



Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4
1800 Glenn Highway, Palmer

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 1:30 – 4 pm

Call in # (907) 746-6347 ← ADFG conference room

AGENDA

Facilitator: Christy Cincotta

Notetaker: TBA

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from September meeting*[attachment pending](#)
- NFHP Funding Proposals
 - Decision: discuss project rankings and confirm their accuracy
 - Discuss: potential improvements in process for SC committee & process overall
- Process to fill At-large Steering Committee Seat (Jessica)
 - Update: on this process and what seats are up for renewal

Committee Updates

- Symposium Planning (Jessica)
 - Steering committee roles
 - All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships session on Friday morning
- Outreach (Christy or Jessica)
- Science and Data (Science and Data Committee member or Jessica)

Report on the NFHP Coordinators and National Science and Data Committee Workshop, October 24th & 25th, 2016 (Christy)

Report on Salmon and Society Workshop, November 1-3, 2016 Anchorage

3pm - Essential Fish Habitat Update (Seanbob Kelly, NOAA/NMFS Alaska Region Habitat Division) *[attachments](#)

Upcoming Events:

- November 17 & 18, 9 – 4:00 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, Palmer Depot

Next meeting: January 10th, 1:30 to 4pm

** need Facilitator and Notetaker*



Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Suite 4
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NOTES

Facilitator: Christy Cincotta

Notetaker: Marc Lamoreaux

Steering Committee Attendees: Corinne Smith, Erika Ammann, Jessica Winnestaffer, Arni Thomson

Other Participants: Jack Sinclair, Kenai Watershed Forum, Ernie Weiss, Aleutian East Borough, Louie Flora, Alaska Center, Loretta Brown, Salmon State, Seanbob Kelly and Doug Limpinsel, NOAA/NMFS

Partnership Business

- Approve notes from September meeting
 - Decision: Approve notes
- NFHP Funding Proposals

There were lots of strong proposals. The top 5 projects could be funded at last year's funding level. If MSB does not need the full amount for their project, we might request the remainder be returned for other proposed projects.

 - Decision: Averaged project rankings approved.

Might reevaluate depending on funding level, because scores are so close around last year's cut off point.
 - Discuss: potential improvements in process for SC committee & process overall

There was general agreement that the (compartmentalized) scoring criteria limited scoring for overall assessed value of projects. Suggestions included elaborating on the criteria for project value (Benefits) to salmon and habitat, and adding 5 bonus points for how much you love the project. It was also unclear how many points should be awarded per question, for example if the question were just answered versus how well it was answered. A suggestion was to provide more Scoring Guidance points breakdowns.
- Process to fill At-large Steering Committee Seat (Jessica)
 - Update: on this process and what seats are up for renewal

Chickaloon's seat is up for renewal and Jessica will not run again, although she would like to remain involved. The Tyonek TCD tribal seat is also up for renewal and Christy will reapply. The open seats and application process will be announced at the Symposium. The Alaska Salmon Alliance and Eklutna at-large seats are up in December, 2017. There is a 2 term at-large seat limit, then an entity can reapply after 1 term off.

Committee Updates

- Symposium Planning (Jessica)

The planning is going well. There may be less presentations than last year, which is OK because the agenda was crowded.

- Steering committee roles
- All Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships session on Friday morning
- Outreach (Jessica)

The Symposium is our biggest outreach event of the year and is what outreach efforts are focused on currently.
- Science and Data (Science and Data Committee member or Jessica)

This is a very valuable committee for guidance, and we're lucky to have such a good one.

Report on the NFHP Coordinators and National Science and Data Committee Workshop, October 24th & 25th, 2016 (Christy)

Christy attended in Florida. There was a focus on the National Assessment. There is an interactive website to assess fish habitat nationally to be compared between areas. Alaska habitat is good, restoration is difficult and protection should rank high in the funding priority. The USFWS funding allocation process varies across groups. A committee was working for more standardization. Funding conveyed late in the field season is an issue with others, as with us, and they're looking into this. Beyond the Pond 501C3, an arm of NFHP Board discussed fundraising strategies. They are working on ways to take in and distribute funding. They are doing pass-through funding for one NFHP project.

Arni promoted NFHP programs to NOAA at a town hall meeting. The commercial fisheries industry is getting more involved with salmon habitat protection.

Report on Salmon and Society Workshop, November 1-3, 2016 Anchorage

Corinne did a presentation on salmon and development, including what the partnership has been doing to address Mat-Su being the fastest growth area in the state. ADFG did one on permitting, there was one on mining restoration, etc. There were about 200 people from diverse interests; agencies, nonprofits, fisheries, processors, tribal, etc. Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships including Mat-Su were very involved in workshop development including financial support. The link to the agenda through Alaska Sea Grant is provided and it is illustrative of the diversity of the workshop agenda topics which overlap with a number of the partnership priorities:

<https://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2016/salmon-and-society/agenda.php>

It also provides a list of the panel participants, which is very useful.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Update (Seanbob Kelly, NOAA/NMFS Alaska Region Habitat Division):

Seanbob gave an informative presentation on EFH. Congress authorized EFH in 1996 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It defined EFH as habitats necessary to protect fish and gave NOAA responsibility to manage EFH. NOAA/NMFS describes and defines EFH, and illustrate EFH boundaries in freshwater, tidal, coastal and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters. It defines EFH with the goal to minimize adverse fishing and non-fishing impacts to EFH. EFH designations only apply to fisheries for which there is a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). EFH definitions and impacts are required to be reviewed every 5 years to assure they incorporate the most recent scientific available information. EFH for Alaskan EEZ FMP fisheries are under revision at this time at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC). A draft EA of definitions and impacts will be on the NPFMC website for public review by the end of the month, and it will be on the NPFMC agenda for public comment at the December 6-11 meeting, to be held at the Anchorage Hilton. NMFS EFH is advisory and consultative only, advisory to agencies whose activities may have an adverse impact on EFH. There are 6 Magnuson-Stevens fisheries management plans in Alaska and each must describe and identify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

for the fishery and minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing and non-fishing activities (mining, logging, roadbuilding, other industrial development) on EFH, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH. There is one overarching plan for all salmon throughout Alaska. EFH in this plan includes habitat necessary for all five species of salmon, throughout their range and life stages and this is under revision from now through April of 2017. For freshwater habitat, NOAA relies heavily on the ADFG Anadromous Waters Catalog for salmon freshwater life stages EFH information.

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