

Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership

Newsletter November 2017



TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, RESTORE AND ENHANCE FISH HABITAT

Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Newsletter Issue #2

The purpose of the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership (KPFHP) is to create and foster effective collaborations to maintain healthy fish, healthy people, healthy habitat, and healthy economies in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

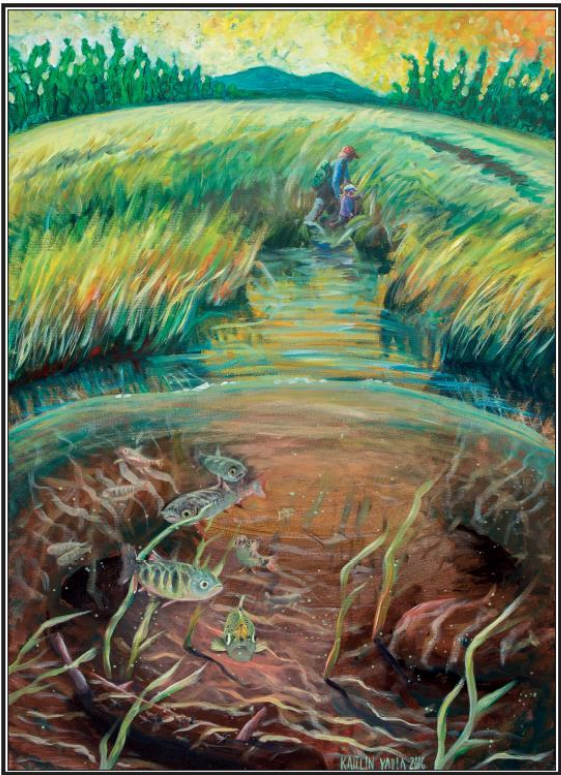
Each year, the National Fish Habitat Partnership provides a portion of its funding to help support 20 nationwide Fish Habitat Partnerships across the US. Each Fish Habitat Partnership, in turn, develops a Request for Proposals. These proposals must reflect the priorities and goals of the FHP's Strategic plan for both freshwater and marine habitat.

2017 Partnerships Accomplishments

Indian Creek Watershed Fish Passage Restoration-Tyonek Tribal Conservation District -Culvert Replacement

In 2017, TTCD received a KPFHP grant to complete three fish passage improvement projects in the Indian Creek watershed in the Tyonek area. Three barriers within the watershed impeded migration in and out of the system for Coho and pink salmon, blocking 9.5 miles of stream and 147 acres of pristine lakes. This summer, TTCD worked with partners to remove two fish passage barriers and replace them with fish-friendly culverts. These projects were completed by Tyonek Contractors, LLC and provided local jobs within the community. The third culvert replacement on Indian Creek is planned for completion in the summer of 2018.





HOME IS WHERE THE HABITAT IS
Healthy habitat keeps Cook Inlet salmon coming home.

Symposium's Posters
created by local artist Kaitlyn Vadla

2017 KPFP Science Symposium
Sterling Community Center, Sterling, AK April 5 & 6, 2017.

With the theme "Home is Where the Habitat Is" the third KPFP Science Symposium kicked off With Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor addressing the gathering. He was followed by future-thinking Ian Dutton of Nautilus Impact Investing.

In addition, it was a great opportunity to hear from participating partners on the work they have been doing in the name of Fish Habitat and hear from experts in the fields of Climate Change, Fish Passage, Wetlands and Watershed Science, Habitat Mapping and Assessment, and much more!



FHP Coordinator Jack Sinclair addresses the attendees.



Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre welcomes the Symposium participants.



Keynote Speaker Ian Dutton, of Nautilus Impact Investing, introduces the group to the concept of Impact Investing to achieve conservation goals.



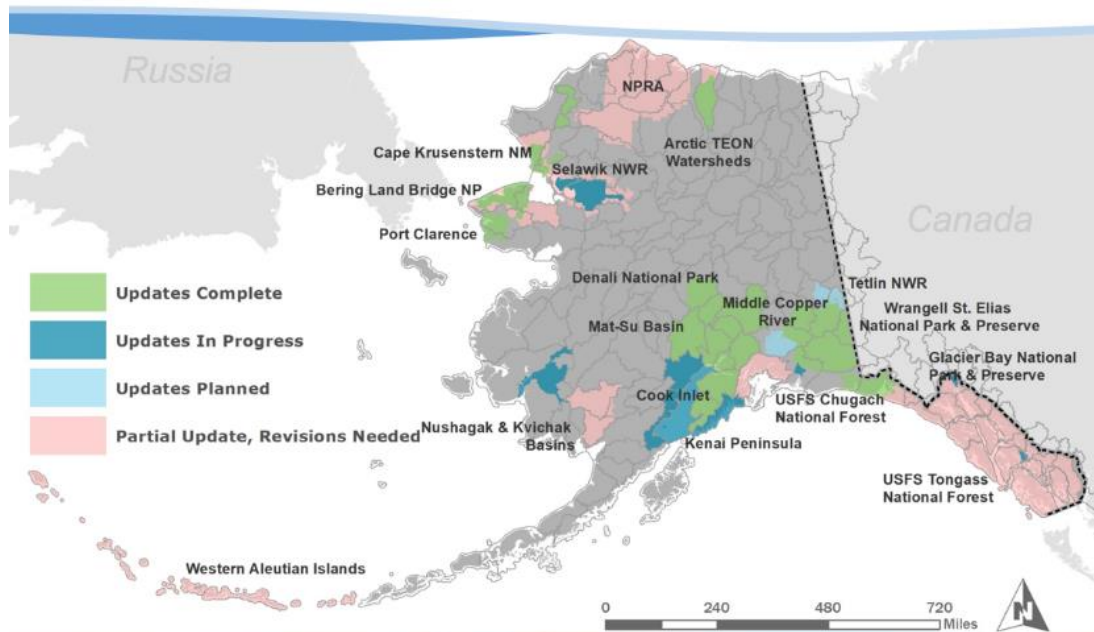
Dr. John Morton and Mike Daigneault facilitate a session on fresh water threats to the watersheds.

Alaska Hydrography Technical Working Group

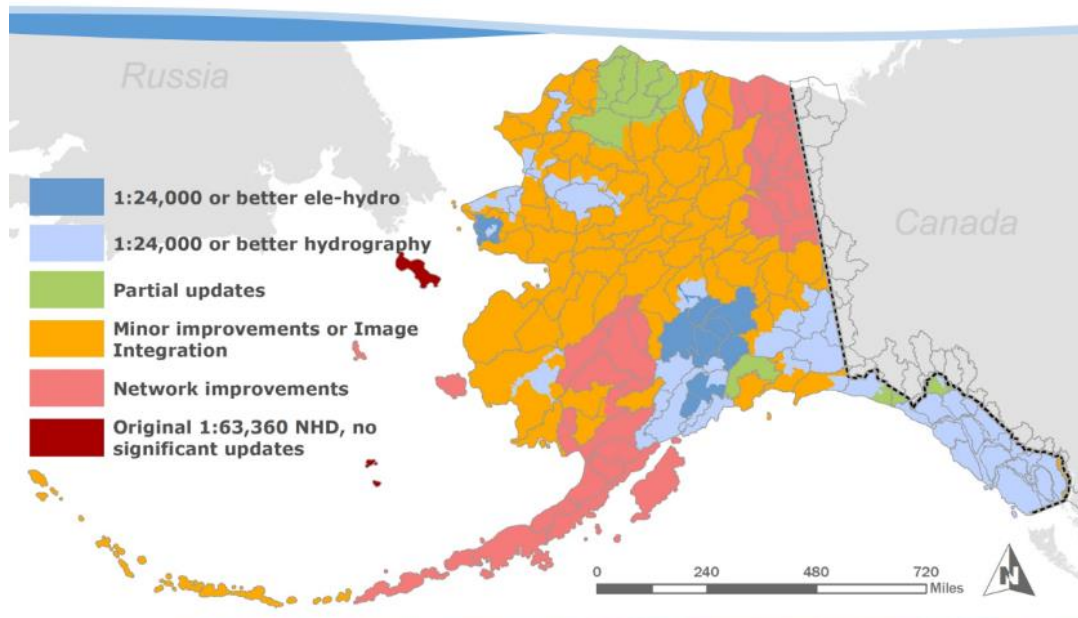
In 2012, KWF initiated an update of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) on the Kenai Peninsula. KWF quickly became a member of the Alaska Hydrography Technical Working Group, or "AHTWG" for short, in order to guide this process not only on the Kenai but throughout the state of Alaska. To date, the KPFP has funded KWF to perform a multifaceted update of the NHD on the Kenai Peninsula, including the accurate identification of over 2,575 previously unmapped miles of streams.

These updates to the NHD represent a major step in broadening our understanding of Alaska's complex water resources, for the Kenai and beyond. Credit maps to: Alaska Hydrography Technical Working Group

Alaska Hydrography Update Status



Alaska Hydrography Quality Status



Invasive Aquatic Plants on the Kenai Peninsula

In February of 2017 the first indications of a new infestation of Elodea was discovered on Sports Lake while an ADF&G employee was augering holes for the local winter fishing derby. Efforts were immediately set in motion to find a quick and effective way to treat this pernicious invasive aquatic plant.

Staff from the Kenai Watershed Forum assisted in the community outreach for the treatment of Sports Lake, the application of herbicide (fluridone & diquat) and the shoreline and bottom surveys of Sports Lake. The surveys included a pre-treatment abundance of elodea, a native vegetation, and a post-treatment abundance of elodea. Additionally, every water body, both named & unnamed, in a 2.5 km radius was surveyed for the presence of elodea. Elodea was not detected in these 16 lakes.

An additional 15 lakes, ones that were vulnerable because of proximity to the Nikiski lakes that were infested in 2013, the presence of a public boat launch or presence of float plane traffic, were surveyed. As a result of these surveys, one new infestation of elodea was detected in July. Treatment of this unnamed lake west of Beck Lake began in September. Surveys of Beck, Daniels & Stormy, the Nikiski Lakes that received treatment from 2013-2015 were conducted twice and a final round of sediment samples were collected and sent to laboratories for analysis. No elodea was detected at these three lakes.



Todd Eskelin-USFWS on Sport Lake



Jen Peura- KWF- on Sport Lake raking in some viable Elodea



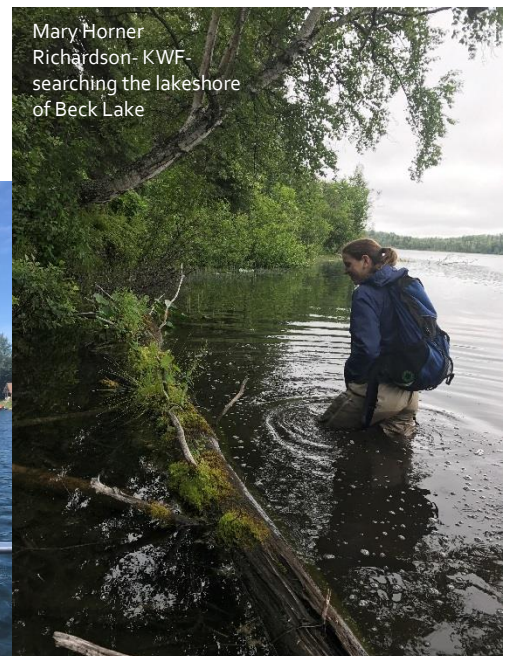
Elodea on Sport Lake after one week of chemical treatment



Elodea starting to deteriorate from chemical treatment on Beck Lake



Mary Horner-Richardson- KWF assessing Beck Lake for Elodea



Mary Horner Richardson- KWF- searching the lakeshore of Beck Lake

What has the KPFP Accomplished?

Since its inception in 2010, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership has received over \$2 Million in assistance from the National Fish Habitat Partnership and invested over \$3 million as a match by the participating partners to accomplish a variety of habitat improvements and educational events throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

2017	Organization*	NFHP Funds	Match
Indian Creek Watershed Fish Passage Restoration	TTCD	\$50,000.00	\$629,000.00
Updating the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) on the Kenai Peninsula	KWF	\$36,725.00	\$71,376.00
Stream Watch Volunteers Making a Difference for Kenai Peninsula River Resiliency	KWF	\$21,518.00	\$29,087.00
Assessment and Early Detection of Reed Canary Grass and Elodea	KWF	\$23,926.00	\$5,100.00
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination	KWF	\$50,000.00	\$0
2016			
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination	KWF	\$75,000.00	\$32,500.00
Stream Temperature Monitoring Network 10 -year assessment	CIK	\$7,075.00	\$7,075.00
Stream stage monitoring to track changes in available fish habitat	CIK	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Restoring and reconnecting cold water habitat to the Ninilchik River	ASP	\$11,045.00	\$11,045.00
Stream watch: Volunteers and Partners Protecting & Restoring Kenai Peninsula Salmon Habitat	KWF	\$23,150.00	\$29,178.00
Using eDNA to assess and eradicate invasive species from Kenai Peninsula	KWF	\$43,938.00	\$78,500.00
Validation of Kenai Peninsula NHD	KWF	\$52,517.00	\$75,000.00
2015			
Building and Index Watershed Program to Assess and Track Land Use and Climate Impacts	CIK	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Stream watch: Volunteers and Partners Protecting & Restoring Kenai Peninsula Salmon Habitat	KWF	\$11,500.00	\$8,082.00
Kenai River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring	KWF	\$8,650.00	\$83,798.00
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination	KWF	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
Old Tyonek Creek Fish Passage Restoration	TTCD	\$40,000.00	\$417,000.00
Invasive Northern Pike Detection Using eDNA	ADFG	\$16,084.00	\$20,000.00
2014			
Salmon Outreach Strategy	CIK	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Eradication of Elodea from the Kenai Peninsula Alaska	KWF	\$126,732.00	\$140,000.00
Stream watch: Volunteers and Partners Protecting & Restoring Kenai Peninsula Salmon Habitat	KWF	\$9,117.00	\$30,450.00
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination	KWF	\$75,000.00	\$30,000.00
2013			
Launching the Cook Inlet Response Tool for Operational Use	SeaLife Center	\$24,750.00	\$19,532.00
Aquatic Invasive Plant Baseline Surveys in Kenai Peninsula Water Bodies	FWS	\$27,576.00	\$32,806.00
Understanding the Effects of Roadways on the Movement of Groundwater thru Peatland Habitat	UW	\$26,131.00	\$58,642.00
Kenai Peninsula northern pike E DNA study	ADFG	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Pilot Project to Establish Real-time, year-round, long-term Kenai Peninsula Stream Temp Sites	CIK	\$11,703.00	\$11,838.00
2012			
Science Based Land Conservation Phase 1	CIK	\$30,452.00	\$21,247.00

Stream Temperature Monitoring Network	CIK	\$21,700.00	\$21,700.00
Debris Removal Program	KPB	\$12,848.00	\$0.00
Kenai Peninsula FHP Coordination	KWF	\$30,000.00	\$0.0
Kenai Peninsula Science Symposium	KWF	\$25,000.00	\$25,000
2011			
Soldotna Creek Northern Pike Eradication Project: Phase 1	ADFG	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
Stariski Creek Wayside Exhibit Project	HSWCD	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Introduction to Watershed Planning Symposium	DNR	\$25,000.00	\$39,000.00
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Strategic Habitat Action Plan	KWF	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Soldotna Creek Hydrology Project	KWF	\$16,000.00	\$5,400.00
2010			
Watermelon Trail - Beaver Creek Stream Restoration	HSWCD	\$8,100.00	\$38,825.00
Fourth Unnamed Creek at 4th Avenue Fish Passage Improvement Project	KWF	\$11,900.00	\$8,910.00
Assessment of Juvenile Salmon Distribution	KWF	\$30,000.00	\$14,135.00
Unnamed Creek at Beaver Loop Road Fish Passage Restoration	KWF	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Totals- All Years		\$2,080,780.00	\$3,370,814.00

*KWF=Kenai Watershed Forum; CIK= Cook Inletkeeper; ASSP= Alaska State Parks; TTCD= Tyonek Tribal Conservation District; ADFG= Alaska Department of Fish and Game; HSWCD= Homer Soil and Water Conservation District. KHLT= Kachemak Heritage Land Trust; UW= University of Wisconsin

KPFHP Projects, continued:

Alaska State Parks and Cook Inletkeeper- Ninilchik River Cold-water protection

Restoring and reconnecting cold water habitat to the Ninilchik River. Through this project, State Parks will reconnect the outflow of a cold-water tributary to the mainstem of the Ninilchik River by restoring a foot bridge and re-routing foot traffic away from sensitive juvenile salmon habitat and reach more than 5,000 people with an educational message about the importance of restoring and maintaining salmon habitat. The project is still incomplete with final work scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2018.

Ninilchik River foot bridge



Ninilchik River foot trail rehabilitation



Before



The KPFHP Steering Committee

The Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership (KPFHP) is recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board (NFHB) as a National Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). The KPFHP's Steering Committee is a self-directed group of public and private agency, association, business, and organization partnership members interested in achieving the KPFHP's purpose: to create and foster effective collaborations to maintain healthy fish, healthy people, healthy habitat, and healthy economies in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, while its mission is to protect, maintain, restore and enhance fish habitat.

The KPFHP Steering Committee made up of nine members, including standing members from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The 2017-18 members of the Steering Committee are:

Erika Ammann- NOAA	Marie McCarty- Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
Kyle Graham-USF&WS	Mat Maxey- US Forest Service
Brian Blossom- ADF&G	Christy Cincotta- Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
Marcus Mueller- Kenai Peninsula Borough	Coowe Walker – Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve
Sue Mauger- Cook Inletkeeper	

Our Partners in Fish Habitat

At present, the Partnership is comprised of 33 agencies and organizations.

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| 1. Tyonek Tribal Conservation District ** | 19. Alaska State Parks |
| 2. The Nature Conservancy | 20. City of Seward |
| 3. Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance | 21. City of Soldotna |
| 4. Kenai Watershed Forum | 22. City of Kenai |
| 5. US Fish and Wildlife Service* | 23. ConocoPhillips |
| 6. Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition | 24. Kenai Peninsula Borough** |
| 7. Alaska Department of Fish and Game* | 25. US Forest Service** |
| 8. Cook Inletkeeper** | 26. Trout Unlimited |
| 9. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* | 27. Kenaitze Indian Tribe |
| 10. Aquatic Restoration & Research Institute | 28. Greatland Trust |
| 11. Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District | 29. Seldovia Village Tribal Council |
| 12. USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service Kenai Field Office | 30. Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** |
| 13. Kachemak Heritage Land Trust** | 31. US National Park Service- Kenai Fjords National Park |
| 14. Renewable Resources Foundation | 32. Alaska Center for Conservation Science, University of Alaska Anchorage |
| 15. United Cook Inlet Drift Association | 33. Beluga Whale Alliance |
| 16. Alaska Department of Transportation | |
| 17. Kenai River Sportfishing Association | **Current Steering Committee Member |
| 18. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association | |

*Permanent Committee Seat

Welcome to our new members!

2017 brought several more members to the Partnership and we are always looking for more! You are invited to learn more about our new members-

- Seldovia Village Tribal Council
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service Kenai Field Office
- USNPS- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Alaska Center for Conservation Science, University of Alaska Anchorage
- Beluga Whale Alliance

For more information about how to become a member and get involved with the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership contact us at: Coordinator@kenaifishpartnership.org or Jack Sinclair- 907-260-5449 x 1208
Visit our web site: <http://www.kenaifishpartnership.org>



KPFHP Projects, continued: Stream Watch 2017



Habitat Fencing- Moose Range Meadows



Upper Kenai River bank clean-up



Upper Kenai River bank clean-up