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# **Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership**

*Science and Data Committee*

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December 2023

## PURPOSE

To advise, guide and promote strong science-based strategies and projects that effectively implement the Partnership's Strategic Action Plan.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Science and Data Committee (the Committee) are to:

1. Promote and support the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan.
2. Evaluate technical merits of proposals submitted to the Steering Committee for Partnership funding or Partnership support.
3. Provide technical review of scientific studies, assessments or other documents as requested by the Steering Committee.
4. Address annual priority actions developed by the Steering Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Science and Data Committee membership will be comprised of Partnership members with scientific expertise and experience in the Mat-Su Basin that can further our understanding of salmon and the physical and biotic processes that influence salmon habitat quality and distribution. The Science and Data Committee is a core of 8 to 10 members, comprised of half Mat-Su Borough, state, and federal agency and half non-agency members, with no more than two representatives from any one agency or organization. Members are expected to reach out within their organization and gather input to accomplish the goals of the Science and Data Committee and will seek expertise as needed from technical advisors.

**Vacancies:** With the exception of the Chair and Co-chair, there are no term limits for seats. When vacancies occur, or requests to join are received at a time when there are fewer than 10 members, the Science and Data Committee will make recommendations to the Steering Committee as to who might most appropriately fill vacant seats. Members will be selected to provide a range of expertise represented in the areas of fisheries, hydrology, water quality and ecology.

The Committee will select a Chair, or Chair and Co-chair, who upon approval of the Steering Committee, are expected to serve two-year terms. The Chair(s) will lead and organize meetings and associated logistics, coordinate group activities, and communicate group recommendations with the Steering Committee, the Partnership Coordinator, and the greater FHP community. The Partnership Coordinator will work with the Chair(s) as needed, to carry out the tasks of the Committee, including ensuring meeting notes are finalized and distributed, tasks are distributed to groups, and other logistical and communication needs are addressed.

- **Proposal review:** The Science and Data Committee is advisory to the Steering Committee; the Steering Committee determines funding priorities, scores projects, and recommends projects for funding. The Science and Data committee is requested to provide technical input on the scientific merits and potential areas of weaknesses for each project. This does not include recommendations as to whether a project should be funded or not, nor any numeric scoring. Specific project review criteria and process will be provided by the Chair and approved by the Steering Committee annually. The committee will strive for consensus in its technical recommendations for the Partnership and record divergent opinions for each project. Science and Data Committee members shall consider and discuss the following questions in reviewing projects, and provide responses to these questions to the Steering Committee:
  1. Will completion of the proposed project provide information toward meeting the objective(s) identified in the Strategic Action Plan?
  2. Will the proposed project, if implemented using the described methods, meet the study objective?
  3. Based on your experience conducting similar work, is the proposed budget reasonable?
  4. Are there any specific concerns or notable weaknesses with this project?

## MEETINGS

Meetings will be held quarterly and will be arranged and facilitated by the Chair or Co-Chair with input and support by all committee members. Note taker duties should rotate, with a note taker determined before each meeting, and committee members will have opportunity to review meeting notes before they are finalized.

## Science and Data Committee Members:

**2023** \*Current membership as of December 2023.

1. Nick DeCovich, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2. Anjanette Steer, Alaska Center for Conservation Science
3. Carrie Brophil, Native Village of Eklutna
4. Mike Campfield, Mat-Su Borough
5. Thomas Capiello, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (retired)
6. Franklin Dekker, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7. Ashley Oleksiak, AK Department of Environmental Conservation
8. Sue Mauger, Cook Inletkeeper
9. Laura Pevan, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Chair)