

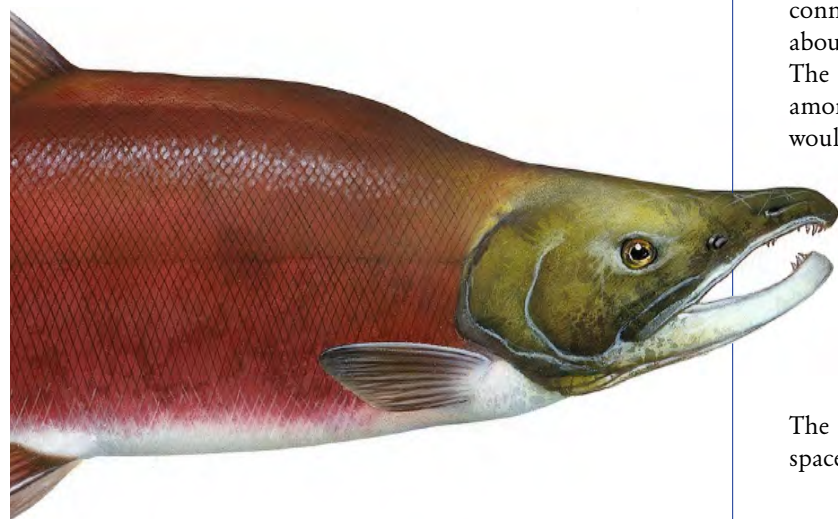
The Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

Clark James Mishler

Thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin

In Alaska, nature runs on salmon. Hundreds of thousands of wild salmon return to spawn in the Matanuska-Susitna Basin, where lakes and rivers serve as a nursery for salmon and other fish, including world-class rainbow trout, char and grayling. The five species of wild salmon that share these living waters help define life for people in the Mat-Su Basin.

Though the Mat-Su Basin's rivers, lakes, wetlands, tundra, boreal forest, glaciers and mountain ranges include some of the wildest terrain on earth, communities in the lower reaches of the basin comprise the fastest growing region in Alaska. To help ensure that wild salmon survive in a place where development pressures are growing, the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership was formed.



A partnership

The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership believes that thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities can co-exist in the Mat-Su Basin.

The Partnership is addressing the growing list of impacts to wild salmon habitat with an approach that is collaborative, cooperative, and non-regulatory. It brings together a diverse group of people from business and government and the non-profit community who are concerned with the health of wild salmon.

The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership developed a Strategic Action Plan to identify collaborative projects and other actions that will protect and restore important habitat for wild salmon in the Mat-Su Basin. The broad goals are to protect salmon and their habitats in the Mat-Su Basin and Upper Cook Inlet, mitigate potential threats to salmon and their habitats, restore connectivity between salmon habitats, and increase knowledge about salmon and their use of freshwater and marine habitats. The plan's conservation strategies encourage collaboration among multiple partners to achieve common objectives that would be difficult for any one partner to accomplish alone.

The history of salmon in other parts of the world indicates that wild salmon cannot persist in their full abundance unless stakeholders work together to protect salmon habitat. Only in working together, can all the key components for salmon habitat be protected to ensure healthy, abundant salmon runs in the Mat-Su Basin into the future.

The Plan is available at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/MatSuSalmon>

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership's focus on a bottom-up, locally driven, voluntary and non-regulatory effort was inspired by the approach outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Its mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan is available at www.fishhabitat.org



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Partners as of September, 2008

- Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
- Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
- Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
- Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Alaska Center for the Environment
- Alaska Outdoor Council
- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats
- Aquatic Restoration & Research Institute
- Bureau of Land Management
- Butte Area Residents Civic Organization
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
- ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
- Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
- Cook Inletkeeper
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Friends of Mat-Su
- Glacier Ridge Properties
- Great Land Trust
- Knik River Watershed Group
- Matanuska River Watershed Coalition
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Park Service
- Native Village of Eklutna
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District
- Sierra Club
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- USDA Forest Service
- Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District