

# Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership



# History

- Formation of partnership ongoing since 2008, when participants from the states of OR, WA, and CA inspired a marine and estuarine focused Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) along the Pacific Coast and collaborated to request funding from a multi-state conservation grant.
- The partnership received “candidate” status as a FHP by the NFHAP Board in late 2009.
- The partnership has continued to grow from late 2009 to present, and has started discussions with other potential partners, including the state of Alaska, tribal governments and non governmental collaborators.



# Further Partnership Development

The Partnership held a 2-day workshop in May 2010 to:

1. Further develop and refine the partnership – clearly establish its relevance and purpose.
2. Determine the partnership's niche – answer: *“How can this new partnership aid other ongoing partnership efforts?”* *“What can it accomplish that others cannot?”*
3. Develop a mission statement with goals and objectives that articulate the breadth and scope of the partnership.



# Further Partnership Development continued

1. Review completed broad-scale scientific assessments that will likely contribute towards identifying critical marine and estuarine areas to focus conservation and restoration efforts.
2. Define the geographic scope for the fish habitat partnerships.
3. Define the priority needs for initial work.
4. Establish organizational and governance structure for the partnership.





# Draft Vision

Enhance native fish populations and improve resiliency of estuarine and marine ecosystems along the *Pacific Coast*\* through priority habitat conservation work, including protection, restoration and enhancement activities.



# Draft Mission

Identify science-based regional priorities for estuarine and marine habitat conservation along the *Pacific Coast\** and protect, restore and enhance habitats in these areas by coordinating, expanding, strengthening, and supporting partnerships and habitat conservation efforts.



# Focus Areas

- Horizontally – estuaries and nearshore, marine environments.
- Vertically – northern Baja to SE Alaska.
- Full assemblage of nearshore, marine fish and aquatic species – not a salmon-focused partnership.



# Workshop Information

Information from the workshop is posted on PSMFC's web site at:

<http://www.psmfc.org/habitat/pmefhp.html> and includes:

- Presentations regarding habitat assessments
- Presentations about the National Habitat Action Plan
- Presentations about other partnerships
- Notes from discussion of priority focus areas for partnership work
- Notes from discussion of geographic scope
- Working documents regarding draft structure of group





# Interim Steering Committee

Participants at the 2-day workshop volunteered to serve on the Interim Steering Committee:

Non-Governmental Organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Surfrider, Marine Conservation Biology Institute (tbd), and Ducks Unlimited

State Government: WDFW, WDOE, National Estuarine Research Reserve (tbd), ODFW, ADFG, and PSMFC (multi-state)

Tribal Governments: Coquille Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (tbd)

Federal Government: USFWS, NOAA Fisheries



# Partnership Coordination and Next Steps

- NOAA is pursuing funds to hire a part-time coordinator through The Nature Conservancy.
- USFWS (Region 1) is pursuing mechanisms to match NOAA's commitment.
- Until a coordinator is brought on board, partnership contacts are:

Korie Schaeffer (NOAA Fisheries - [Korie.Schaeffer@noaa.gov](mailto:Korie.Schaeffer@noaa.gov))  
and Dan Shively (USFWS - [Dan\\_Shively@fws.gov](mailto:Dan_Shively@fws.gov))

