



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting July 31 – August 2, 2024 Anchorage, AK Hosted by: Alaska Partners of NFHP

Clarion Inn & Suites 1110 W 8th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

Web Meeting Access (Via Microsoft Teams)

Meeting ID: 258 656 948 360 Passcode: agYxFc

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Time (AKDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
9:00 AM	 Welcome, Introductions, & Land Acknowledgement Desired Outcomes: Board action to approve agenda and June meeting summary. 	1	Chair Robert Boyles & All Attendees
9:20 AM	Welcome from Alaska Department of Fish and Game		Doug Vincent Lang (Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commissioner)
9:30 AM	 Congressional Designation of FHPs Board vote on designation packet to be transmitted to Congressional Committees of Jurisdiction. 	2	Stan Allen (NFHP Board Vice-Chair)
10:00 AM	 Non-federal Match Waiver for Native Hawaiians Board vote on sending a letter to the Secretary of the Interior requesting a waiver of the 1:1 non-federal match for projects conducted by Native Hawaiians. 		Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff)
10:20 AM	BREAK		
10:40 AM	Policy Committee Update Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of ACE Act Reauthorization and Policy Committee activities Board discussion on next steps with scientific and technical support	3	lan Nakayama (NFHP Policy Committe Chair)





11:00 AM	NFHP Action Plan 3.0 Update and Options Desired Outcomes: Board discussion of approach and timing for next Action Plan.		Alex McOwen & Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff)
11:30 AM	USFWS Update Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of USFWS FY 2025 budget outlook and upcoming FAC program strategic plan development.		Steve Guertin (NFHP Board Member) and David Miko (USFWS FAC Assistant Director)
12:00 PM	LUNCH (On Your Own)		
1:30 PM	The Alaska NFHP Story Desired Outcomes: • Board awareness of the work of the six FHP's that cover parts of Alaska.	4	AK FHP Coordinators and Key Partners
2:55 PM	BREAK		
3:10 PM	North Pacific Research Board Presentation Desired Outcomes: • Board awareness of the North Pacific Research Board mission and opportunities to engage with NFHP.		Lynn Palensky, MPA (NPRB Executive Director) or Matt Baker, PhD (NPRB Science Director)
3:25 PM	NFHP Interagency Operational Plan Update Desired Outcomes: • Board awareness of progress on IOP development.		Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff)
3:50 PM	 Science & Data Committee Update Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of National Fish Habitat Assessment progress. Board awareness of rollout plan for public- facing NFHP Project Tracking Dashboard and Dashboard demonstration. 	5	Gary Whelan, Daniel Wieferich, and Kate Sherman (NFHP Board Staff)
4:10 PM	Governance Committee Update Desired Outcomes: • Board to provide feedback on the draft Code of Conduct developed by the Committee.	6	Doug Austen (NFHP Governance Committe Chair)



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Agenda

Sam Rauch (NFHP

Board Member)

4:20 PM NOAA Fisheries Update

Desired Outcomes:

Board awareness of the FY24 NOAA-funded

NFHP projects.

4:30 PM Adjourn

5:00 - Happy Hour Hosted by Trout Unlimited @ King

7:00 PM **Street Brewery** (9050 King St, Anchorage, AK

99515)



Thursday, August 1, 2024

Clarion Inn & Suites 1110 W 8th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

Web Meeting Access (via Microsoft Teams)

Meeting ID: 248 490 327 582 Passcode: N2G7tz

Time (AKDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
9:00 AM	Welcome Back		Chair Robert Boyles
9:05 AM	 Alaska Tribal Interests in Fish Habitat Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of Tribal interests in Alaskan fish habitat and opportunities for engagement. 		Charlie Wright (Representative of Alaska Native Community)
9:40 AM	Bureau of Land Management Aquatics Program & NFHP Engagement Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of BLM's Aquatics Program and NFHP engagement.		Sharmila Jepson (Lead Fisheries Biologist, BLM)
10:10 AM	NFHP Webinar Follow-Up Desired Outcomes: • Board awareness of follow-up from Board members, staff, and others following Christopher's NFHP talks in December 2023 and webinar in May 2024.		Christopher Estes (NFHP Science & Data Committee Member)
10:30 AM	BREAK		
10:45 AM	 Upcoming NFHP Board Meeting Schedule Desired Outcomes: Board awareness of 2024 Board meeting schedule. Board discussion of potential 2025 meeting dates. 	7	Alex McOwen (NFHP Board Staff)
11:00 AM	Kenai Peninsula and Mat-Su FHP Field Trips Preview Desired Outcomes:	8	Jessica Speed (Mat Su Salmon Habitat Partnership Coordinator) & Ben



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Agenda

 Board awareness of field trips planned for August 1 afternoon and full day on August 2. Local experts will preview what Board members will see and who they will meet.

• **Board staff** to obtain a final headcount for August 2 field trip.

Meyer (Kenai Watershed Forum Water Quality Coordinator) or Trent Dodson (Kenai Watershed Forum, Executive Director)

12:00 PM Adjourn – Box lunch will be brought into the

meeting room at 11:30.

12:30 PM Depart Hotel for Mat-Su Basin Field Trip

**See Tab 9 for the Communications Committee update and Tab 10 for the Partnerships Committee update



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Summary June 17, 2024 (Virtual)

Web Meeting Access Meeting ID: 232 821 151 239 Passcode: v9dwTZ

Board Member Attendance:

	Last Name	First Name	June 17
1	Allen	Stan	×
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Booth	Austin	-
4	Boyles	Robert	Х
5	Carter	Julie	Х
6	Gilliland	Gene	-
7	Guertin	Steve	Х
8	Harper/Wilson/C	Rob/Josh/Kim	Х
9	Horton	Chris	-
10	Kinsinger	Anne	X
11	Kruse	Carter	Х
12	Leonard/Bevan	Mike/Connor	Х
13	Linnell	Karen	-
14	Micchiche	Peter	Х
15	Moore	Chris	Х
16	Moore	Bryan	X
17	Nakayama	lan	Х
18	O Keefe	John	X
19	Perry	Steve	X
20	Rauch/Robinson	Sam/Carrie	X
21	Ringia	Adam	Х
22	Rivers	Pat	-

Cor



National Fish Habitat Meeting Anchorage, AK Tab 1

23	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
24	Slager	Jake	-
25	Trushenski/Allen	Jesse/Stan	Х

*Requires 18 votes

Other Attendees (38):

- Todd Ewing
- Ryan Roberts
- Steve Krentz
- Gary Whelan
- Alex McOwen
- Jason Olive
- Will Duncan
- Lori Maloney

- Joe Nohner
- Alicia Marrs
- Moe Nelson
- Andrew Wilkins
- Mike Daigneault
- Jennifer Graves
- JD Davis
- 703 ph
- 240 ph

Tab

Time (EDT) Agenda Item

2:00 PM Welcome & Approvals

Desired Outcomes:

• **Board action** to approve agenda and spring meeting summary.

Chair Robert Boyles welcomed the Board members and noted that that we had a quorum after staff took attendance. The meeting agenda approved by consent as was the April 2024 Board meeting summary.

2:10 PM

2024 NFHP Board Meeting Schedule

2 NFHP Board Staff

Lead(s)

Chair Robert Boyles

Desired Outcomes:

- Board awareness of remaining 2024 Board meeting schedule.
- Board awareness of and provide feedback on 2025 meeting dates.

Alex McOwen noted the next Board meeting is in-person July 31 – August 2 in Anchorage, Alaska. A half day field trip planned for August 1 (Palmer, AK) and full day field trip planned on August 2 (Kenai Peninsula). The final Board meeting of 2024 is virtual meeting on October 2 from 1-4:30 PM ET.

The tentative 2025 meeting schedule will be:

- February/March (virtual)
- June (in-person) in NEAFWA or MAFWA

Desired Outcomes:

- September/October (virtual)
- December (in-person) in WAFWA

Jason Olive noted that we are also due to host another FHP workshop in 2025 so we will likely be planning a workshop attached to one of the 2025 in-person meetings. The staff noted they are open to specific meeting location suggestions. The exact timing of the 2025 meetings will be pinned down soon, once the staff gathers the other calendar happenings to avoid overlapping with other commitments.

3

2:15 PM **FY25 NFHP Project List**

Stan Allen & Bryan Moore



National Fish Habitat Meeting Anchorage, AK Tab 1

- Board awareness of project list summary, approval process, and timeline.
- Board vote on FY25 Fish Habitat Conservation Project list.

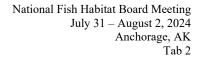
Stan Allen introduced the ACE Act requirements and Board responsibilities related to project funding. This recommendation requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of all Board members, or 18 members. The Board submits the approved project list to the Secretary of Interior for consideration by July 1, 2024. Stan thanked the 8 members of the review team and staff that assisted with this process. He noted that this year, more scoring weight was made available to rate the overall application and FHPs were allowed to request up to \$125K for operational funding. Otherwise, FHPs were scored based on hard and soft ACE Act criteria, their justification for operational funds, and the quality of their overall application. All FHPs will receive a report card after this call with their scores and Board reviewer comments.

For FY25, the Fish Habitat Conservation project proposal summary statistics are as follows:

- 127 projects (including 3 Board operations projects)
- Total request was \$9.2M, leveraging \$13M in federal funds, and matched by \$23M in non-federal funds (match ratio = 2.55)
- Board proposals add up to \$590K
- 5.43% of the estimated NFHP allocation (\$5.9M) are Tribal-led projects

Stan reminded the Board that we do not yet know how much FY25 funding we will have so we submit the whole list to Interior so we have flexibility once our appropriation is known. The Board was reminded that the Board has a budget for reimbursing Board members for Board meeting travel costs. Please contact Ryan Roberts if you're interested in travel funding support.

Motion by: John O Keefe, seconded by: Steve Perry, motion passes (with one abstention from the USFWS)





NFHP - FHP Congressional Designation Package

Desired Outcome: The NFHP Board votes in support of moving forward with the package of 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) seeking Congressional designation from Congress.

Background: As outlined in the ACE Act (PL116-188, Section 204), the Board may recommend to Congress the designation of FHPs. The ACE Act outlines specific criteria for designation (PL 116-188, Section 204(c)) and indicates existing FHPs may undergo review for designation no later than five years after enactment of the ACE Act (e.g. October 20, 2025).

Over the last year, existing FHPs seeking Congressional designation have developed their applications documenting how they fulfill all ACE Act FHP provisions. These applications were reviewed by a subset of Board members (*listed below*) and suggested revisions were provided. Final applications were compiled and reviewed by the subset of Board members and prepared for final review and vote by the full NFHP Board.

Board Member Congressional Designation Review Team:

- Stan Allen
- Bryan Moore
- Pat Rivers
- Julie Carter
- Carter Kruse
- Steve Perry
- Gary Whelan

Recommendation: We recommend the Board vote in favor of advancing a package of 20 FHPs seeking Congressional designation to the appropriate Congressional staff for the House Natural Resources and Senate Environment and Public Works Committees.

FHP Congressional Designation Sections of the ACE Act (PL 116-188)

16 USC 8204.

SEC. 204. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

- (a) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND.—The Board may recommend to Congress the designation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.
 - (b) Purposes.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

PUBLIC LAW 116-188—OCT. 30, 2020

134 STAT. 929

(1) to work with other regional habitat conservation pro- Coordination. grams to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitats;

(2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(5) to leverage funding from sources that support local

and regional partnerships;

(6) to use adaptive management principles, including Evaluation.

evaluation of project success and functionality;

(7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(8) to implement local and regional priority projects that

improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) Criteria for Designation.—An entity seeking to be designated by Congress as a Partnership shall-

(1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of

the Partnership and the Board; and

(G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

Evaluation. Assessment. Criteria.

Strategic plan.

Tab X Determination.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS.—The Board may recommend to Congress for designation an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) meets the criteria described in subsection (c)(2);

(2) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian Tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats

to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

- (3) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, and estuaries;
- (4) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision making;

(5) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(6) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decision making by the applicant;

(7) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(8) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

NFHP Scientific and Technical Support Summary and Request

History of NFHP Scientific and Technical Support

In the current version of the ACE Act (2021-2025) and its reauthorization Bill (2026-2030), \$400,000 is authorized for technical support across five federal agencies, totaling \$2 million. The agencies covered include the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Geological Survey (USGS), National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and US Forest Service (UFS). The Senate version of the reauthorization bill also includes an authorization for \$400,000 for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Notably, the USFWS is the sole agency actively requesting these funds in their annual appropriations. Each year since passage of the ACE Act, they have successfully secured the funds. However, to our knowledge, no other agency has requested these authorized funds, leaving approximately \$1.6 million potentially unallocated, which equates to 22% of congressionally authorized NFHP funding levels.

Strategy for Appropriations Request

The NFHP Policy Committee recognizes an opportunity to request scientific and technical support appropriations for FY 26. The committee proposes collaborating with federal agencies to submit a formal request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and advocate for inclusion in the President's budget.

Benefits of Requesting Appropriations:

- Federal agencies can utilize the funds to enhance scientific and technical support for NFHP.
- NFHP staff support for agencies can be funded.
- According to the ACE Act, technical and scientific assistance funds may be used to support
 partner implementation of Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs), creation and maintenance of
 habitat assessment tools and activities, FHP strategic planning, and the development (e.g.,
 design and permitting), implementation, monitoring and evaluation of fish habitat projects.
- Technical support funds can also be awarded to state agencies to support any of the actions mentioned above.
 - Currently, funding for Board operations and communications, the Science & Data Committee, the NFHP Project Tracking System, and the National Assessment are coming out of the funds appropriated for NFHP projects.

Limitations of Requesting Appropriations:

 We have heard from some agencies that they are already providing more than \$400,000 of support to NFHP and they wouldn't want to limit their support by requesting a specific amount of funding.

Desired Outcome:

- The Policy Committee would like a sense of whether or not we should proceed with the approach of collaborating with federal agencies to request science and technical support funds.
- Confirmation on the approach of how we are going to secure the funding

o Suggestions for next steps for engaging with the agencies

Title: Science and Data Committee Report

Desired Outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of progress on the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment (Assessment).
- **Board awareness** of the rollout plan for public facing Project Tracking Dashboard and Dashboard demonstration

2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment

Progress to date

- 5/8/23 to 12/31/2023. First contract provided for data preparation by AFWA. Michigan State University (Dr. Dana Infante) requested fish data from multiple states and updated fish database. Also, natural landscape factors and anthropogenic stressor variables were attributed to the spatial framework when updated or new source data were available. New variables including a representation of grazing land and timber harvest were included in the data system.
- 4/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 (On-going). Second contract for data preparation provided by AFWA. Michigan State University continues to attribute some of the fish data acquired previously to the spatial framework and is exploring some anthropogenic stressor variables for the conterminous US (e.g., USDA crop types). Before the end of the contract, we expect to begin evaluating datasets for Alaska, Hawaii, and/or Puerto Rico.
- Contract for full assessment analysis (On-going). MSU team is working with Jason Olive on the contract from FWS for \$175,000 to begin full analysis of compiled datasets. Contract dates are expected to run from 9/1/2024 through 8/31/2026.
- Submitted a Multistates Conservation Grant Proposal in June 2024 to fund Assessment work in coming years.

Planned Approach

- Assessment Year 1. 9/1/2024 through 8/31/2025. Michigan State University will use newly compiled stream fish assemblage data along with anthropogenic stressor variables to run threshold analyses and create sub-indices of disturbances. These should allow for development of preliminary assessment scores focusing on land use and stream network fragmentation within the year. Preliminary assessment results will be the focus of a report due in October 2025.
- Assessment Year 2. 9/1/2025 through 8/31/2026. Using the second year of funding (and additional expected support), Michigan State University expects to complete running all threshold analyses and generating subindices to characterize assessment scores.

Implementing information generated for stream flow data likely will be a *focus* this year. The Assessment Team expects to summarize fish habitat conditions or at least changes in fish habitat conditions since 2015 for Alaska and Hawaii, and possibly generating summaries for Puerto Rico.

• Assessment Year 3. 9/1/2026 through 8/31/2027. Work remains to be fully determined, but Michigan State University expects to focus on incorporating available mesohabitat data and analyses, finishing uncompleted assessment items, assisting FHPs in understanding and using assessment information, and fully sharing data and results in this year including developing web-based tools to display and easily share information.

Assessment Staff

The Michigan State University team under Dr. Dana Infante has recently hired a post-doctoral research associate with expertise in hydrology who will attempt to integrate flow data into the Assessment. Jared Ross (Research Scientist) will lead efforts to run threshold analyses and develop assessment scores using indices based on groups of similar disturbance factors as described in Ross et al. (2023). Additionally, Michigan State University is hiring a PhD student who will explore the idea of integrating socio economic data into the assessment framework. Example datasets being explored include CreelCat and NRCS locations of BMPs.

NFHP Project Tracking System - Public Facing Dashboard Rollout Plan

- NFHP Data Updates: With support from PSMFC, USGS, FHP coordinators, and NFHP staff the entries of NFHP funded projects are currently up to date in the Project Tracking System, including past projects funded through Board facilitated grant initiatives such as NOAA's Recreational Fisheries Initiative and Bass Pro Shop's US Open Grant Program Funds.
- NFHP Public Dashboard Rollout Plan: With updated project data NFHP is in a good position to release a public facing dashboard to help showcase and communicate accomplishments. The below outline highlights the initial rollout plan targeting a full release of the public facing dashboard at the American Fisheries Society Annual meeting where there will be multiple opportunities to promote the dashboard.
 - Science and Data Committee Meeting (July 22nd)
 - Update and demonstration of NFHP Public Dashboard
 - Discussion and Initial Feedback of Public Facing Dashboard
 - o Board Meeting (July 31st Aug 2nd)
 - Update and demonstration of NFHP Public Dashboard
 - Discussion and Initial Feedback of Public Facing Dashboard
 - Approve Rollout Plan
 - o Board, SDC, FHP Review Public Facing Dashboard (July 31st August 16th)

- Login information shared at the Anchorage Board meeting on July 31st
- o Soft Release (Sept 9th)
 - Distribute dashboard URL to NFHP community to verify functionality
- o Promote Public Facing Dashboard at American Fisheries Society (Sept 15th 19th)
 - 2 Presentations will be made on the Project Tracking System
 - Short overview will be given at Habitat Section Meeting
 - Flier or demonstration area at NFHP Booth
 - Flier at NFHP Symposium
 - QR code available for easy link
- o Coordinate with USGS (Oct 1st Nov 30th)
 - Decommission Beta Dashboard built by USGS
 - Update NFHP project data in the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas



NFHP Governance Committee Update

Committee Membership:

- Doug Austen (Chair)
- Bryan Moore
- Chris Moore
- Sam Rauch
- Simen Kaalstad (ACFHP)
- Alex McOwen (NFHP staff)

<u>Request</u>: Review the draft NFHP Code of Conduct below and email any comments or suggested edits to Alex McOwen and Doug Austen by <u>August 23</u>, 2024.

Update:

- Committee will first develop the **Code of Conduct** as an element of the Manual.
 - o Code of Conduct drafting timeline:
 - **July** draft Code of Conduct shared with the Board.
 - August September feedback on draft shared with the Governance Committee.
 - October finalize Code of Conduct via Board vote.
- Other chapters of the Manual will be developed by NFHP Committees and Board staff.

Updated Manual Table of Contents (below):

- Completed items are highlighted in green
- New components are highlighted in orange
- Timing columns requires further review by leads



CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	DRAFT	FINALIZE
Bylaws	Bylaws for NFHP Board		0	DONE!	
Code of Conduct	Board member code of conduct including policy on conflicts of interest	Governance Committee	1	DONE!	Oct 2024
Designation of FHPs	Description of the process for obtaining Congressional designation of existing FHPs and the process for approving new FHPs	Partnerships Committee	2	July 2024	Oct 2024
Committee Governance Documents	All standing committees of the Board are required to have their own guidance document that describes how they will operate	Each committee develops their own, Governance Committee reviews, and Board approves	3	PC – done! GC – Oct. CC - PolC – SDC – Sept.	Oct 2024
FHP Evaluation Process	Description of how the annual FHP evaluation process is to be conducted	Partnerships Committee	4	Oct 2024	Early 2025
Interagency Operational Plan (IOP)	Include the IOP itself in the procedures manual to outline the collaboration of Federal entities within NFHP.	Jason Olive (USFWS)	5	Summer 2024	Fall 2024
National Conservation Priorities	Description of how the Board develops/modifies the National Conservation Priorities	Science & Data Committee	6	Oct 2024	Early 2025



Budget	Description of the annual project funding cycle and how the FHP allocations are determined once USFWS receives its budget	Stan Allen & NFHP Board Staff	7	Oct 2024	Feb 2025
NFHP Staffing Plan	Description of the Board's staffing needs and how the Board will interact with Board staff relative to duties and accountability	EXCOM	8	Feb 2025	Summer 2025



National Fish Habitat Partnership Code of Conduct

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and its members are committed to providing all participants with a safe, productive, inclusive, and welcoming environment. While conduct issues have been rare, NFHP established this Code of Conduct to ensure these commitments are met for all meeting participants.

To whom and when the code applies:

The Code of Conduct applies to all meeting participants, including meeting chairs, leaders,

facilitators, organizers, attendees, speakers, volunteers, staff, and the public. It applies in all settings and locations in which NFHP-related work and activities are conducted, including working group meetings, workshops, and other related work and social functions.

Each member of NFHP shall:

- 1. All NFHP Board members, coordinators, staff, and partners are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with scientific independence, integrity, and impartiality;
- 2. Be punctual and come prepared to meetings;
- 3. Be respectful, considerate, collaborative, and actively listen;
- 4. Follow the meeting ground rules and agenda, both verbal and written, set by the meeting chair, leader, or facilitator;
- 5. Encourage and value diverse viewpoints and opinions by allowing others to speak;
- 6. Communicate openly and with kindness, critique ideas rather than individuals, and gracefully accept feedback;
- 7. Any criticism should be followed with recommendations and solutions;
- 8. Use language that is inclusive and welcoming regardless of background, title, or experience level;
- 9. Be direct, but professional when sharing disagreements or criticisms;
- 10. Acknowledge and credit the contributions of others;



- 11. Be mindful of your surroundings and proactive in your inclusion of fellow participants;
- 12. Respect any additional rules and policies of the meeting venue, hotels, NFHP-contracted facility, or any other venue;
- 13. Turn off or silence phones during the meeting;
- 14. Give appropriate credit for professional work done by others;
- 15. Balance, to the extent possible, professional viewpoints representative of the breadth of perspectives and backgrounds from which information is both obtained and applied;
- 16. Recruit employees, consistent with equal opportunity legal requirements and strive towards a workforce that is representative and inclusive of our communities.
- 17. Treat employees justly and fairly with respect to supervision, job development, recognition, and compensation;
- 18. Encourage education that identifies unconscious biases, and incorporates training opportunities supporting inclusion, equity, and diversity in the workplace; and
- 19. Create and uphold a safe, open, and professional environment for learning, conducting, and communicating science with integrity, respect, fairness, trustworthiness, and transparency.

Unacceptable behavior:

Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. The following is a summary of examples of unacceptable behavior:

- 1. Not adhering to the meeting ground rules and agenda as set by the chair, facilitator, or meeting leader;
- 2. Talking over or heckling speakers and participants including sustained disruption of talks or other events;
- 3. Physical or verbal abuse, bullying behavior, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or shaming on site, online, and/or on social media;
- 4. Unwelcome sexual attention or advances, inappropriate physical contact;
- 5. Harassing use of photography, recording, or social media;



- 6. Use of an individual's presentation or likeness without permission;
- 7. Harassment or discrimination in any form including, but not limited to, unwelcome or offensive verbal comments or images related to age, appearance, body size, employment or military status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, physical or cognitive ability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, race, religion, or any other elements of individual lifestyle or social identity;
- 8. Retaliation for reporting harassment; and
- 9. Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a professional setting.

Consequences of unacceptable behavior:

Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. Meeting organizers may take action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting. Notification of an infraction may be made to the offender's supervisory chain when appropriate. Limiting and/or prohibiting attendance and/or participation in future meetings may also be considered.

Reporting of unacceptable behavior:

If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify the NFHP Board Chair and/or Board staff either on-site or via email.



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- Talking over or heckling speakers and participants including sustained disruption of talks or other events;
- 3. Physical or verbal abuse, bullying behavior, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or shaming on site, online, and/or on social media;
- 4. Unwelcome sexual attention or advances, inappropriate physical contact;
- 5. Harassing use of photography, recording, or social media;
- 6. Use of an individual's presentation or likeness without permission;
- Harassment or discrimination in any form including, but not limited to, unwelcome or
 offensive verbal comments or images related to age, appearance, body size,
 employment or military status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, marital status,



national origin, physical or cognitive ability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, race, religion, or any other elements of individual lifestyle or social identity;

- 8. Retaliation for reporting harassment; and
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a professional setting.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Conflicts of interest happen when an individual who is responsible for acting in the best interests of NFHP has another interest that could influence or impair, or may appear to influence or impair, the individual's ability to act in the best interests of NFHP.

Examples of a conflict of interest may exist, but are not limited to, when a NFHP Board Member or proxy:

- 1. Is employed by the agency funding the National Fish Habitat Partnership;
- Uses their position on the Board or information obtained as a result of their service on the Board to obtain financial gain or advantage for themselves or members of their family or business associates; or
- 3. Could benefit from the appointment of specific Board member.

Other conflicts of interest may exist and all members of the Board must exercise good faith and avoid participating in any activity of the Board where there exists an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

It is the duty of NFHP Board members to disclose to the Board Chair or Vice Chair any conflicts of interest. With respect to Board decisions, members of the Board who become aware of circumstances that pose an actual or potential conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and take no part in the discussion or the vote. If the Board member advises the Chair or Vice Chair that he or she wishes to be recused from the decision-making process, the Chair will honor the Board member's decision, and the recusal will be noted in the minutes.

Consequences of unacceptable behavior:

Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. Meeting



organizers may take action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting. Notification of an infraction may be made to the offender's supervisory chain when appropriate. Limiting and/or prohibiting attendance and/or participation in future meetings may also be considered.

Reporting of unacceptable behavior:

If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify the NFHP Board Chair and/or Board staff either on-site or via email.



Draft National Fish Habitat Board 2025 Meeting Schedule

= in person meeting

Date(s)	Location	Draft Topics to be Covered
October 2, 2024	Virtual	Finalize Code of ConductSDC Assessment updateIOP update
February 10, 2025	Virtual	Finalize IOPCommittee updates
June 10-11, 2025	New York (upstate)	 Board vote on FY26 fish habitat conservation project list SDC Assessment update Committee updates Field trip
September 22, 2025	Virtual	NFHP Action Plan updateCommittee updates
December 2-3, 2025	Arizona	 FHP Workshop Review draft Congressional report 2025 Committee updates Field trip



Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Basin Summer Site Tour

Official tour programming 1:45 – 5:15pm, August 1, 2024. *With travel from Anchorage 12:30pm to approximately 6:30pm return.

Hosted by the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership NFHP Board Meeting July 31 – August 2, 2024, Anchorage, AK

The Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership formed in 2005 to address increasing impacts on salmon habitat from human use and development in the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Basin – a place with largely still intact wild Pacific salmon runs and the healthy habitat needed to support them. One of the first pilot Fish Habitat Partnership's across the country, this coalition of now over 65 organizations uses a collaborative, cooperative, and non-regulatory approach.

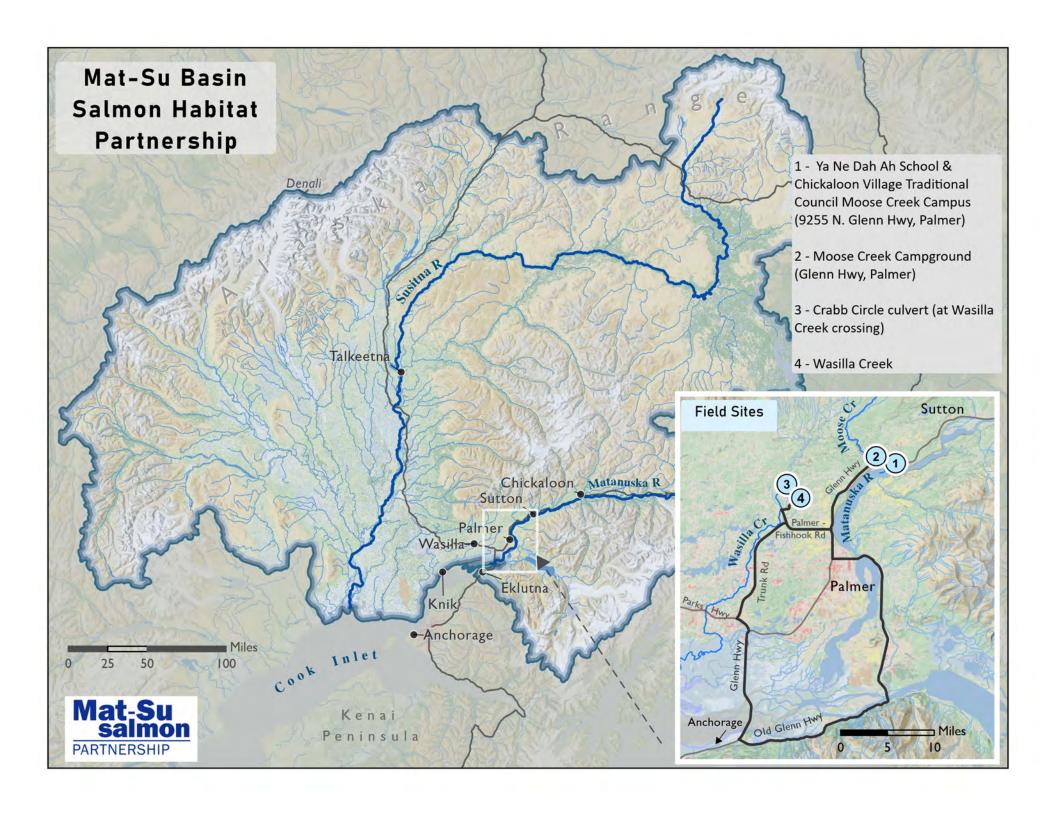
About the tour:

This site tour will provide a first-hand opportunity to introduce the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board to some of our partners – including Mat-Su's first people and salmon stewards, highlighting work they are individually, and we are collectively doing as a partnership, to proactively conserve salmon and their habitat in the Mat-Su Basin. The tour will officially begin at Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Moose Creek Campus in the Matanuska River drainage highlighting the cultural connection to salmon and Tribal importance of salmon and the relationship of Ahtna Dene' culture and the environment. Stop number two will be Moose Creek, to learn about tribal salmon habitat conservation – including one of NFHP's first funded fish passage projects from 2006. Our third stop on Wasilla Creek at Crabb Circle Road will offer a springboard to discuss the Mat-Su Borough's long time and nationally recognized fish habitat conservation efforts. A short walk down a footpath will bring us to our final stop on Wasilla Creek, where we'll hear about the evolution of filling in science gaps – through steam temp story

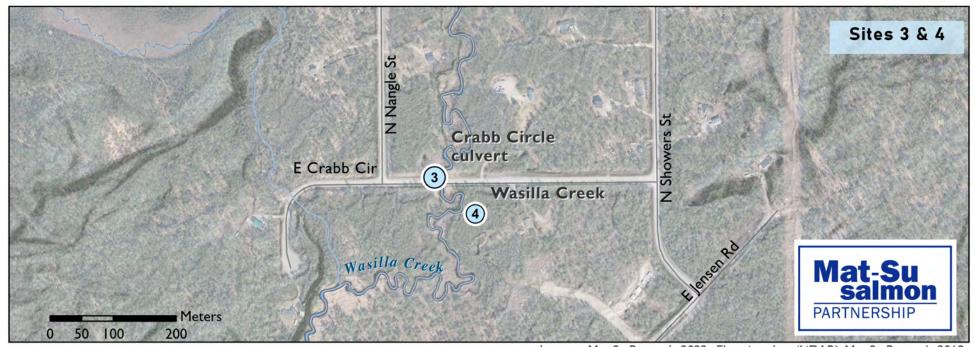
To prepare:

The afternoon will be a mix of in vehicles, and then outside for 45 minutes or longer stretches at various sites. With walking on uneven ground and trails up to approximately 200 yds each direction. Please dress for the weather knowing it may change throughout the day and could be hot and sunny or cool and rainy this time of year. Unless raining or rain expected, you won't need rubber boots. Please do bring a water bottle and whatever else you will need to be comfortable for the day. Snacks and drinks will be provided during the tour. Note that stops three and four do not have bathrooms, participants will need to plan accordingly. NFHP staff have organized shuttle transport to and from the Board meeting location (Clarion hotel) in Anchorage. Please RSVP to them if you've not already and would like to ride the shuttle.

A tour handout with presentation abstracts will be provided in advance of the tour along with any other information updates. Please contact Jessica Speed, Coordinator, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership/Trout Unlimited Jessica.speed@tu.org, cell (907) 575-7818 with any questions.







Imagery: Mat-Su Borough, 2022: Elevation data (LiDAR): Mat-Su Borough, 2019

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

Site Tour, August 1st, 2024

Site Tour Theme: Spotlight on the people, and the efforts to proactively conserve salmon and their habitat in the Matanuska -Susitna (Mat-Su) River Basin.

12:30 pm shuttles depart Anchorage (Clarion Suites Anchorage Downtown, 1110 West 8th Ave.)

1:45 pm Ya Ne Dah Ah School & Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Moose Creek Campus (9255 N. Glenn Hwy, Palmer)

• (Lisa Wade and Angie Wade, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council) Tribal importance of salmon and the relationship of Ahtna Dene' culture and the environment.

2:30 pm Moose Creek Campground Pavilion (Glenn Hwy, Palmer)

- (Jessica Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council) Overview of Tribal salmon habitat programs, Moose Creek site history, salmon research and fish passage restoration.
- (Ben Americus, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council) Minnow trapping on Moose Creek

3:45 pm Crabb Circle culvert (at Wasilla Creek crossing)

- (Drew Strahler, Mat-Su Borough/Michael Mazzacavallo, Alaska Department of Fish and Game/ Franklin Dekker/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Mat-Su Borough Fish Passage Program.
- (Howard Delo, Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission) Efforts of the Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission to conserve Mat-Su salmon and their habitat.

4:30 pm Wasilla Creek (near Crabb Circle crossing)

• (Sue Mauger, Cook Inletkeeper/Erin Larson, University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Conservation Science) Mat-Su Salmon in a Warming Climate: Collaborative science to conserve thermal complexity for today and tomorrow.

5 pm Final conclusions and wrap-up for the day

5:15 pm Shuttles depart for Anchorage, arriving at approximately 6:30 pm to Clarion Suites.

*Bathroom stop enroute

Save the Date!

The 17th Annual Mat-Su Salmon Science & Conservation Symposium is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2024 in Palmer, Alaska! Look for registration to open in August at www.matsusalmon.org



The Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership supports abundant wild salmon and healthy habitat that coexist with vibrant communities. Because wild salmon are central to life in Alaska, the partnership works to ensure quality salmon habitat is safeguarded and restored. This approach is Modeled after the National Fish Habitat Partnership and relies on collaboration and cooperation of diverse stakeholders.

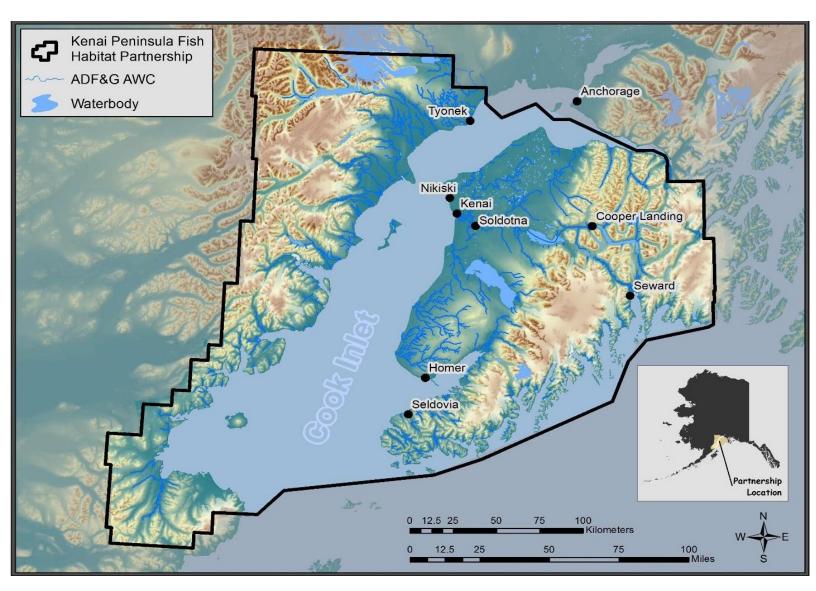
Learn more about the Partnership at www.matsusalmon.org and follow us on Facebook!

KPFHP Summer Site Tour Itinerary

August 2, 2024 NFHP Board Meeting July 31 – August 2, 2024, Anchorage, AK



Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership



Summary:

This site tour will showcase the unique challenges for fish habitat conservation on the Kenai Peninsula. Beginning at the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers, participants will experience an array of habitat conservation tools in action, including the Stream Watch Program. This program highlights the power of strong partnerships and community-driven stewardship to repair and protect riparian habitat. At site two, Soldotna's Centennial Park, the interface of urban life and popular salmon fisheries displays a balance between development and protection. Guests will also learn about Trout Unlimited's Riparian Planting Day and the Kenai River Water Quality Monitoring Project. The last stop of the tour is Tern Lake, which highlights protection efforts by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, through long-term stream gauging and nominations to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

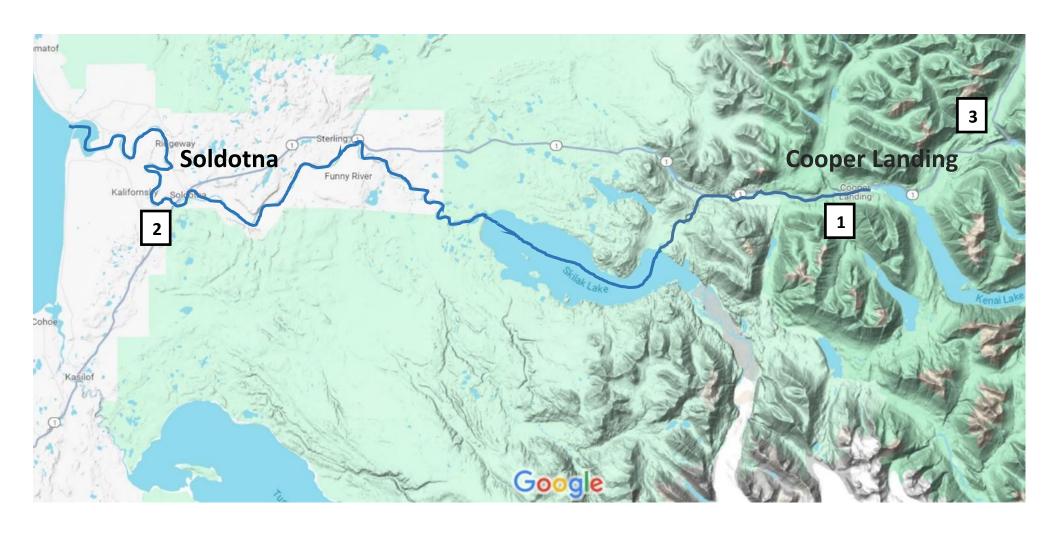
View KPFHP's NFHP funded projects by year here: https://www.kenaifishpartnership.org/our-projects/.

Site Tour Leads:

- Primary Lead: Trent Dodson, Executive Director, Kenai Watershed Forum <u>executivedirector@kenaiwatershed.org</u> cell (907) 942-0829
- Ben Meyer, Environmental Scientist, Kenai Watershed Forum ben@kenaiwatershed.org cell (907) 232-0280
- Brandon Drzazgowski, Stream Watch Coordinator, Kenai Watershed Forum <u>BrandonSW@kenaiwatershed.org</u> cell (907) 398-4304
- Alexa Millward, Kenai Peninsula Engagement Coordinator, Trout Unlimited <u>alexa.millward@tu.org</u> cell (208) 479-5392
- Leah Ellis, Habitat Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game leah.ellis@alaska.gov cell (907) 748-5420

Site Locations:

- 1. Russian River Campground/Kenai River confluence, Cooper Landing
- 2. Centennial Park, Kenai River, Soldotna
- 3. Jean Lake/ Quartz Creek, Cooper Landing



KPFHP SITE TOUR ITINERARY

7:30 am – Depart Anchorage

10:00 am - Arrive at Russian River Campground

The Russian River is a tributary of the Kenai River. The Russian River is located 110 miles south of Anchorage, which is about a 2 hour drive through some of Alaska's most spectacular roadside scenery. As one of the most popular sport fisheries in Alaska, the Russian/Kenai River confluence has a history of being loved to death by sport anglers. Widespread habitat destruction in the '80s and '90s resulted in significant fish habitat loss from the complete elimination of riparian vegetation in some areas, rapid bank erosion, turbidity, and excess human waste.

At this site, participants will be able to view conservation tools used by various agencies to manage high use fishery, including habitat protection infrastructure, such as elevated light penetrating boardwalk and riparian fencing. A highlight of this site will be learn about the Stream Watch Program, a highly functioning public outreach and education program that started in the Russian River area in the 1990's in response to the severe habitat degradation that was occurring due to overuse by sport angers.

A walking tour will start in the campground, where the Stream Watch Coordinator will guide participants along the Angler's Trail towards the confluence of the Russian River and the Kenai River to view these conservation efforts in action and see the fishery in progress. This is a flat, well maintained trail. A round trip from Pink Salmon Campground to the confluence is approximately 2.5 miles.

<u>Logistics:</u> Contact Aerin Gaines (info below) 24 hours in advance of the field trip to confirm the number of vehicles, so she can notify the entrance booth workers. 1.5 hours is allotted for this stop. 15 minutes is suggested for using the restroom and introductions as needed. The walking tour should be completed in 1hr 15min. Start at Pink Salmon Campground. Park at the campground or get dropped off and vans stage in the overflow parking area.

NFHP Project:

Stream Watch Program, KWF (FY14 to present)

Site Lead: Trent Dodson (907) 942-0829

Alaska Recreation Management (ARMS) contact: Aerin Gaines (907) 854-3219

11:30 am Depart Russian River Campground. 45min drive time to Soldotna.

12:15 pm Arrive at Soldotna for Lunch – Soldotna Creek Park (TBD), catered

Alternate location: Centennial Park Pavilion. This is on a first-come first-served basis. Consider reserving a pavilion at Soldotna Creek Park instead.

City of Soldotna Contact: Makai-Lynn Randall, mrandall@soldotna.org, (907) 714-1212

1:15 pm Arrive at Centennial Park

Located near downtown Soldotna, Centennial Park highlights many conservation issues that are unique to the Kenai Peninsula. Participants will see first-hand the conservation challenges that occur with an urban environment interfacing with popular salmon fisheries on the Kenai River. An array of infrastructure at this site also protects the sensitive riparian vegetation from further damage. Another highlight of this site is learning about recent streambank restoration efforts by Trout Unlimited, USFWS, and ADFG. Earlier this summer, ADFG and USFWS hosted a Streambank Rehabiltation Workshop at this site for property owners to gain first hand experience with streambank stabilization methods. In addition, TU engaged volunteers from the sport angling and guiding communities to replant trees and other wild vegetation near the same area. Participants will also learn about the Kenai River Water Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Project. The Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF), along with many other partners, has monitored the water quality of the Kenai River watersheds twice a year (once in the spring and once in the summer) for the past 15 years.

Representatives of the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will meet the group to discuss the significance of protecting peatlands on the Kenai Peninsula for juvenile fish habitat, cold water inputs, and long term stream temperature monitoring.

<u>Logistics</u>: 1 hour is allotted for this site visit. Drivers will check in with the entrance booth attendants as they enter the park to pick up an event pass, which is free of charge. See City of Soldotna contact below for logistics.

NFHP Projects:

- Kenai River Water Quality Baseline Monitoring, KWF (FY15)
- Future site of Kenaitze's Kenai River Baseline Water Quality Monitoring, Kenaitze Indian Tribe (FY25)
- Stream Watch Program, KWF (FY14 to present)
- Stream Temperature Monitoring Network 10-year Assessment, Cook Inletkeeper (FY12, FY16)
- Bringing state of the art management tools to Alaska: mapping thermal networks using monitoring data, University of Alaska (FY18)

Cost-Share Program

The Streambank and Shoreline Rehabilitation and Protection Program is a cooperative effort to fund shoreline restoration projects, supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and other partners. Jess Johnson (ADF&G) and Maura Schumacher (USFWS) will highlight local successes.

NOAA/ NFHP Project: Trout Unlimited Riparian Habitat Restoration Project (2024)

Site Lead: Trent Dodson (907) 942-0829

City of Soldotna Contact: Makai-Lynn Randall, mrandall@soldotna.org, (907) 714-1212

2:15 pm Depart Centennial Park. 1hr 15min drive time to Tern Lake

3:30 pm Arrive at Tern Lake, Cooper Landing

On the way back to Anchorage, participants will make one more stop in Cooper Landing at Tern Lake. This is the location of a long term stream gauging effort by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). An ADFG staff member will meet the group on site to talk about their hydrology work at Tern Lake and the entire Quartz Creek watershed. This will include a demonstration of juvenile fish trapping to highlight the work ADFG has done in the area to add new stream sections to the Anadromous Waters Catalog. Participants may also get a chance to view spawning sockeye salmon.

<u>NFHP Project</u>: Quartz Creek Watershed Instream Flow Reservations and AWC Nominations, ADFG (FY23)

Site Lead: Leah Ellis, ADFG

4:30 pm Depart Tern Lake. 1hr 40min drive time to Anchorage

6:10 pm Arrive back in Anchorage



Communications Committee Report

Committee members: Steve Guertin, Gene Gilliland, Debbie Hart (FHP Representative), Miles Nolte, John O'Keefe, Pat Rivers, Jake Slager

Communications Committee Charge: Develops guidelines and oversees consistent, effective communication aligned with the NFHP mission and brand. Maintains brand standards and defines the organization's voice and tone. This committee acts as the organization's voice, and the messages it sends influence the organization's most important asset: its reputation. Perceptions of its reputation affect the organization's ability to attract funding and enhance its influence.

Committee Update:

- John O'Keefe (Yamaha Motor Co.) joined the Communications Committee in May 2024.
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Website, https://fishhabitat.org revision will be ready to launch in late August/early September. New website concept: fish habitat site (adobe.com)
- Waters to Watch Deadline (August 16, 2024)/Board Approval (October Board mtg.)
- Video Development (September/October)

Title: Partnerships Committee Report

Desired Outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of plans for FY26 FHP Scoring
- **Board awareness** of committee discussions around the use of increased FHP Coordination funds
- Board awareness of a change in Coordinator and fiscal sponsor for Desert FHP

FY 2026 FHP Workplan Template and Scoring

Based on feedback from FHP Coordinators and Board members who served as reviewers for FY25, the Committee does not plan to make any major changes to the process or scoring rubric. Some minor changes are planned, including clarification of some existing questions and the addition of a few questions about how Coordination Project funds are used. For the former, some example responses will be provided to give greater clarity on what specific information the Committee is seeking.

Use of Increased FHP Coordination Funds

The FY2025 project cycle was the first where FHPs could request > \$85,000 for coordination, with the limit changed to \$125,000, and, as a result, most FHPs chose to increase their coordination funds. If the current House and Senate versions of the ACE Reauthorization Bill passes, coordination funds will be handled separately from project funds and will not be subject to the 1:1 non-federal match requirement. This could result in more FHPs requesting additional coordination funds. The Committee is not seeking to prescribe how these funds are used by FHPs as all FHPs have unique coordination needs. However, the Committee believes that some general information is needed on how these funds are used, and as mentioned above, a few additional questions will be added to the annual work plan template related to how these funds are used.

Desert FHP Coordinator and Fiscal Sponsor Change

On October 1, 2024, the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership's fiscal sponsorship will transition from the USFWS to WAFWA. This will necessitate a change in coordinators as Jennifer Graves will remain with the USFWS Arizona Field Office. WAFWA plans to hire a new coordinator shortly after the FY 2025 federal budget is signed by the President. Jennifer has graciously offered to work with NFHP Board staff to keep the Partnership going in the interim.

FHP	Buddies
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	Steve Perry, Doug Austen, Mike Leonard
California Fish Passage Forum	Stan Allen
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	Julie Carter, Chris Moore, Adam Ringia
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	Bryan Moore
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	Bryan Moore, Anne Kinsinger, Steve Perry, Doug Austen, Mike Leonard
Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin	Bryan Moore, Jesse Trushenski, Jake Slager, Pat Rivers
Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	Bryan Moore, Jake Slager,
Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership	Jake Slager, Carter Kruse
Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	Stan Allen
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership	Karen Linnell*
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	Karen Linnell*
Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	Pat Rivers, Jake Slager
Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	Jake Slager, Tim Schaeffer
Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative	Stan Allen
Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership	Stan Allen
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership	Austin Booth, Jake Slager, Mike Leonard, Adam Ringia
Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership	Stan Allen, Karen Linnell*
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	Austin Booth, Gene Gilliland, Mike Leonard
Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	Karen Linnell*
Western Native Trout Initiative	Julie Carter, Jesse Trushenski, Pat Rivers, Chris Moore

^{*} needs final verification ** Several Federal agencies participation outline forthcoming

Board Member Email

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