

MEMORANDUM

To:	File
From:	Maria Shepherd
Date:	9/28/09
Project:	Hatcher Pass Recreational Area Access, Trails and Transit Facilities
Subject:	2009 Fish Trapping Summary
Job Number:	1124.59609.02

2009 Fish Trapping Summary

In July, August, and September 2009 DOWL HKM investigated the presence of fish populations in small perennial stream reaches located in the Hatcher Pass project's Southern study area (see Figure 1). As shown on Figure 1, only one of these streams has been assigned an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) number, the rest are unnamed tributaries to either the ADF&G numbered stream or the Little Susitna River. The fish trapping locations are shown on the attached figure and referred to as FT 1, FT 2, FT 3, and FT 4. Fish were observed in two other locations marked as FO 1 and FO 2 on Figure 1. Minnow live-capture traps were placed in the stream reaches at the proposed roadway alignment and left for a minimum time-span of four hours. Tuna fish was used as bait in the fish traps.

FT 1 - Tributary to the Little Susitna River

FT 1 is a small perennial stream located at the southernmost end of the proposed roadway alignment. On July 27, 2009, four fish were captured; two juvenile coho salmon (72mm and 75 mm fork lengths), one juvenile Dolly Varden (80 mm fork length), and one adult slimy sculpin (89 mm overall length). The presence of coho salmon and Dolly Varden designates FT 1 as an anadromous stream.



Juvenile Coho Salmon



Slimy Sculpin

On August 27, 2009, a minnow live trap was placed in FT 1 and left approximately six hours. Two fish were captured at FT 1; both juvenile coho salmon (77mm and 130mm fork lengths).

On September 25, 2009, a minnow live-capture trap was placed in FT 1 and left approximately five hours. The location of the trap was about 30 meters downstream from the July 27 trapping location. Four fish were captured and identified as juvenile coho salmon. Fork lengths were 76mm, 77mm, 100mm, and 105mm.

FT 2 - Tributary to the Little Susitna River

FT 2 is a small perennial stream just north of FT 1. In some areas it appears to go underground. On July 27, 2009, a minnow live trap was placed in FT 2 and left for approximately five hours. No fish were caught. It was concluded that this stream is not an anadromous stream due to the lack of a surface water connection to the Little Susitna River. No further trapping was done at this location.

FT 3 - Tributary to ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351

FT 3 is a very small stream west of the ADF&G numbered stream. On July 27, 2009, a minnow live trap was placed in FT 3 and left for approximately five hours. No fish were caught. It was concluded that this stream is not an anadromous stream due to either barriers or the lack of surface water connection to the ADF&G numbered stream. No further trapping was done at this location.

FT 4 - Tributary to ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351

FT4 is a small perennial stream west of the ADF&G numbered stream. On September 25, 2009, a minnow live-capture trap was placed in FT 4 and left approximately five hours. No fish were captured. A manmade log dam is located just upstream of the trap location (see photo below). The dam creates a vertical rise of approximately five feet and may be a barrier to fish upstream of the trapping site. It is assumed that other barriers are located downstream, between the trapping site and FO 1 where juvenile coho salmon were observed. It was concluded that this stream is not anadromous at this location due to a barrier downstream that prevents access.



FO 1

On July 27, 2009, numerous juvenile salmonids were observed near the confluence of two stream forks of ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351 upstream of the proposed roadway crossing (see Figure 1). Two fish were captured with a net and identified as juvenile coho salmon (38 mm and 41 mm fork lengths).

FO 2

On September 25, 2009, a large (~30 inch) coho salmon was observed in ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351 at the location marked FO 2 on Figure 1.



Table 1 below summarizes the results of the 2009 fish trapping.

Table 1. Fish Trapping Summary

Date	Location	Species
July 27, 2009	FT 1 - unnamed tributary to the Little Susitna River	Trapped two juvenile coho salmon, one Dolly Varden, and one slimy sculpin.
	FT 2 - unnamed tributary to the Little Susitna River	No fish captured.
	FT 3 - unnamed tributary to ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351	No fish captured.
	FO 1- ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-3251	Observed dozens of juvenile coho salmon.
August 27, 2009	FT 1 - unnamed tributary to the Little Susitna River	Trapped two juvenile coho salmon.
September 25, 2009	FT 1 - unnamed tributary to the Little Susitna River	Trapped four juvenile coho salmon.
	FT 4 - unnamed tributary to ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-2351	No fish captured.
	FO 2 - ADF&G Stream 247-41-10100-3251	Observed one large coho salmon.