



Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By:
Melissa Smith,
Coordinator

Photo by Maggie Harings, Kachemak Bay

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- The KPFHP partnered with six other fish habitat partnerships on an outreach and rebranding effort for the Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships. A public relations contractor was hired to provide design services for a state-wide website, logo, and outreach materials.
- Provided major updates to the KPFHP website (www.kenaifishpartnership.org).
- Provided lessons to 1,766 students through Adopt-a-Stream, a stream ecology based education program implemented in local K-12 schools. This program teaches the students a sense of stewardship through hands on field trips to local streams. Lesson topics include, the salmon life cycle, aquatic plants, and stream invertebrates.
- Stream Watch staff and 100+ trained volunteers interacted with 3,476 members of the public at high use fishing sites about stewardship, the importance of healthy habitat, ethical angling practices, and conscientious river visitation. 2021 and 2022 season summaries.
- Educated 500 students about aquatic invasive species at the Salmon Celebration, an annual K-12 educational event held at Johnson Lake in Kasilof.
- Transitioned the KPFHP coordinator position from a responsibility shared by the Kenai Watershed Forum executive director into a stand-alone dedicated position



SCIENCE

- Worked with Saint Mary's University to model changes in impervious surfaces in and around the cities of Kenai and Soldotna from 1984 to 2021. This information shows us how urbanization may influence fish habitat by changing the mechanics of water transportation across the landscape and contributing nutrients and heavy metals to streams and rivers. [Report](#)
- Updated the [KPFHP Freshwater Conservation Action Plan](#) and produced a [climate change supplement](#). The planning process occurred in January and included a series of six meetings with 18 participants and a month-long comment period. Partners involved with the planning process included a diversity of state and federal agencies and non-government organizations.
- Conducted early detection surveys for elodea in six waterbodies, including two in remote areas of the Peninsula.
- Continued to develop an [online map](#) that tracks aquatic invasive species (AIS) surveys on the Kenai Peninsula. This map has been made available to project partners in order to improve coordination in future years.



Photo by Jonny Armstrong

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supported Stream Watch volunteers as they installed more than three miles of fencing to protect sensitive riparian vegetation, removed over 2,600 pounds of litter from riparian areas, and educated 3,000+ members of the public.
- Removed invasive species, such as reed canary grass and butter and eggs, from three heavily used sport fishing sites on the Kenai River.
- Submitted 12 applications to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for instream flow reservations, which would give legal protection to nine distinct anadromous water bodies and protect over 70 miles of habitat for anadromous and resident fish. [Progress report](#)

