

## **Performance Progress Report for USFWS Agreement F22AC022825-00 (Coordination)**

**Report submitted by: Melissa Smith, Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership**

**Reporting Period: 2022**

**Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination and Projects (Coordination)**

- In 2022 the KPFHP Freshwater Conservation Action Plan (CAP) was updated. The planning process occurred in January and included a series of six planning meetings with 18 participants and a month-long comment period. Parties involved with the planning process included a diversity of state and federal agencies and non-government organizations. The document was compiled and copy-edited by interim Partnership Coordinator Benjamin Meyer in March – July 2022. In August the [2022 CAP](#) was completed and included a [climate change supplement](#).
- Nine regular meetings for the steering committee were held in 2022.
- In spring 2022, Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) advanced with towards hiring a new stand-alone contractor for the Partnership Coordinator. Historically, this role has been held by the KWF executive director. An extensive review of historical finances was conducted in order to determine salary, a hiring campaign was executed, and three final candidates were interviewed by a three-person hiring committee.
- In November 2022, Melissa Smith was hired as the new KPFHP Coordinator.
- 2023 Science Symposium: Coordination efforts for the 2023 KPFHP Science Symposium have begun and included securing a venue and keynote speaker, fundraising, and other preliminary planning activities. The 2023 biennial science symposium is scheduled for April 20th and 21st, 2023 in Soldotna, Alaska.
- Outreach: Many updates to the KPFHP website have been completed including, current information on funding opportunities, contacts, partnership members, the science symposium, etc. One newsletter was emailed to over 100 partnership subscribers in December 2022.
- Additionally, the FY2024 request for proposals was completed and distributed on December 5th, 2022 via email and posted on the KPFHP website.
- KPFHP is working together with other six fish habitat partnerships on an outreach/rebranding effort for the Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships. With support from a National Fish Habitat Partnership Multi—State grant, KWF contracted a public relations contractor to provide design services for a redesign of a website, logo, and outreach materials. Final deliverable will be available by late January 2023.
- KPFHP acted as the point of contact with the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board, including attending the virtual NFHP Board Meeting on November 29, 2022.
- Responded to many inquiries about the KPFHP, including two interviews for local newspapers.