

A school of salmon swimming in a river over a rocky riverbed. The salmon are in various stages of spawning, with some showing bright red sides and others showing more muted colors. The water is clear, and the rocks are visible at the bottom.

Practical tools for FHPs: Increasing organizational capacity through business planning

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Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Partner Services

- Foster interagency & regional communication
- Support regional assessment and data sharing
- Coordinate relevant conservation strategies for protection and restoration of fish habitat
- Provide project technical review and endorsement to partners
- Facilitate conservation outreach and provide annual symposium and event facilitation
- Leverage regional funding to support on-the-ground restoration activities



Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Finding our relevancy by developing an organizational strategy

- Growth & Diversity
- Strength & Perseverance
- Partner Service
- Shared Conservation Actions





Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

Operational Strategy and Business Plan 2017-2021



SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN 2017-2021



SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP





Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Business Plan

Operational Strategy and Business Plan 2017-2021



**SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP**

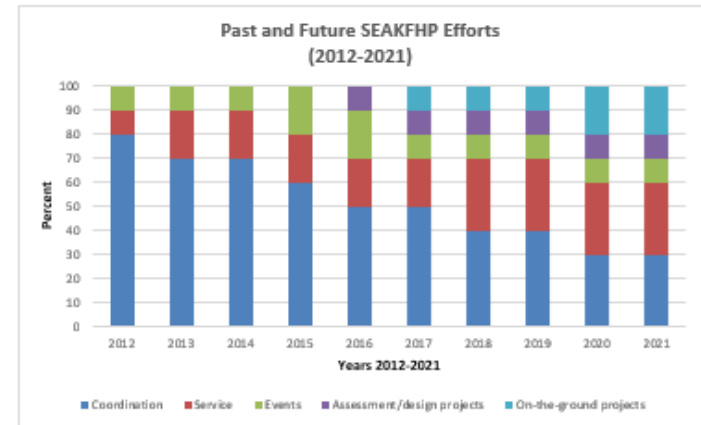


Figure 1 Past and future efforts for the partnership. Showing years 2012 through 2021.

PARTNERSHIP OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

SEAKFHP's Strategic Action Plan provides guidance for SEAKFHP partners and others to pursue organizational and service strategies, referenced as 'Partnership Strategies', which directly contribute to meeting the partnership's mission and to reaching shared conservation goals in the region. Guidance identified in the strategic plan instills stakeholder and community ownership and encourages partners to focus on the highest priorities and conduct conservation activities with the best methods and protocols. Some strategies recommend coordination and interagency participation, but in no way bind affected agencies or partners to implement these strategies or relinquish any mandated or delegated authority. This document revises the initial organizational strategies, recognizing that the partnership has advanced over the last few years to now one that has secured a place within the region serving its partners. The strategies listed below are long term and serve to provide operational guidance as the partnership advances to the next stage in its development, one of persistence and focus on on-the-ground projects supporting protection and restoration of fish habitat across the region.

PARTNERSHIP GROWTH AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY

- Ensure SEAKFHP composition represents landowners and stakeholders of Southeast Alaska.
- Routinely assess stakeholder gaps in partnership participation and identify other collaborators working in Southeast Alaska to ensure the partnership does not duplicate services or actions.
- Regularly inform the public on the governance and activities of the SEAKFHP using both print and digital media.

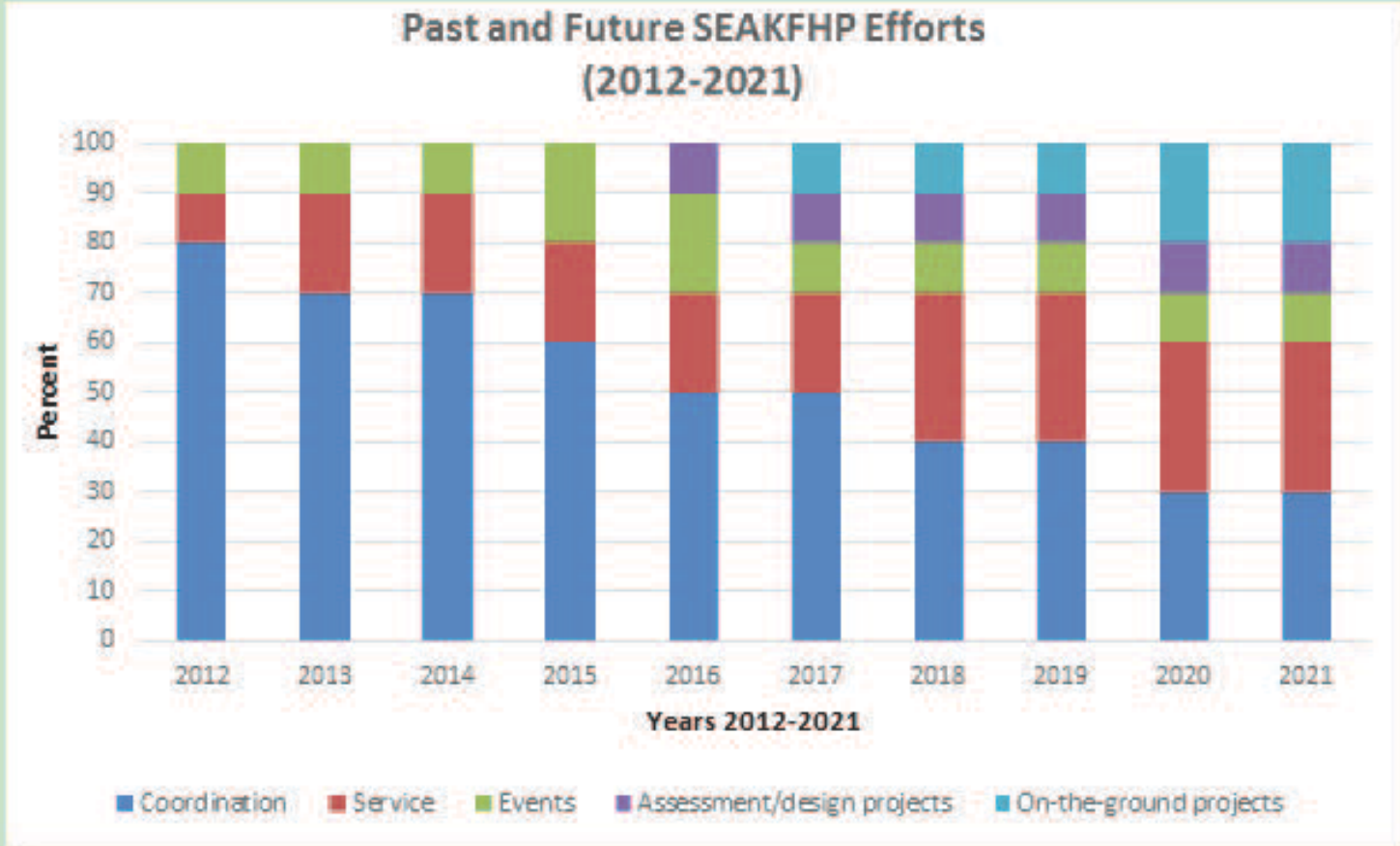


Figure 1. Past and future efforts for the partnership. Showing years 2012 through 2021.



Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

On-the-grounds project:

Tongass Top 5

Fish Passage Design Initiative



Barrier road culvert



Fish-friendly road culvert



Many culverts cause big problems for fish. Migratory fish—like salmon and steelhead—need room to move and are particularly hard hit by barriers where roads cross streams.

Designing fish-friendly crossings where roads intersect streams helps ensure a seamless transition for fish passing underneath. Across the nation, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and many partners have come together to improve fish passage under roads: in 2016, the U.S. Forest Service celebrated over 1000 fish passage projects completed nationally.

This effort has been deeply embraced in Alaska across the Tongass National Forest. Between 1998 and 2015, over 500 crossings not previously meeting fish passage standards were improved.

In spite of this good work, it is estimated that a third of remaining assessed road-stream crossings in the Tongass do not currently meet fish passage standards. To address this need, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership have teamed up to develop the TONGASS TOP 5. The goal: design fish passage sites to a 'shovel ready' state and ultimately develop a plan to restore these remaining high priority sites for improved fish passage.

“...building better culverts to open waterways for fish to grow, reproduce and survive, to improve the resiliency of roads to flooding, and to protect transportation infrastructure for communities
—Celebrating 1000 Culverts, Washington D.C. 2016

Your help can make a difference for fish in the Tongass!

\$100K

\$140K Goal

Click to Donate!



Time series of culvert replacement for fish passage (USFS TNP Monitoring and Evaluation Report).



For more information, contact:

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Make a direct tax-deductible donation for this effort [here](#)

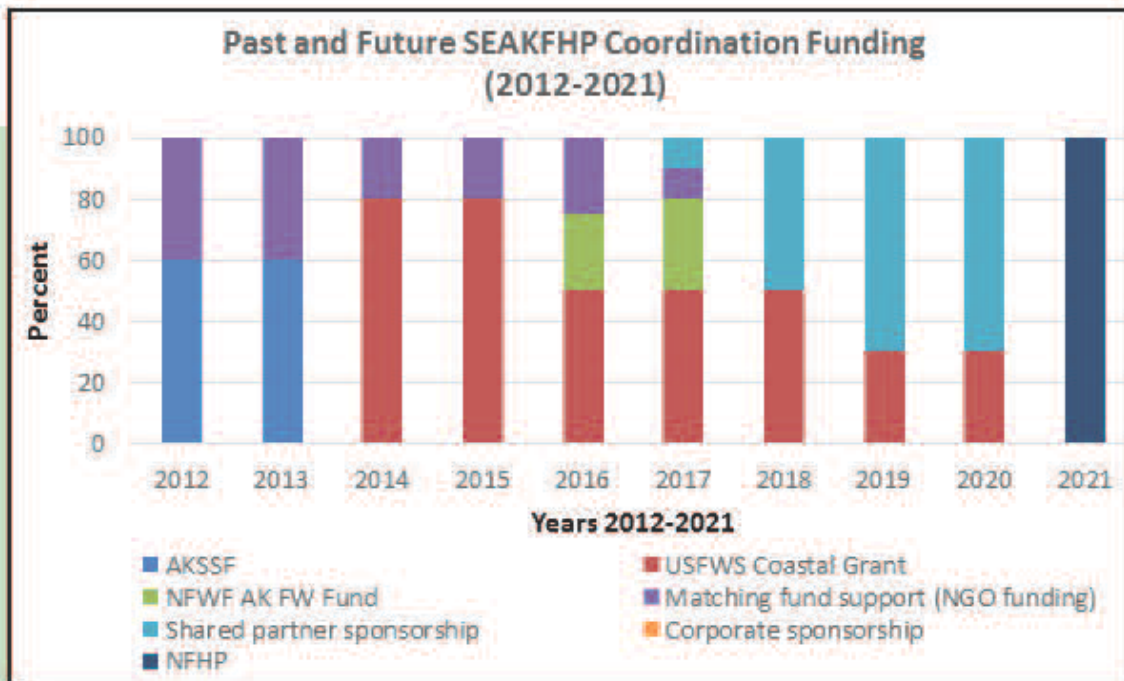
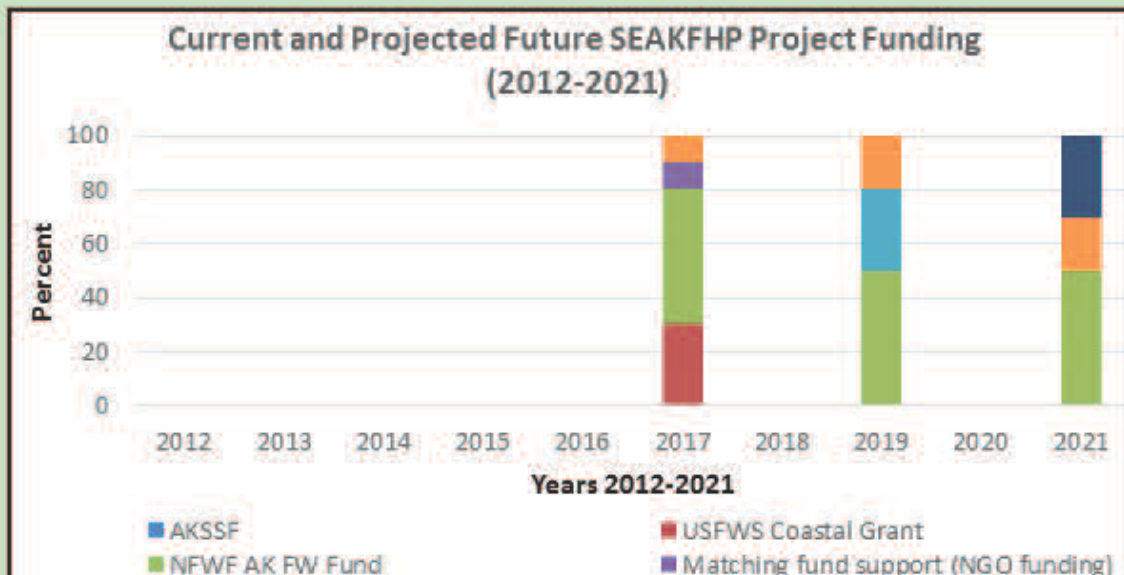


Figure 2. Past and future funding for coordination services of the partnership.





Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership

CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN 2017-2021



**SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
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FRESHWATER FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Southeast Alaska's Freshwater Landscape

Southeast Alaska is a complex geography with more than 1000 islands sitting adjacent to the highest coastal mountain range in the world. The Coast Range supports some of the largest glaciers and extensive ice fields in North America. Rivers that drain these glaciated slopes play an important role providing minerals and nutrients that fertilize bays and estuaries across the region. Interactions between the land and water are strong, southeast rivers discharge about 90 cubic miles of freshwater annually and carry nutrients from the land to nearby marine waters producing hotspots for primary productivity and create feeding areas for fish, marine mammals, and birds. In addition, freshwater habitats across the region provide vital functions for fish, serving to provide needed habitat for spawning, rearing and wintering for anadromous fish species. The landscape of southeast is predominately forest and the ability to maintain habitats for fish is tied to the condition and integrity of the forests and watersheds around them. Salmon are an essential part of the region's ecology, they rely on the region's freshwater landscape and play a major role in transporting marine and freshwater nutrients to the forest ecosystem. Nine anadromous fish species are abundant in the region: king salmon (*Chinook*, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), red salmon (sockeye, *O. nerka*), silver salmon (coho, *O. kisutch*), pink salmon (humpy, *O. gorbuscha*), chum salmon (dog, *O. keta*), steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), cutthroat trout (*O. clarkii*) and eulachon (hooligan, *Thaleichthys pacificus*).



COASTAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Southeast Alaska's Coastal Landscape

Southeast Alaska, a unique landscape encompassing more than 18,000 miles (29,000 km) of shoreline, collectively supports a variety of fishery habitats including over 12,000 individual estuaries that serve as important nursery areas for a variety of fish and invertebrate species (Albert and Schoen 2007; Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska 2016). In addition to estuaries, Southeast Alaska's coastal landscape is characterized by extensive nearshore areas connecting over 3,000 islands spread across the Alexander Archipelago including intertidal and beach habitat and other wetland features. Within these rich ecosystems aquatic resources abound and include diverse and abundant populations of commercially and culturally important fish and shellfish species, such as Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* sp.), herring (*Clupea pallasii*), blackcod (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), Pacific cod (*Gadus microcephalus*), halibut (*Hyppoglossus stenolepis*), king crab (*Paralithodes* sp.), dungeness crab (*Metacarcinus magister*), geoducks (*Panopea generosa*) and many others. This region is also home to 74,000 people dispersed across 34 communities, all of which occur along the shoreline and tidelands. Fishery and other aquatic resources critical to these communities are robust and flourishing yet potentially at risk as human activities increase due to urbanization and through dispersed activities, such as marine related ship traffic and residual impacts from historical land-use practices (Baker et al. 2011; TNC Coastal-GIS Human Activities Database 2011). In addition, they face additional challenges linked to emerging changes in climate and ocean conditions. These changes not only threaten important fish populations in the region, but they also alter the ways in which these resources need to be considered to ensure resilient ecosystems foster healthy communities and indigenous cultures in the future.





Thank You!

Questions?