collaborative project to compile scientific information and evaluate ecological priorities for conservation in Southeast and the Tongass National Forest[10]. The Tongass, as the Nation's largest National Forest, is home to some of the most important and extensive temperate old-growth rainforest in the world. The *Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeast Alaska* is a product that represents over five years of effort in data compilation, analysis and review, with the ultimate goal of providing an improved understanding of the distribution, condition and conservation status of ecological values in the region. Until this collaborative effort, there was not a regional assessment of habitat condition or of current stressors that could be used to develop such a listing of scientifically-based conservation or restoration needs or priorities for the entire region.

[10] Albert, D. and J. Schoen. 2007. "A Conservation Assessment for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion of Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest." In The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin, chap. 2.1: 1–46. Anchorage, AK: Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy. (Photo Insert captures cover page of report)

In addition, TNC, USFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and local watershed council produced *a Framework for Setting Watershed-scale Priorities for Forest and Freshwater Restoration on Prince of Wales Island* (POW)[11], a systematic assessment providing a credible assessment of conservation needs and priorities. These efforts along with the work of federal[12,13,14] and state agencies through wildlife action plans[15] and other watershed-based





[11] Albert, D., L. Baker, S. Howell, K. V. Koski, and R. Bosworth. 2008. A Framework for Setting Watershed-Scale Priorities for Forest and Freshwater Restoration on Prince of Wales Island. Juneau, AK: The Nature Conservancy. (Photo Insert - Cover page of report)

[12] US Forest Service. 2011. Watershed Condition Classification Technical Assessment and associated watershed condition class rating and high priority assessment program for the Tongass (http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/, (Photo Insert captures cover page of report)

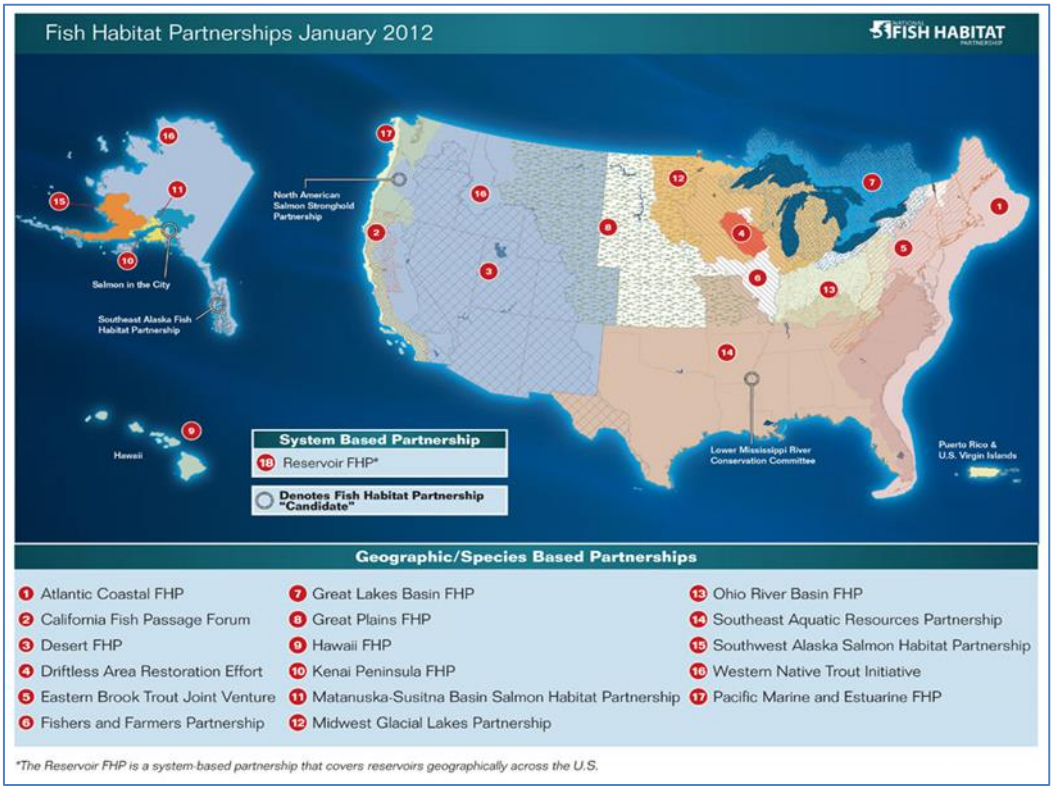
[13] U.S. Forest Service. 2008. Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan: Final Environmental Impact Statement Plan Amendment. Ketchikan, AK: Tongass National Forest.

[14] USFWS Coastal and Partners Programs Strategic Plan. 2013.

[15] Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2006. Our Wealth Maintained: A Strategy for Conserving Alaska's Diverse Wildlife and Fish Resources. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska. Xviii+824p.

assessment and management plans[16],[17] identify needed conservation actions in region, all of which have been compiled and posted at the SEAKFHP webpage (www.seakfhp.org). Other important regional resources include TNC's *Conservation Action Plan for Estuaries in Southeast Alaska*[18] and the watershed restoration priorities identified for the Sitka Community Use Area[19] by the Sitka Conservation Society. At this stage of region-wide maturation of aquatic conservation and restoration initiatives, we believe that SEAKFHP is uniquely poised to catalyze more strategic coordination of these efforts.

FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP MODEL – A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION



The National Fish Habitat Partnership[20] (NFHP, www.fishhabitat.org) is responsible for carrying out a cooperative nationwide program to conserve the habitats of the Nation's marine and freshwater fish populations. Inspired by our country's natural heritage and challenged by an alarming rate of habitat loss, a national coalition formed and forged the first National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) in 2006. Through vision and action of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, tribal governments, state, territorial, and federal

[16] Skilbred, Amy, editor. 2003. Sustainable Salmon Strategy for Southeast Alaska – 2002: An Interagency Strategy to Determine Priorities for Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds and Other Initiatives. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 03-07, Anchorage. / ADF&G. 2008 (unpublished draft) Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund - Framework & Gap Analysis for Southeast Alaska.

[17] Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Action program. http://dec.alaska.gov/water/acwa/acwa_index.htm

[18] Baker, L., K. V. Koski, D. Albert, and N. Cohen. 2011. A conservation action plan for estuarine ecosystems of southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy.

[19] Sitka Conservation Council, 2013. Watershed Restoration Priorities - A Strategic Plan for the Sitka Community Use Area. www.sitkawild.org.

[20] Photo Insert – image is from the NFHP website showing the 18 formally recognized fish habitat partnerships (FHPs) and including SEAKFHP as a candidate FHP.

agencies and industry leaders they convened to foster voluntary, non-regulatory, science-based action to protect, restore, and enhance America's aquatic systems. Under this plan a national assessment of fish habitat was created as well as detailed guidance and support for formation of regionally-based Fish Habitat Partnerships – seen as the essential work units of the plan and now collectively known as the 'National Fish Habitat Partnership'.

The National Fish Habitat Board, the governing body overseeing NFHAP and providing guidance and support to the National Fish Habitat Partnership, approved 18 self-organized regional partnerships, previous to recognizing SEAKFHP. These partnerships have conducted hundreds of conservation projects across the nation, focusing on the highest priority needs on the landscape, leveraging dollars and capabilities, and engaging anglers, students, community groups, landowners, and businesses to help.

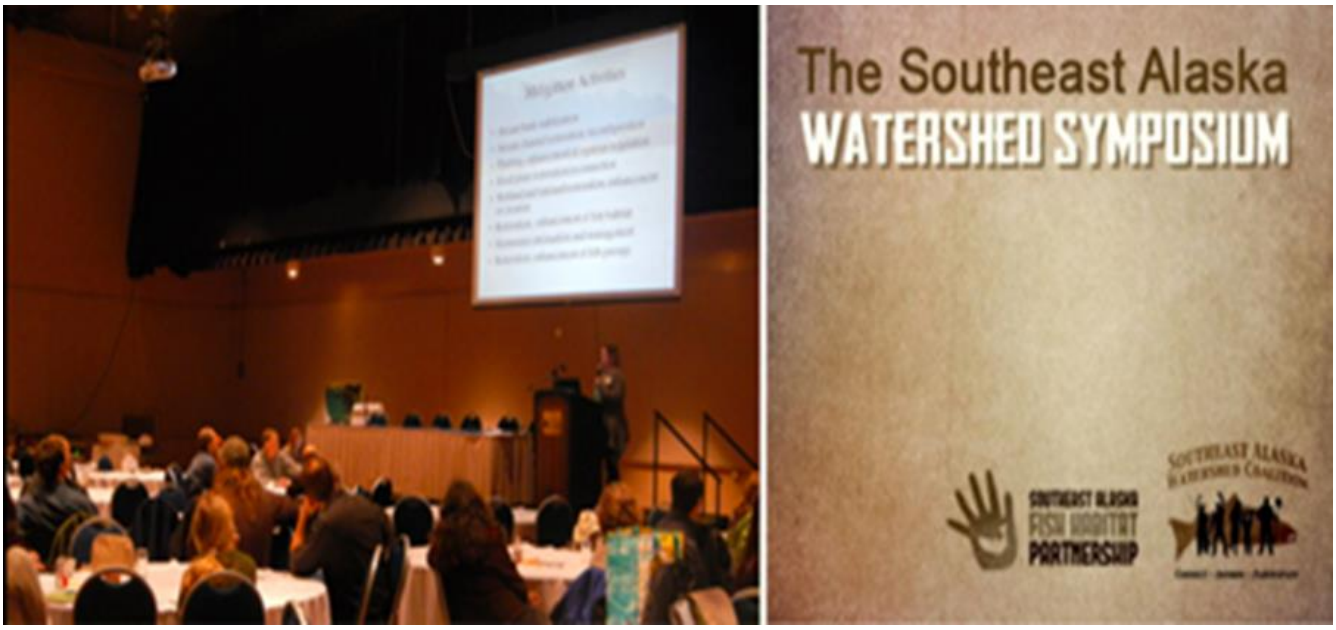
SEAKFHP supports this national call to action. Newly recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board, SEAKFHP closely follows the developmental goals and objectives of NFHAP and works to leverage fish habitat assets and conservation efforts in Southeast Alaska. Our partnership adds greatly to the efforts initiated under NFHAP as our unique geographic area and fish resources (see Appendix 1 for a list of common finfish species) serve as a reservoir of diversity and abundance affording benefits locally, regionally, and nationally.

BENEFITS OF REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

A fish habitat partnership in Southeast Alaska can build upon previous regional efforts and increase benefits as partners come together to **share resources**, **raise collective awareness** and **work collaboratively** to improve fish habitat conservation efforts[21] in the region. Through the actions and services available under the collaborative umbrella of the SEAKFHP, our partners seek a framework for improved information sharing, funding coordination and partner cooperation. Anticipated benefits include:

- Improved partner and stakeholder coordination, including communication of priorities and management directions.
- Improved public awareness regarding the value of habitat protection, management and restoration.
- Improved understanding of regulatory processes that effect fish and their habitat.
- Improved funding opportunities.
- Improved planning and implementation of on-the-ground projects that lead to maintaining and improving habitats.

[21] (Photo Insert - An ADF&G biologist captures fish passage criteria data for a culvert on a small stream on Prince of Wales Island, Southeast Alaska (Jeff Nichols, ADF&G, May 2011).



PARTNERSHIP FUNCTIONS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The SEAKFHP Steering Committee recognized initial focus of the partnership would be on habitat-related issues, organizational development needs of an early forming partnership and a provision of services[22] to regional stakeholders. It is anticipated this early strategic focus will provide the greatest benefits to targeted aquatic resources and key habitat areas in Southeast Alaska as well as to SEAKFHP partners and stakeholders who share desired outcomes of thriving fish populations, healthy habitats and vibrant communities across the region. As such, four strategic operational priorities, termed **core functions** of the partnership were identified and are detailed throughout the plan.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

- Support fish habitat *conservation actions* across Southeast Alaska.
- Provide *services to partners* that foster regional cooperation and understanding that result in improved on-the-ground conservation efforts across Southeast Alaska;
- Grow *diversity and capacity* of the SEAKFHP by linking natural resource science and management with regional interests, local and traditional values and community needs; and
- Build *organizational strength & perseverance* of the SEAKFHP for long-term sustainability and functionality.

[22] Photo Insert – 2013 Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium, a co-hosted event sponsored by SEAKFHP November 4-6, 2014.

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

SEAKFHP's Strategic Action Plan provides guidance for SEAKFHP partners and others to pursue **organizational**, **partner service**, and **conservation strategies**, referenced as '**Partnership Strategies'**, which directly contribute to meeting the partnership's mission and to reaching shared conservation goals in the region.

Guidance identified in the plan instills stakeholder and community ownership and encourages partners in the region to focus on the highest priorities and conduct conservation activities with the best methodologies and protocols.

Some strategies recommend coordination and interagency participation, but in no way bind affected agencies or partners to implement these strategies or infer any loss or relinquishing of mandated or delegated authority.

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

I. Organizational Development Strategy

- Partnership Growth and Diversity
- Partnership Strength and Perseverance

II. Partner Services Strategy

- Interagency communication and coordination
- Regional habitat protection/restoration prioritization
- Regional data/resource facilitator
- Project funding provider

III. Regional Conservation Strategy

- Science and Data
- Intact and Healthy Waters
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Connectivity
- Restoration

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

SEAKFHP is in its early formation and will be so over the next 3 years. During this time it is important for the partnership to gain a broad and diverse partner base that represents the identity of the region. Founding partners represent agency and broad land management interests in the region but geographic isolation[23] and strong cultural and user interests around fish habitat conservation issues in Southeast Alaska suggest that a stronger stakeholder base is needed within the partnership to be truly successful in meeting long-term conservation goals. Additionally, programmatic funds and in-kind resources have been pieced together to bring this partnership together, mostly as a result of strong founding partner commitment and leveraged resources. To continue the success of initial formation, SEAKFHP needs to secure a designated source of funding for continued operation. The following strategies are intended to grow the partnership, expand its diversity to represent a majority of landowners and stakeholders in the region (including subsistence, commercial, and sport, fishery user groups and industry partners), and obtain fiscal security to maintain its strength and perseverance.

[23] Photo Insert – this photo captures some of the isolation that abounds in Southeast Alaska. Quiet streams and tributaries provide important fish habitat for a variety of freshwater and anadromous fish species (Jeff Nichols, ADF&G, July, 2004: Ford Arm Creek, Chichagof Island).

PARTNERSHIP GROWTH AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY

Objective A1.1: Ensure composition of the SEAKFHP represents landowners and stakeholders of Southeast Alaska.

Action A1.1-1. By 2015 identify broad stakeholder networks in Southeast Alaska.

- Support regional efforts by the Southeast Alaska Watershed Council (SAWC) and the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC) to identify applicable stakeholder networks.
- Support regional efforts to develop local and regional stakeholder directories.

Action A1.1-2. Recruit and retain regional partners and by 2016 achieve partner representation across the geographic scope of partnership and within identified stakeholder networks.

- Assess stakeholder gaps in partnership participation.
- Identify other collaboratives working in Southeast Alaska and ensure the partnership does not duplicate services or actions, thereby maximizing the benefits and value of the partnership to the region.
- Identify nearshore and marine interested stakeholders in the region that may help elevate the importance of these habitats and strengthen the focus of the partnership on issues of importance in the marine environment.
- As a result of the above, develop and implement a partnership outreach strategy.

Action A1.1-3. Regularly inform the public on the composition and activities of the SEAKFHP.

- Communicate partnership composition on the SEAKFHP website and in bi-annual newsletters of the partnership.
- Quarterly collect and share stories or accomplishments of SEAKFHP partners.

Objective A1.2: Provide support to SEAKFHP Steering Committee, SEAKFHP Coordinator and all established SEAKFHP sub-committees to attain partnership vision and goals.

Action A1.2-1. Maintain actively involved SEAKFHP Steering Committee that represents the diversity of SEAKFHP Partner members.

- Provide board training for SEAKFHP Steering Committee members.
- Conduct annual SEAKFHP Steering Committee review process to engage members in activities of the partnership and make improvements to the organizational operations of the partnership.

Action A1.2-2. Recruit, provide training, and retain a SEAKFHP Coordinator as needed and funding allows.

- Conduct annual SEAKFHP Coordinator performance evaluation process.

Action A1.2-3. Establish SEAKFHP sub-committees as needed to advance the mission and goals of the partnership.

- Develop and maintain an organizational framework document that clearly articulates the expectations of the SEAKFHP sub-committees.
- Provide board training for SEAKFHP sub -committee members.

PARTNERSHIP STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE STRATEGY

Objective A2.1: Ensure sufficient funding resources to meet SEAKFHP mission and strategic priorities.

Action A2.1-1. During 2014 develop a SEAKFHP Business Plan and thereafter annually develop SEAKFHP Annual Work Plans that include operational budget plans.

Action A2.1-2. By 2015 secure regional funding opportunities through existing national (NFHP, NOAA, USFS, NFWF, etc.), regional (AKSSF and Northern Fund), and local granting programs to support the operational costs of the partnership.

- Foster standing cooperative agreements through federal/state agencies to support efforts of the partnership.
- Identify corporate partners that are interested in providing financial support to the partnership.
- Leverage partner assets to ensure SEAKFHP Committee members and Coordinator have appropriate communication tools, technology and equipment, meeting space and other available funding to support SEAKFHP mission and goals.

Objective A2.2: Ensure partnership has sufficient management systems and structures in place to meet SEAKFHP mission and strategic priorities.

Action A2.2-1. By 2015 Work with partner affiliates such as the University of Alaska GIS Library[24], ACRC and others to identify and implement shared infrastructure resources for science and data needs of the partnership; include NFHP Science and Data Committee with these investigations.

Action 2.2-2. By 2016 work with agency partners to identify data management systems and structures the partnership can leverage in advancing shared conservation strategies.

Objective A2.3: Promote strong constituent relationships in Southeast Alaska, regionally and nationally, for broad support of the partnership.

Action A2.3-1. Regularly communicate with municipal, regional and legislative entities, adjacent FHPs, and others to share accomplishments of the partnership and elevate conservation needs in the region.

Action A2.3-2. Annually host broad public outreach events to share accomplishments of the partnership and identify fiscal needs of conservation efforts in the region.

[24] Photo Insert – screen shot taken from the UAS GIS Library Home page, www. http://seakgis.alaska.edu/.

PARTNER SERVICE STRATEGY

Early strategic planning efforts signaled the need for a regional entity that could facilitate coordination and communication among aquatic resource agencies and interested stakeholders across Southeast. As a result, a core function of the SEAKFHP is to provide direct and tangible services to SEAKFHP partners and regional stakeholders. Examples of desired services include focused communication on central fish habitat conservation topics of habitat assessment, prioritization, and restoration practices, facilitation of regional funding opportunities and coordination support for successful regional project proposal submittals, including a process for providing broad regional project review and endorsement. Additionally, the SEAKFHP can serve as a regional data and resource archive through its website and affiliated member sites. Last, if formally recognized by the NFHP Board, and as funding becomes available, serve as a direct project funding provider through the USFWS and/or other fiscal sponsors. The following objectives and actions outline these anticipated services in greater detail and provide guidance to regional stakeholders on services available by the SEAKFHP.

Communication and Coordination

Objective B1: Facilitate communication and interagency coordination of fish habitat conservation activities among natural resource practitioners and stakeholders in Southeast Alaska.

Action B1-1. Annually coordinate regional meetings and events that increase the awareness and coordination of regional assessment, protection and restoration methodologies, prioritizations and activities.

- Annually host or co-host fish habitat conservation symposium and/or thematic workshops.
- Identify, aggregate and archive regional assessments, prioritization methodologies and other applicable information on the SEAKFHP website.
- Facilitate and/or support fish passage interagency coordination meetings.

Action B1-2. By 2015 create a SEAKFHP communication/outreach committee comprised of diverse partner members.

- Facilitate regional dialogs on projects of interest, such as elevating awareness and understanding of habitat permitting processes, raising awareness for the role wetlands plays for protecting water quality in streams, communicating advancements in watershed restoration monitoring, and raising public support for regional restoration practices.
- Produce communications through various media to raise awareness of fish habitat conservation efforts occurring across Southeast Alaska, including the value restoration projects provide the region.

Action B1-3. By 2015 produce a summary document that outlines current regional assessment, protection and restoration methodologies in practice in Southeast Alaska.

Objective B2: Provide regional fish habitat conservation funding awareness and project proposal coordination opportunities.

Action B2-1. By 2015 develop a clearinghouse for regional funding opportunities for fish habitat conservation efforts and make available on the SEAKFHP website.

Action B2-2. Regularly facilitate regional dialogs and webinars on applicable funding programs (e.g. AKSSF, NF, NOAA, USFS, ACWA).

Action B2-3. By 2015 provide a SEAKFHP project endorsement process and posted timeline for facilitation of SEAKFHP reviews on project proposals.

Regional Data/Resource Facilitator

Objective B3: Serve as regional data/resource facilitator.

Action B3-1. Maintain an active website[25] with robust archive of fish habitat conservation information for Southeast Alaska.

Action B3-2. By 2016 facilitate the long-term maintenance of a data repository to hold historical and relevant agency and partner aquatic resource information for Southeast Alaska (fish habitat assessments, methodologies, publications, etc.).

Action B3-3. Regularly coordinate with the NFHP Science and Data Committee on updates relevant to data resources available for Southeast Alaska as needed for the National Fish Habitat Assessment.

Project Funding Provider

Objective B4: Serve as a regional on-the-ground project funding provider.

Action B4-1. Develop an action plan for the SEAKFHP that outlines steps to develop needed funding resources that would enable the partnership the opportunity to become a viable regional fish habitat project funding provider.

- Work with the National Fish Habitat Partnership framework to secure on-the-ground project funding.
- Work with regional and local entities like the Juneau Economic Development Council and other SEAKFHP partners for securing on-the-ground project funding.

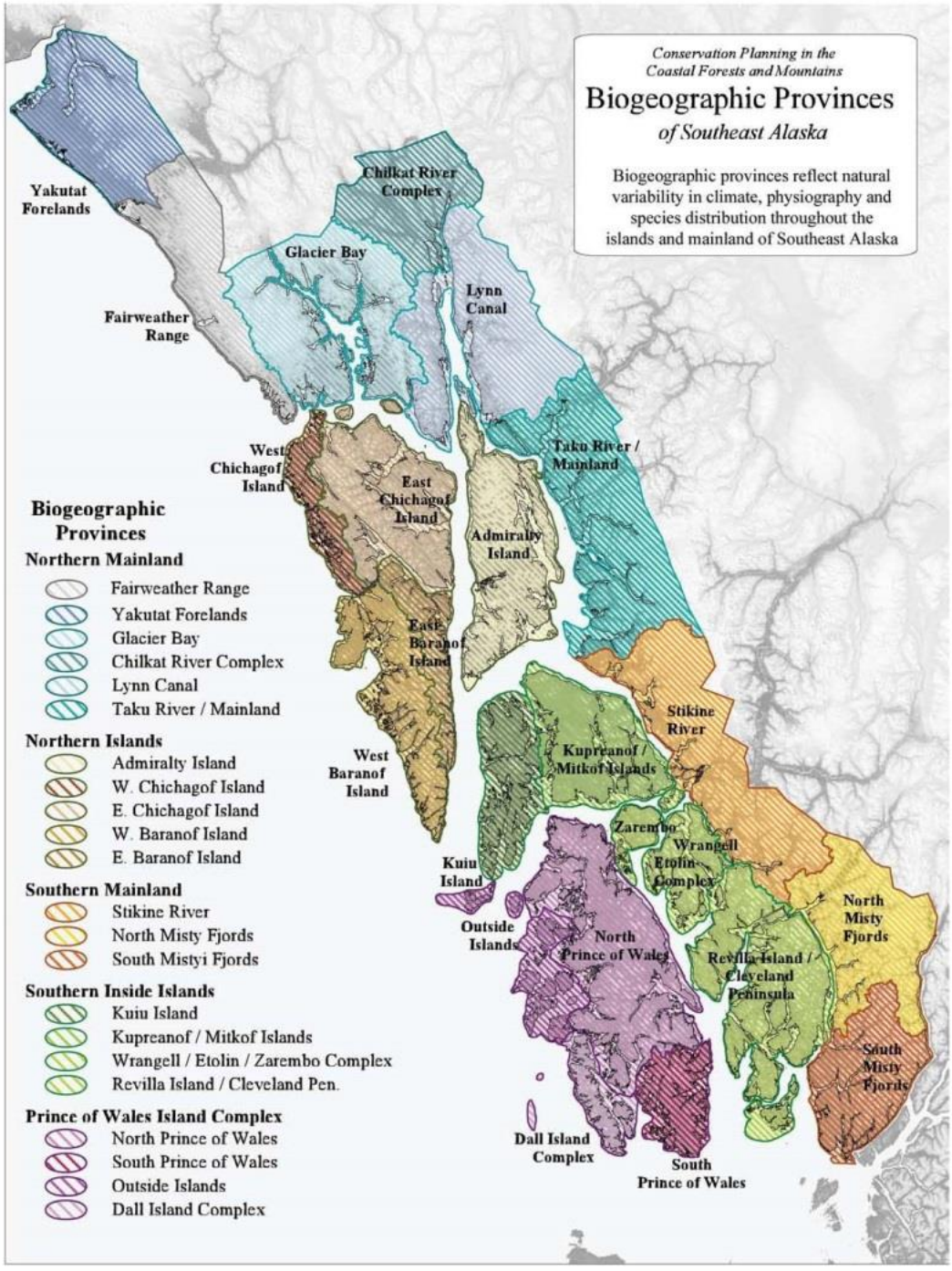
Action B4-2. Develop request for proposal and evaluation criteria processes and materials the SEAKFHP can use to distribute on-the-ground project funding to potential proposers.

[25] Photo Insert – SEAKFHP website home page (www.seakfhp.org).

CONSERVATION STRATEGY:

The **conservation strategy** embraced by the SEAKFHP focuses on three broad conservation goals and includes objectives and action steps the partnership will engage in to address each goal. These **conservation goals** are:

- **Protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore/marine areas in Southeast Alaska,**
- **Maintain water quality and quantity in those areas, and**
- **Restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas.**



SEAKFHP's conservation strategy was developed with consideration of nationwide strategies developed through NFHP and thorough review of existing strategies used by federal and state agencies and other entities working directly on fish habitat conservation in Southeast. Close attention was given to two specific regionally-based conservation strategies: 1) Chapter 10 of the *Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest – titled: Southeastern Alaska Conservation Strategy: A Conceptual Approach*[26], and 2) the

[26] Schoen, J. and D. Albert. 2007. "Southeastern Alaska Conservation Strategy: A Conceptual Approach." In The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin, Chap. 10. Anchorage, AK: Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy. (Photo credit: Figure 2, Chapter 2)

Sustainable Salmon Strategy for Southeast Alaska[27], developed as an interagency strategy to develop priorities for the Sustainable Salmon Fund.

In addition, the partnership's conservation strategy was developed as a result of pre-work performed by members of the SEAKFHP Steering Committee and other interested regional stakeholders through the use of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and initial elements of a Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process. As part of these efforts a list of regional risks to fish habitat and associated stressors were identified and are included in Appendix 2.

Broad regional review, greater partner awareness of the biogeographic provinces[28] of Southeast Alaska adopted by the USFS, TNC and other SEAKFHP partners may serve as a backdrop for future geographic prioritization, and further investment in the CAP process will guide and refine this strategy in the future.

GOAL C1: PROTECT FISH HABITAT IN FRESHWATER SYSTEMS, ESTUARIES AND NEARSHORE/MARINE AREAS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA.

Objective C1-1. Foster regional support necessary to maintain and expand the existing conservation reserve network to include additional intact watersheds throughout Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest.

- **Action C1-1.1.** Elevate assessment work and conservation strategy recommendations completed as part of *The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest*, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin[29], (example: encourage this work be considered as part of the 2015 revision to the State of Alaska Wildlife Action Plan[30], due for revision in 2015).
- **Action C1-1.2.** Support regional discussions that consider establishing additional critical habitat areas surrounding state lands and waters that include high-value and/or sensitive fish and wildlife habitats.
- **Action C1-1.3.** In 2014, facilitate regional discussions to raise awareness and understanding of current habitat protection initiatives such as the Tongass 77 initiative sponsored by Trout Unlimited.

Objective C1-2. Foster regional support to ensure that additional anadromous fish habitat in Southeast Alaska is included in the Anadromous Waters Catalog and thus is eligible for basic

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[27] Skilbred, Amy, editor. 2003. Sustainable Salmon Strategy for Southeast Alaska – 2002: An Interagency Strategy to Determine Priorities for Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds and Other Initiatives. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 03-07, Anchorage.

[28] Schoen, J. and D. Albert. 2007. "Southeastern Alaska Conservation Strategy: A Conceptual Approach." In The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin, Chap. 2, Figure 2. Anchorage, AK: Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy.

[29] Schoen, J. and D. Albert. 2007. "Southeastern Alaska Conservation Strategy: A Conceptual Approach." In The Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeastern Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, edited by J. Schoen and E. Dovichin, chap. 10. Anchorage, AK: Audubon Alaska and The Nature Conservancy.

[30] Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2006. Our Wealth Maintained: A Strategy for Conserving Alaska's Diverse Wildlife and Fish Resources. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska. Xviii+824p.

protections afforded under state law.

- **Action C1-2.1.** Foster regional support for projects that can improve upon the identification of waters important for salmon and result in additions to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Objective C1-3. Support coordination and collaboration efforts directed at the prevention, early detection, response, and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS)[31] in Southeast Alaska.

- **Action C1-3.1.** Foster activities that complement invasive species programs administered by ADF&G, USFWS, NOAA-NMFS, and implemented on smaller scales by local and tribal government or non-government entities.
- **Action C1-3.2.** Encourage and assist with current and future pathway analyses that identify vectors contributing to the introduction and spread of AIS in Southeast .
- **Action C1-3.3.** Identify target audience and increase public awareness about the species and pathways of concern, and impacts imposed by AIS through education and outreach efforts with objective to change human behaviors and increase reportage of AIS sightings.

Objective C1-4. Facilitate regional support and funding for evaluation of potential effects to fish and their habitats from development projects in transboundary watersheds. For example, this issue is particularly significant for transboundary development projects (e.g., Canadian mining projects upstream of the Alaskan border) that may not require State of Alaska or Federal permits, but in which the State and Southeast Alaska communities have a significant habitat protection interest.

- **Action C1-4.1.** By 2015 foster awareness of transboundary river development projects proposed adjacent to Southeast Alaska and support regional discussions on potential impacts to fish habitats.
- **Action C1-4.2.** By 2016 encourage regional support for a technical panel to oversee review of transboundary river development projects proposed adjacent to Southeast Alaska.
- **Action C1-4.3.** Support funding opportunities for baseline evaluation of potential effects for transboundary development projects.

Objective C1-5. Support regional discussions and projects that promote research and monitoring in the marine environment.

- **Action C1-5.1.** Elevate the Conservation Action Planning work completed by TNC for estuarine

[31] Photo Insert - *Didemnum vexillum* (*D. vexillum*) is a marine colonial tunicate, and an invasive fouling species with rapid growth and mat-forming capabilities that colonizes and dominates artificial and natural hard substrata. It occurs in a wide range of marine habitats worldwide with potential significant conservation and economic consequences through the alteration of marine habitats and impacts to mariculture and fisheries. D. vexillum has been found in Whiting Harbor in Sitka, Alaska. (Meuret-Woody, ADF&G).

ecosystems[32] in Southeast Alaska.

- **Action C1-5.2** By 2016 develop key objectives and actions the partnership can adopt to advance regional support for research and monitoring in the marine environment.

GOAL C2: MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN FRESHWATER SYSTEMS, ESTUARIES, AND NEARSHORE/MARINE AREAS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA.

Objective C2-1. Increase regional support for baseline and water quality monitoring programs to track and manage changes across Southeast Alaska.

- **Action C2-1.1.** In 2014, request SEAKFHP Science and Data Committee review water quality monitoring efforts across Southeast Alaska and assess the need for a regional water quality monitoring approach. (Example: Review Cook Inlet Keeper's Stream Temperature Monitoring Network: Water Temperature Data Logger Protocol for Cook Inlet Salmon Streams and the Citizen's Environmental Monitoring Program to see if a similar program is applicable to Southeast; Review the National Park Service Southeast Alaska Monitoring Network
- **Action C2-1.2.** Work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through the Alaska Clean Water Actions program and with other SEAKFHP partners to promote development of a long-term water quality monitoring and tracking program for Southeast Alaska.
- **Action C2-1.3.** Facilitate regional support for monitoring stream temperatures at key locations across Southeast Alaska

Objective C2-2. Foster regional support of projects that quantify flow requirements for life stages of salmonid species and secure reservations of water on important salmon- and steelhead-producing[33] systems.

- **Action C2-2.1.** Support regional projects that provide for the preparation and adjudication of Reservation of Water for instream use applications including the collection of water quantity and quality data to obtain five years of record.

GOAL C3: RESTORE AND ENHANCE FRAGMENTED AND DEGRADED FISH HABITATS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA.

Objective C3-1. Foster activities that protect and restore fish habitat connectivity at road/stream crossings in Southeast Alaska.

- **Action C3-1.1.** Support interagency cooperation to improve fish habitat connectivity.
    - Support interagency cooperative agreements related to fish passage.
    - Encourage adoption of fish passage design guidelines among agencies.

[32] Baker, L., K. V. Koski, D. Albert, and N. Cohen. 2011. A conservation action plan for estuarine ecosystems of Southeast Alaska. The Nature Conservancy.

[33] Photo Insert - An ADF&G biologist performs a snorkel survey to enumerate adult steelhead on a stream on Chichagof Island, Southeast Alaska (Jeff Nichols, ADF&G, May 2006).

- Encourage interagency guidance and cooperation for fish friendly ORV road-stream crossing structure design and evaluation.
- Support adoption of USFS upstream fish habitat assessment protocol to state and private land road-stream crossings to prioritize crossings for remediation.
- Support alignment of regional fish passage restoration prioritization efforts.

- **Action C3-1.2.** Encourage and support completion of fish passage barrier inventory on ADOT road/stream crossings.
- **Action C3-1.3.** Support development and elevate awareness of interagency fish passage inventory mapper and database.
- **Action C3-1.4.** By 2016, convene fish passage remediation workshop.

Objective C3-2. Foster activities that restore and enhance fish habitat function and complexity and informs future restoration activities through adaptive management.

- **Action C3-2.1.** Support development and dissemination of reference watershed condition data that informs establishment of quantitative restoration and enhancement objectives.
- **Action C3-2-2.** Coordinate and participate in the review and analysis of effectiveness of on-going mitigation and restoration projects to identify opportunities for improved implementation.
- **Action C3-2-3.** Support fish habitat utilization response to bank stabilization techniques (e.g. rip rap, large woody debris placements).
- **Action C3-2-4.** Support development of fish habitat response monitoring protocols for in-stream restoration/enhancement activities.
- **Action C3-2-5.** Evaluate efficacy of fish production response models/tools/protocols for in-stream restoration/enhancement activities.
- **Action C3-2-6.** By 2016, convene regional restoration symposium to share projects, innovations, and outcomes.

Objective C3-3. Foster and support research that informs future restoration activities.

- **Action C3-3.1.** Support research studies that examine effects of partial fish passage on salmon movements.
- **Action C3-3.2.** Support research studies that characterize salmon movement within watersheds to inform and improve fish passage models and structure design.
- **Action C3-3.3** Support research studies that provision other restoration needs in the region or target other salmonid species such as trout[34].

[34] Photo Insert – Cutthroat trout caught in Sitkoh Creek on Chichagof Island, Southeast Alaska (Roger Harding, ADF&G)

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

BOUNDARIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The geographic scope of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (Figure 1) encompasses the lands, freshwaters, estuaries, marine ecosystems and communities of Southeast Alaska. For the purposes of the partnership, Southeast Alaska is defined as extending from Dixon Entrance at the South, to Cape Suckling in the North, eastward to the U.S. border, and includes all associated lands, freshwater and marine waters in between; a distance of about 525 miles consisting mostly of a narrow 120 mile strip of land and mountains on the mainland and over a thousand islands – collectively known as the Alexander Archipelago.

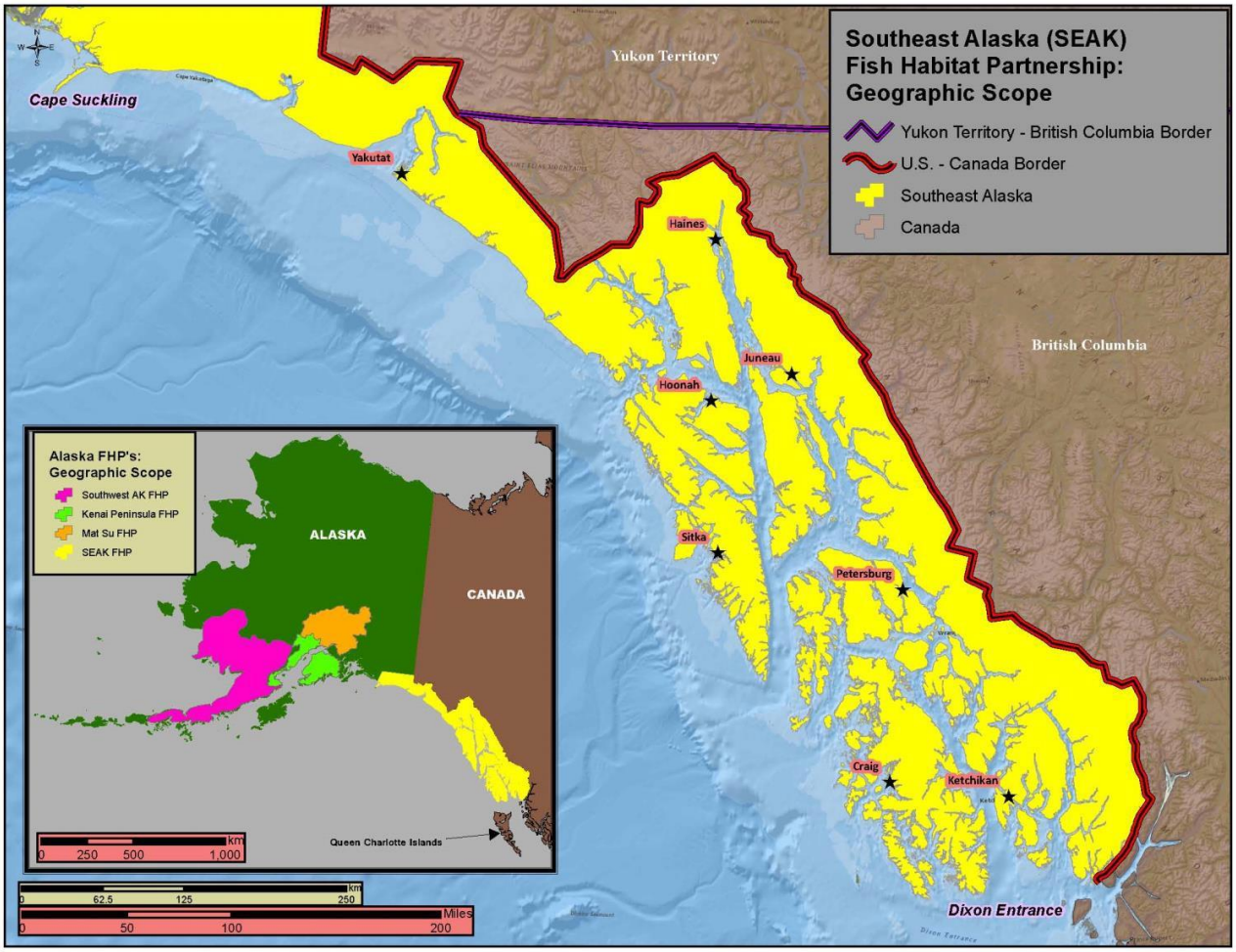

FIGURE 1. Geographic scope of the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

This region, as defined by our boundaries, encompasses nearly 45,000 mi^2, including nearly 12,000 mi^2 of marine waters, and a shoreline length in excess of 16,000 miles. Freshwater habitats abound in the area, including over 20,000 freshwater lakes and ponds covering nearly 400 mi^2 in area, and countless streams and rivers in excess of 35,000 miles of fluvial habitat. The region is defined by rainforests, glacial fiords, myriad rivers and streams, estuaries, mountains, and glaciers and ranks as one of the largest, most complex, and intact estuarine and temperate rainforest systems on earth.

JURISDICTIONAL INTERESTS AND LAND OWNERSHIP

Southeast Alaska and the Alexander Archipelago encompass the majority of the North American coastal temperate rainforest that extends from Northern California in the south, through British Columbia (B.C.), and north and westward to Prince William Sound. Southeast Alaska, in its entirety, is commonly equated with coastal temperate rainforest; political boundaries (e.g., U.S./B.C. border) and significant geographic features (Dixon Entrance, Cape Suckling) provide further distinction associated with this global ecoregion. These facts were taken into consideration during initial strategic planning activities as we strived to identify the geographic scope of the partnership.

Our partner agency and stakeholder jurisdictional extent is constrained by state or country boundaries (or finer scale, i.e. municipalities) and therefore limiting the eastward and southward limit to the U.S./B.C. boundary was a logical option. The fact that the largest mainland watersheds in Southeast Alaska originate in B.C. or Yukon Territories was given considerable attention, but ultimately we felt our proposed boundary represented a balance between ecological, logistical, and jurisdictional issues that would promote effective regional prioritization of fish habitat needs.

The most significant landowner within Southeast Alaska is the USFS Tongass National Forest. The Tongass National Forest is the nation's largest national forest and encompasses the vast majority of the Southeast Alaska landscape and geographic focus of this partnership. Other significant landowners include the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Alaska, and regional and local Alaska Native Corporations. A map displaying major land holdings is provided in Figure 2.

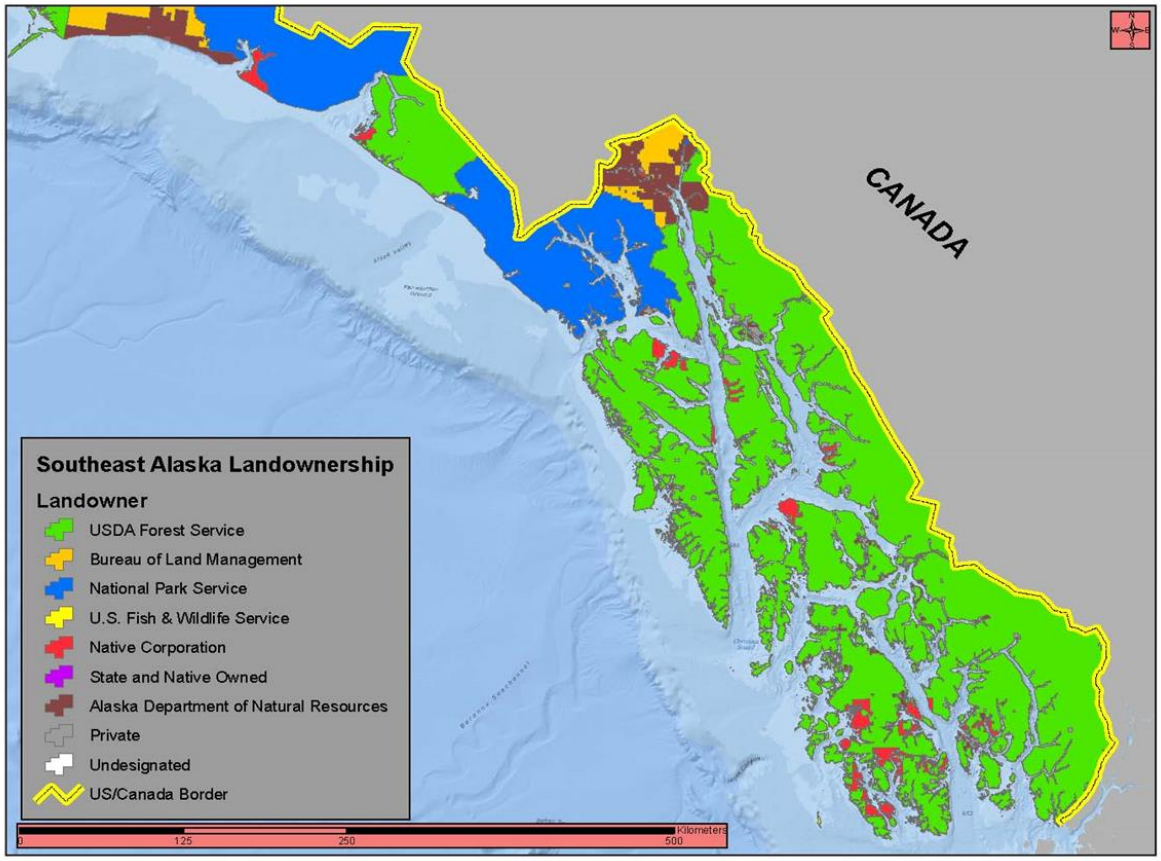

FIGURE 2. Significant landownership in Southeast Alaska

ADJACENT AND OVERLAPPING FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS

The North American Salmon Stronghold (NASSP) candidate Partnership and one recognized partnership, (Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI)), include Southeast Alaska as part of their geographic area. NASSP's current focus is on large salmon watersheds, conservation of genetically distinct wild stocks, and salmon harvest management. Although salmon is an important species in Southeast Alaska, the region does not appear to be a focal area for NASSP at this time. WNTI's focus is limited to trout species, specifically excluding salmon. Thus, while there are overlaps between WNTI's areas of salmonid conservation interest and those of the SEAKFHP, WNTI's scope is more limited than the multi-species, watershed-to-estuary approach SEAKFHP envisions pursuing. SEAKFHP maintains close relationships with three existing Alaska-based 'recognized' Partnerships (Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, and Southwest) and the newly recognized Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP). Additionally, SEAKFHP participates with other coastal FHPs on the newly formed collaborative Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. Thus, focus areas, species limitations and geographic scope of other active FHP efforts in and adjacent to Southeast Alaska have prompted formation of the SEAKFHP as a necessary new partnership to help conserve fish habitat in this region.

Southeast Alaska's freshwater and marine ecosystems are intricate and relatively intact making this one of the most complex and productive ecoregions in the world. Estuaries and nearshore marine habitats function as critical transitional habitat for juvenile and adult anadromous fish during their migration as well as spawning and nursery area for many species of marine fish and invertebrates. Roughly 41,000 miles of anadromous streams contribute to the region's abundance of salmon. However, habitat alteration has occurred and with forecasts for increased development and climate change, there is need to ensure freshwater and marine habitats remain healthy to sustain these world-class resources. Southeast Alaska is a national treasure and serves as a reservoir for diversity and abundance of fish resources for the nation. Figure 3 helps to provide a context for the landscape coverage of the SEAKFHP and other Alaska-based partnerships.

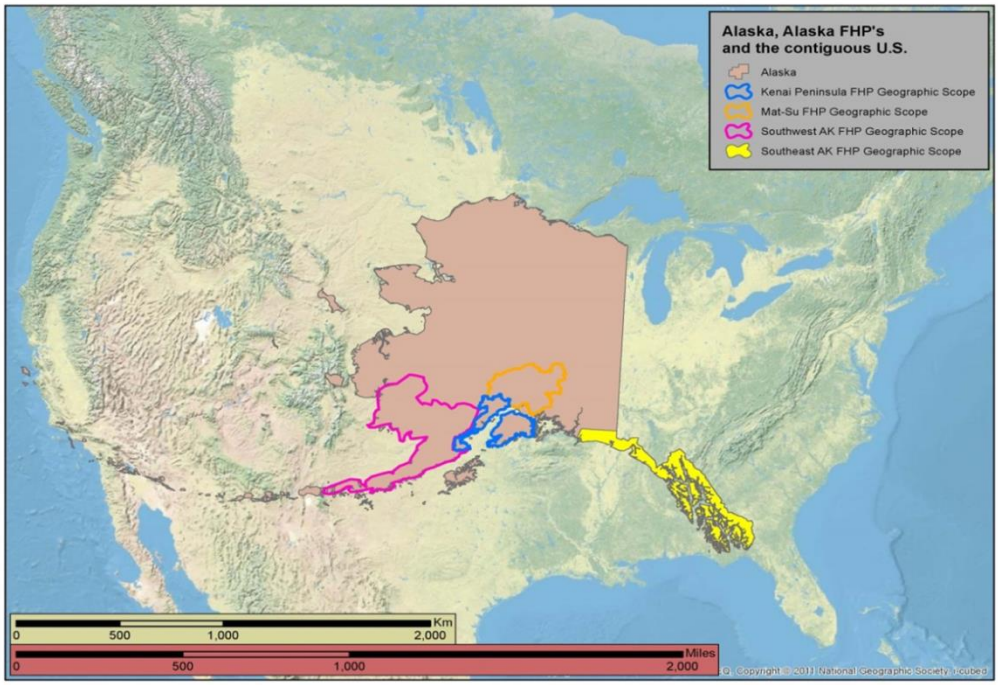

FIGURE 3. Alaska and Alaska based fish habitat partnerships set across the U.S. continental landscape.

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

EMERGING AND APPLYING FOR CANDIDACY 2010-2011

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership formed through local working group efforts initiated in 2010. Representatives from Trout Unlimited (TU), TNC, NOAA, USFWS, USFS, and ADF&G met several times in 2010 to discuss the efficacy of forming a fish habitat partnership (FHP) for Southeast Alaska. The partnership concept was not new to the region; however, previous efforts had lost momentum over the years and the success of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) was beginning to resonate, spurring renewed interest among representatives from these organizations as they came together and initiated broader discussions. Following a Session on "Fish Habitat Partnerships in Alaska" at the Alaska Chapter American Fisheries Society meeting in Juneau in November of 2010, about 40 people representing a variety of NGOs and agency interests gathered for a luncheon to discuss fish habitat issues. The attendees voiced broad support for a Southeast Alaska FHP to coordinate fish habitat conservation efforts in the region and they recommended that a letter be submitted to the National Fish Habitat Board requesting status as a Candidate FHP.

ESTABLISHING THE PARTNERSHIP 2012-2014

Shortly after receiving 'candidate' recognition from the National Fish Habitat Board in August of 2011, SEAKFHP successfully leveraged local funding sources through competitive application to the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. Matching funds were secured through TU. As a result more than $110,000 in combined support became available to support initial operational costs for the partnership including funding for a part-time coordinator. The SEAKFHP coordinator was hired in May of 2012 and within six months the partnership advanced its accomplishments through engaging additional partners[35], convening a steering committee and formalizing a governance structure, operational framework, active science and data committee and robust website.

Other important SEAKFHP accomplishments during this time period include progress on developing regional conservation strategies and providing key services to regional stakeholders such as the 2013 Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium. Since SEAKFHP has no formal project money to provide, the partnership made providing partner services to regional stakeholders a priority. Early on in its formation, partners recognized SEAKFHP could benefit the region, especially in its initial stages of development, through facilitating concentrated activities and events that would promote increased participation by stakeholders and improve regional communication and information sharing. Examples

[35] Additional partners of the early formation of the partnership include the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA), Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC), City and Borough of Yakutat and the Sitka Conservation Society (SCS). (Photo Insert – totem pole showcasing the vital role fish play in tribal communities across Southeast Alaska.)

of services provided include: coordination of regional teleconferences on key projects of interest and facilitated discussions regarding regional funding opportunities. Additionally, SEAKFHP convened a formal Science and Data Committee and made significant progress on identifying, aggregating and archiving regional assessment information for the region. SEAKFHP also endorsed two important regional projects during 2013, each of which received substantial stakeholder review as a result of the emerging SEAKFHP endorsement process.

In March of 2014, SEAKFHP presented its strategic plan to the National Fish Habitat Board and by unanimous consent the Board approved SEAKFHP as the 19th National Fish Habitat Partnership.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

SEAKFHP represents the broad range of landowners and jurisdictional authorities operating in Southeast Alaska including the diverse matrix of stakeholders who maintain an active interest in local fisheries and habitat conservation. Detailed governance and organizational operating procedures are available on the SEAKFHP website at: http://www.seakfhp.org/seakfhp-documents/

Steering Committee

An 11 member Steering Committee is the advisory body for the partnership. The Steering Committee is consistent in composition with the National Fish Habitat Board and is comprised of representatives of local, state, and federal governments, tribal entities, academia/conservation entities, and other organizations interested in fish habitat conservation.

2012 -2014: Steering Committee (terms noted)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Neil Stichert; Chair (dedicated seat, chair term 2013-2014)
- NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Cindy Hartmann Moore (dedicated seat)
- USFS's Tongass National Forest, Sheila Jacobson (dedicated seat)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Roger Harding (dedicated seat)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Brock Tabor (dedicated seat)
- Trout Unlimited, Mark Kaelke, Vice-Chair (seat term 2013-2015, chair term 2013-2015)
- The Nature Conservancy, Norman Cohen (seat term 2013-2014)
- Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Jessica Kayser/Brad Ryan (dedicated seat)
- Tribal seat – Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Raymond Paddock (2013-1215)
- Municipal seat – City and Borough of Yakutat, Bill Lucey/ Rhonda Coston (2013-2014)
- At-large seat – Private Citizen, K Koski (term 2013-2014)

Standing Committees and Working Groups

Standing committees and working groups are established to implement goals of the partnership and its strategic action plan. SEAKFHP's **Science and Data Committee** provides scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals of the partnership in a scientifically sound and strategic manner. Cindy Hartmann Moore, NOAA and Jeff Nichols, ADF&G-Sport Fish Division, serve as co-chairs.

SEAKFHP Coordinator

Dependent upon available funds, a SEAKFHP Coordinator assists the Steering Committee in accomplishing goals and objectives of the Partnership. The coordinator provides primary staff support to the Steering Committee.

Appendix 1. Common finfish species found in Southeast Alaska.
(see Mecklenburg et al. 2002: Fishes of Alaska for listing of all fish species found in Alaska)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Capelin	*Mallotus villosus*
Eulachon	*Thaleichthys pacificus*
Crescent Gunnel	*Pholis laeta*
Pacific Halibut	*Hippoglossus stenolepis*
Pacific Herring	*Clupea pallasii*
Pacific Lamprey	*Lampetra tridentata*
Lingcod	*Ophiodon elongatus*
Atka Mackerel	*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*
Walleye Pollock	*Theragra chalcogramma*
Rockfish	
Black	*Sebastes melanops*
Yelloweye	*Sebastes ruberrimus*
Sablefish	*Anoplopoma fimbria*
Salmon	
Chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
Chum	*Oncorhynchus keta*
Coho	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*
Pink	*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*
Sockeye	*Oncorhynchus nerka*
Pacific Sand Lance	*Ammodytes hexapterus*
Smelt	
Longfin	*Spirinchus thaleichthys*
Rainbow	*Osmerus mordax*
Stickleback	
Ninespine	*Punaitius punaitius*
Threespine	*Gasterosteus aculeatus*
Trout	
Cutthroat	*Oncorhynchus clarkii*
Steelhead / Rainbow	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Trout-perch	*Percopsis omiscomaycus*
Dolly Varden	*Salvelinus malma*

Appendix 2. Recognized risks and associated stressors to fish in key habitat areas across Southeast Alaska identified as part of SEAKFHP's initial strategic planning effort, this list will be refined and used in future efforts to refine the partnership's conservation strategy.

Risks and associated stressors to fish habitat	Freshwater Headwaters	Freshwater Floodplains	Estuarine Ecosystems	Nearshore-Marine Ecosystems
Changing Environmental Conditions				
global climate change	X	X	X	X
ocean acidification			X	X
catastrophic events	X	X	X	X
tsunami debris			X	X
Habitat Loss				
urban/community development		X	X	X
shoreline dredge and fill			X	X
Loss of Habitat Connectivity and Complexity				
timber harvest and logging practices	X	X	X	X
energy development via hydro/tidal projects	X	X	X	X
road/stream crossings	X	X	X	
Degraded Water Quality and/or Quantity				
mining development	X	X	X	X
contaminated sites	X	X	X	X
marine vessel transportation contaminates			X	X
mixing zone contaminates	X	X	X	X
alteration of hydrology	X	X	?	?
Ecosystem Imbalance				
introduction and persistence of invasive species	X	X	X	X
algal blooms			X	X
Fishing Pressure	?	X	X	X
Mariculture, Aquaculture & Hatcheries	?	?	X	X

SEAKFHP PARTNERS

BECOME A PARTNER TOO

For more information on becoming a SEAKFHP Partner see our website at: www.seakfhp.org or contact our coordinator directly at coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org