

**Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93583956543?pwd=EyraMlhO4ZQRWBjTaChQlkSCSUp5P4.1>

Meeting ID: 935 8395 6543

Passcode: 938843

Time	Agenda Item	Lead(s)
10:00 PM	<p>Welcome <i>Desired Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome; Establish Quorum • Members- Trent D., Ben M., Samantha L., Jess J., Syverine B., Maura S., Dave A., Erika A. • Guest(s) – Alie Minium, KWF; Katherine Schake, KBNERR • Posting meeting notes on website- Ben will share with Steering Committee for review before posting them on the website • Note-taking, Steering Committee will take turns taking notes during the meeting. Ben signed up for today! 	<p>Trenten Dodson <i>(Coordinator)</i></p>
10:05 AM	<p>KPFHP Marine Conservation Action Plan (CAP) Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.kenaifishpartnership.org/cap/ • Katherine suggests KBNERR as lead event coordinator • Spoke with Jessica Speed about what a marine CAP might look like • It probably makes sense to consider this effort at a Cook Inlet scale rather than just Kenai. E.g., partner with Mat-Su • New workshops/efforts ~3 month effort minimum. (Planning event, event itself, then follow-up/implementation stages) • K Schake is certified as a coach for The Conservation Standards workshops • Draft work plan has been written up • Combination of in-person and virtual events and workshops • Syverine shared the following: <p><u>Example Performance Measures and Milestones</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10+ Marine Fish Habitat Content Area Experts Interviewed by 11/1/2027 	<p>Katherine Schake <i>(Guest, KBNERR)</i></p>

- 40+ Marine Ecosystem Stakeholders Engage with Process by 12/1/2027
- 15+ Entities/Orgs Participate in Conservation Action Planning Workshop at AMSS by 2/1/2028
- Report and Presentation Developed and Delivered by 3/30/2028 to FHPs and Marine End Users
- Syverine will send Trent a revised/updated version of this timeline
 - Schedule would work well existing staff schedules and events
- Possibly coordinate with Mat-Su FHP to incorporate a field trip element
- Trent - Lets develop a specific budget to present when we ask for coordination funds, try to include the \$60k estimate as an ask. Max amount of FHP funds that can be used for coordination in \$200k
- Katherine/Trent - what can the Mat-Su FHP contribute to this effort?
- Syverine - can this event have support for registration/travel expenses to the AK Marine Science Symposium? Syverine will make a cost estimate for this
- Maura - If we use larger amounts of coordination funding, are we still required to do a full RFP/grant making process??
- Katherine - A main purpose of the marine CAP is highlight priorities for future funding opportunities

10:25 PM **National FHP Coordinators Meeting**

Trenten Dodson
(Coordinator)

Discussion:

- National FHP is updating system for evaluating FHPs nationwide, plan to have new rubric out by mid-May 2026
 - “5 Key Performance Indicators” - generally high-level ideas
 - “Communications & Outreach” (e.g. field trips, tabling, etc)
 - “Science & Data”
 - “Miscellaneous & Bonus” (e.g. tribal participation, diverse user groups)
 - “Minimum FHP Standards”

- “Project-Related” (how rigorously do proposed projects follow our own goals)

10:45 PM **KPFHP Strategic Plan Review**

Trenten Dodson
(Coordinator)

- Review effort led by Jess, Trent, and Samantha
- Some outdated info removed or updated
- “Policy” project goals clarified to focus on education for local leaders
- Updated the “mission statement” to be more focused on fish habitat
- Other misc edits

11:20 AM **Partner Updates**

Maura

- Fish need land too field trips planning
- Working with HSWCD on Prunus working group plans
- Timing remains unknown for FY26 funding
- Attended a Kenai River Special Management Area meeting. Guides interested/concerned about increased foot traffic on stream banks
 - How can we make sure all the disparate community groups interested in this topic aren’t overly siloed?

All Present

Syverine

- Beginning planning for Kachemak Bay Science Conference.
- Will send invite to join steering committee

Jess

- Will send out flier for 2026 stream bank restoration workshops
- Wrapping up a related EVOS grant

Dave

- Kenai King Salmon initiative committee(s) participation
- May is a busy month for TU
- Clean up event on May 9th
- Kids fly fishing camp in later May

Erika

- A national NOAA leader might be participating in the 2026 Kenai River Classic. Possibly opportunity to share our works

Sam

- Meeting every 2-4 weeks with permitting team
- Will be sending out ~4k notices to property owners within the 21.18 riparian habitat zones
- Floodplain management - various federal sources & support facing cuts
- Flood insurance policy holders include just ~100

Ben

- New collaboration with Kenaitze focused on water quality
- New pre-proposal for National Coastal Resilience Fund focused on wetlands education & management

Trent

- Kenai King Initiative - various working groups meeting this week
 - Follow up on Mary King's ADF&G study from ~25 yrs ago
 - Jess Johnson has a box full of materials related to this project. Physical copies of materials from the project
 - Jess described a project to monitor long-term impacts of the cost-share program. They submitted a proposal to do this to KHPFHP circa 2023
 - Dave Atcheson was crew lead for the first field season of this project
- Next meeting - will be a full agenda

11:45 PM **Adjourn**

Steering Committee Members:

Appointed Members

NOAA – Erika Ammann (Appointed 9/5/25)

USFWS – Maura Schumacher (Appointed 1/1/24)

ADFG – Jess Johnson (Appointed?)

Elected Members

KPB – Samantha Lopez (Elected?)

KWF – Benjamin Meyer (Elected?)

TU – Dave Atcheson (Elected 11/22/24)

KBNERR – Syverine Bentz (Elected 9/24/25)

Advisors:

Kenai Peninsula Borough – Peter Micciche

USFWS - Mike Daigneault

Next Meeting:

April 15, 2026

Upcoming Meetings/Events

March

AFS-AK Chapter Annual Meeting – Fairbanks – 23-27

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- **2027 Field trip—**
- Alaska Wild Salmon Day
- Soldotna Creek Wetland Violation

Resurrection Creek project- planting day hosted by TU (Dave will keep us updated of the timing on this)