

Salmon and People in Alaska:

A Workshop on Salmon Habitat Decision Tools for the 21st Century

Date and Location: Thursday, May 9th 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM;
Dena'ina Conference Center - Kahtnu 1, 600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage AK

Wild salmon populations have declined throughout much of North America, yet are widespread in Alaska and continue to support local economies and cultures. As Alaska continues to develop our natural resources, better information and tools may be needed to plan for growth while maintaining the productivity of Alaska wild salmon for current and future generations.

We are interested in engaging partnerships and exploring potential collaboration to better inform decisions which support communities and create economic opportunities while safeguarding the abundance, diversity and resilience of Alaska's wild salmon systems.

Our objectives are to build a common understanding of current information needs, facilitate coordination among agencies and stakeholders, and ultimately support planning for economic and community development as well as the long-term health of salmon systems in Alaska.

As an initial step, we invite you to participate in a workshop of resource managers, information providers and salmon experts throughout the state to explore partnerships, discuss salmon habitat decision-making in Alaska and better understand information needs and potential opportunities.

Framing Questions for the Workshop:

- 1. How is information on salmon habitat incorporated into decision-making in Alaska?*
- 2. What information is currently used and how is it served and accessed?*
- 3. Can information or access be improved to better support decision-making?*
- 4. How do we evaluate tradeoffs among potentially competing uses of salmon habitat?*



An Exploratory Workshop on Salmon Habitat Decision Tools in Alaska

Agenda

Workshop Goals:

- *Review the current context for making decisions related to salmon habitat in Alaska.*
- *Discuss existing information tools and identify gaps in data and decision systems.*
- *Evaluate potential for new applications that link common needs of information users with information providers and tool developers.*
- *Evaluate potential for collaborative efforts to improve salmon information tools and decision-making processes*

9:30 Welcome and Introductions - Randy Hagenstein & Erica McCall-Valentine

9:45 Workshop Overview – Dave Albert

10:00 Existing information tools for salmon habitat

Examples of information tools that inform decision-making related to salmon distribution and habitat – what is working and what can be improved?

- 1) *Dave Albert, TNC, Intro to Salmon Decision-Tools in Alaska*
- 2) *Jack Smodey & Peter Parker, DNR GIS, Alaska Mapper*
- 3) *Anne Johnson DNR GIS, Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative*
- 4) *Coowe Walker KBRR, Salmon Habitat Modeling as Decision Support*

11:00 Break

11:15 Salmon habitat decision-making in Alaska

Review of salmon decision-making in Alaska: decision context, authority, current data and information needs. Brief panel presentations followed by group discussion.

- 1) *Mike Daigneault, ADF&G Habitat Division*
- 2) *Clark Cox, ADNR Div. of Mining, Lands and Waters*
- 3) *Cindy Gilder, ADEC Water Quality Program*
- 4) *Phil Brna, US Fish & Wildlife Service*
- 5) *Phil Shephard, Great Land Trust*
- 6) *Bruce Oskolkoff, Ninilchik Traditional Council*

12:45 Lunch (provided)

1:30 What are the strengths and weaknesses of decision systems and information tools in Alaska that support planning for resource development and abundant salmon in the future? Breakout / group discussion

2:30 Break

2:45 How can we support or improve decision tools about salmon and potentially other economic, social and cultural values to better support planning and decision making? Breakout / group discussion

4:00 Evaluate opportunities for collaboration

4:30 Adjourn