



Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Summer 2013

*The Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership is a broad-based, cooperative effort to better steward our salmon resources while maintaining economic prosperity.
Our vision – thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin.*

Big Lake – 2013 Water to Watch

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) has identified Big Lake as one of its 10 Waters to Watch across the nation in 2013. Why did Big Lake make the list? Big Lake provides extremely valuable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, is a recreational hotspot in a growing community that faces multiple threats to fish habitat quality, and Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partners have, and continue to work on a significant number of education, restoration and monitoring projects. Portions of Big Lake are also on the Department of Environmental Conservation's impaired water bodies list due to hydrocarbon effects from power boats.

Go to www.matsusalmon.org to read the full length article, and find out how one girl scout took her message about clean boating on Big Lake all the way to Washington D.C!

Northern Pike Investigations

Because of the threat to wild salmon populations by invasive northern pike in the Mat-Su basin, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) has been investigating pike populations in the Susitna River Valley.

The project involves work on three lakes (Chelatna, Whiskey, and Hewitt) where pike are either removed or radio tagged for tracking. This work provides insight into the seasonal movement patterns and habitat use of northern pike. Other information being collected at these lakes includes population estimates, habitat surveys, and water quality parameters. In 2012, an electronic fish barrier was field tested, and a total of 1,679 northern pike were captured by CIAA staff and either culled or tagged for research.



Radio tagged pike in Whiskey Lake

For 2013 field season updates or more information about this project contact lisak@ciaanet.org.

Read this interesting [full article here](#).



Save the Date!

**The 6th annual Mat-Su Salmon
Science & Conservation
Symposium**

**November 13th & 14th, 2013
Palmer Depot
Palmer, AK**

This year's theme:

*Healthy Salmon, Healthy
Communities.*

Keynote speaker:

*David Batker, Chief Economist and
Executive Director of Earth
Economics.*

Go to www.matsusalmon.org or get
on our mailing list by contacting
matsusalmon@tnc.org



National Fish Happenings

- For insights on what more broadly guides our Partnership on the national level, check out [NFHP 2012 Update](#), an overview of NFHP accomplishments for 2011 & 2012.
- See the national 10 [waters to watch list](#)
- NFHP has developed national conservation goals, guidelines for evaluating projects, & a new evaluation criteria for measuring success of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

www.fishhabitat.org

Great Land Trust Celebrates Completion of a New Conservation Easement

The 30 acre O'Brien Creek property lies on the northeastern banks of Knik Arm, where it was identified by Great Land Trust (GLT) in 2010 following a GIS-based parcel prioritization that highlighted privately owned parcels in the Mat-Su Borough with estuarine habitat. The property ranked in the top 100 parcels out of over 100,000 parcels assessed for their conservation value, and contains migration, spawning, and juvenile rearing habitat for Coho salmon. Funding for this project was contributed by the National Fish Habitat Partnership, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Mat-Su Borough.

For more information contact Kim Sollien at ksollien@greatlandtrust.org. Read the [full length article here](#).

Welcome New Salmon Partners!

The newest members of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership are the Alaska Salmon Alliance(ASA) and Tyonek Tribal Conservation District(TTCD). ASA is a non-profit fisheries trade organization that educates and promotes the value of scientifically based salmon management to preserve habitats and create predictable harvests for all salmon users of the Cook Inlet region.

Also a non-profit, TTCD supports the wise use of natural resources by providing technical and financial assistance to district landowners. Formed through joint agreement of the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT), the Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2005, TTCD is the first Tribal Conservation District in Alaska.

Learn more [on our website](#) and visit <http://www.aksalmonalliance.org/> and www.ttcd.org.



Alaska Salmon Alliance staff with crew of the Wizard & Colbern crab boats.

Announcements

- Roger Harding of ADF&G will be joining the [Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Steering Committee](#) to fill a standing ADF&G seat previously held by Sue Rodman. Roger comes with a rich fisheries science background and is also on the board of the Southeast Fish Habitat Partnership. Welcome Roger, and thanks to Sue for her very effective service to the Partnership!
- Believed to be Alaska's first fully submerged aquatic invasive plant, you may have seen Elodea choking out areas of Sand Lake, Little Campbell Lake, or Delong Lake in Anchorage and Chena Slough in Fairbanks. It's also being found growing in a number of lakes and slow moving rivers and sloughs in Cordova and on the Kenai Peninsula. Elodea has not yet been found in Mat-Su but it spreads easily. [Click here](#) to learn how it spreads, why you should be concerned, and how you can help.
- The Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership is currently accepting proposals for **funding to support salmon and salmon habitat projects** for FY2014. **Closing date is September 6th**. Go to www.matsusalmon.org for more information.



Elodea in Sand Lake, Anchorage



Got Ideas? Contact the Steering Committee:

Roger Harding, *ADF&G*
Jessica Winnestaffer, *Chickaloon Village*
Laura Allen, *Upper Susitna SWCD*

Frankie Barker, *Mat-Su Borough*
Eric Rothwell, *NOAA Fisheries*
Bill Rice, *US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Jeff Davis, *ARRI*
Kim Sollien, *GLT*
Corinne Smith, *TNC*