

## Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership 2020 Progress Report

<b>Communications &amp; Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empowered the pivot to digital for the Adopt-A-Stream educational program at Kenai Watershed Forum, which provided virtual ecological education focused on fish habitat to hundreds of students who were attending school from home in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Borough.</li><li>• Facilitated the engagement of 63 trained volunteer Ambassadors in the Stream Watch program who educated over 2250 members of the public at high use fishing sites to promote fish habitat conservation.</li><li>• Supported the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District in efforts to conduct community outreach to inform the public about a project to replace a perched culvert and restore fish passage on a tributary of Old Tyonek Creek.</li><li>• Enabled the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to share research findings about nearshore fish habitats with professional and community stakeholders to drive improved decision making about the management of nearshore fish and their habitat.</li><li>• And promoted invasive species education through Kenai Watershed Forum employees regularly engaged with homeowners, recreationists, and float plane operators about the threats posed by elodea and other aquatic invasive species and how to prevent spreading these species.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership supported:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baseline assessments of fish communities and water conditions in seagrass beds, kelp beds, and beach sediments conducted by Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.</li><li>• Kenai Watershed Forum staff who surveyed eight river miles for European bird cherry, discovering 62 infestations, updated reed canarygrass locational data at 117 sites, and worked with US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to conduct surveys of high priority lakes for elodea using early detection and rapid response techniques.</li><li>• And Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to conduct monitoring and evaluation before removing a fish passage barrier from a tributary of Old Tyonek Creek and to prepare for monitoring and evaluation after installation of the new culvert.</li></ul></li></ul>

<p><b>Conservation Accomplishments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership made it possible for:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenai Watershed Forum staff treated 35 acres of reed canarygrass to support for US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service efforts to eradicate elodea in Sandpiper Lake.</li> <li>• Stream Watch volunteers to remove 4,500 lbs of fish and wildlife endangering debris from riparian and coastal areas and to install 2-miles of habitat fencing to protect fragile riverbank vegetation.</li> <li>• And Tyonek Tribal Conservation District made progress on a project to remove a fish passage barrier from an old Tyonek Creek tributary in order to open up 1.2 upstream miles and 19 lake acres for Chinook and coho salmon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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