

STATE/FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT

Project Title:

INJURY TO PINK SALMON SPAWNING AREAS WITHIN THE

KODIAK AND CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT UNITS

Study ID Number: Fish/Shellfish Study Number 7b

Lead Agency:

State of Alaska, ADF&G

OSIAR Division

Cooperating Agency(ies): Federal: USFWS

State: None

Principal Investigators: Charles Swanton, Fishery Biologist

Bruce Barrett, Fishery Biologist

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Because normal commercial salmon fisheries were not prosecuted in 1989, due to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, target escapement goals were exceeded by a factor of 4.3 within the Kodiak Management Area (KMA), and by a factor of 2.1 for the Chignik Management Area (CMA). The estimated 1989 total pink salmon escapement for the KMA was 20,280,991 (Barrett et. al. 1990), while the CMA estimated total was 1,434,798 (Barrett 1990). Total escapement estimation using area under a spawner abundance curve provided by the Johnson and Barrett (1988) model relies upon a valid stream life parameter. In 1989 total pink salmon escapement for the Afognak District of the KMA utilized an average stream life value of 8.44 days derived from studies conducted at Afognak River and East Paramanof Creek. Escapements for the remainder of the KMA and CMA were calculated using a 15 day stream life (grounded upon professional judgement of regional ADF&G staff). During the 1990 field season stream life values were obtained from six pink salmon spawning streams within the Kodiak Archipelago. Several approaches were used (pink salmon live and carcasses foot survey escapement counts of both tagged and untagged adults) in conjunction with the Johnson and Barrett (1988) model. Average stream life values derived in 1990 (grand mean 11.0 days; Range 7.4-14.6 days) conformed well with values reported within the literature (Perrin and Irvine 1990) as well as the 8.44d and 15d stream life values relied upon in 1989.

Estimates of total available pink salmon spawning habitat were derived for 43 Kodiak and 14 Chignik Preemergent fry index streams, and when incorporated with stream specific total escapement estimates, provide observed spawner densities ranging from .01 to 163 fish /M^2 (mean=11.8 fish/M^2) for KMA streams, and 0.1 to 4 fish /M^2 (mean=0.8 fish/M^2) for CMA streams. Spawning habitat estimates for selected sites within preemergent fry index streams were sampled but estimates of spawning area have not been calculated.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Determine total pink salmon escapements for streams where historic preemergent sac fry density data exist for 1989. This includes 44 Kodiak and 18 Chignik Management Area streams.
 - 1. Periodically count the number of live pink salmon by aerial and foot survey methods, 1990.
 - 2. Determine average pink salmon stream life using weir and foot survey counts of live fish for selected streams, 1990.

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- B. Define the distribution of spawning pink salmon for index streams within the Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas. This entails mapping and photographing of spawner distribution, 1989.
- C. Estimate total available spawning habitat for preemergent fry index streams within the Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas.
 - 1. Measure the amount of spawning habitat using habitat suitability indices and historic spawner distribution information.
 - 2. Measure the amount of spawning habitat within areas sampled by the preemergent fry program (Fish/Shellfish Study 8b).

INTRODUCTION

In 1989, oil emanating from the Exxon Valdez spill caused contamination of marine waters and tidally influenced nearshore environments within the Kodiak and Chiqnik Management Areas. Documented presence of petroleum based products in these areas was cause for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Commercial Fisheries Division) to severely limit commercial salmon fishing opportunities due to the threat of contaminated fishing gear and fish product. The Kodiak Management Area encompasses 451 anadromous salmonid streams within the Kodiak Archipelago and Alaska Peninsula area from Kilokak Rocks at the southern boundary, to Cape Douglas (Figure 1). In 1989, at least one aerial and or foot survey was completed on 334 of the 451 anadromous streams (Barrett et. al. 1990). The Chignik Management Area (CMA) has 107 recognized anadromous salmon streams and is delineated by Kilokak Rocks to the north with the southern boundary being Kupreanof Point (Figure 1). All 107 CMA salmon streams were surveyed in 1989.

In 1989 the estimated total pink salmon escapement for the KMA was 20,280,991 fish which exceeded the odd year target escapement goal of 4.7 million fish by a factor of 4.3, while the CMA escapement of 1,434,798 fish exceeded the escapement goal of 0.7 million fish by a factor of 2.1.

Contemporary commercial salmon management is grounded upon the convention that if escapement goals are met, subsequent production will provide for a maximum sustained yield. To determine if the total estimated escapements observed in 1989 will result in lower production, had there not been an oil spill, a life history analysis is being conducted. This approach is superior to evaluation of production trends or spawner-recruit analyses due to

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Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas.

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the ability to evaluate events occurring at each successive stage and not requiring returns from the 1989 brood year being present. Within this study, escapement and spawner dinsity parameters surrounding the first life history stage are estimated. Successive life history stage analyses will rely upon these parameters for impact assessment (Fish/Shellfish Study 8b).

METHODS

Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys were conducted using fixed wing aircraft and trained fisheries biologists on all Kodiak and Chignik escapement index streams in 1989 and 1990. Surveys were conducted weekly (weather permitting) and observers recorded: 1) Stream name and statistical number; 2) Date, weather conditions, survey visibility and time; 3) Numbers of live and dead fish by species; 4) Observer, pilot, aircraft type and general comments. Data were recorded on standard forms and entered into the regional stream survey database.

Weir Stations

In 1990 weirs were located on five systems within the Kodiak Archipelago (East Paramanof Ck., Afognak R., Saltery Ck., Barling Ck. and Akalura Ck.) to count daily pink salmon escapements. In addition, 150 pink salmon were tagged with color coded 30cm floy tags on a weekly basis (over a 4 week period with each tag color representing a specific week). As part of the program every three days foot surveys were conducted upstream of the weir to enumerate tagged and untagged live and dead fish. During each survey dead pink salmon were removed from the effective counting area to prevent recounting on subsequent foot surveys. Aerial surveys were made on the weired systems on a time available basis in an attempt to calibrate aerial counts with total escapement.

Pink salmon stream life was estimated using weir and foot survey counts of escapement in 1990, in conjunction with the Johnson and Barrett (1988) model. Four distinct methods were used in calculating stream life:1) total live fish days (derived using live fish foot survey counts and the JB model, divided by the known cumulative pink salmon weir count;2) Total live fish days (determined using live fish foot survey counts and the JB model, divided by the cumulative dead fish count; 3) Total number of live fish days per color code derived from foot survey counts divided by total number of fish tagged of that color code with and without adjustment for fish observibility; 4) Total number of fish days from time of tagging until recovery of tagged carcasses based upon foot surveys and weir tag recoveries, divided by total number of tagged Aerial survey calibration was investigated using a portion of the above data and instantaneous live fish population estimates. Instantaneous live fish population estimates were

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derived using cumulative live pink salmon counts through the weir, less cumulative carcasses counted by date.

Spawning Habitat Surveys

Total available spawning habitat estimates were derived using a two stage sampling design (5-300m primary units and 60 secondary units per stream) with variance estimates derived using equation 11.24 of Cochran(1977) with modification by Wolter (1984) for linear trends. Necessary metrics were obtained from United States Geological Survey 1:250,000 maps for both Kodiak and Chignik index streams and ranges of habitat suitability indices extracted from available scientific literature (Andrew and Geen 1960; Chambers 1956; Divinin 1952; Krueger 1981; Neave 1966; Raleigh and Nelson 1985; Wilson et.al. 1981.). Indices used for habitat designation were substrate size and embeddedness, water velocity and depth. All habitat data were recorded on standardized forms and entered into the regional database.

In addition, spawning habitat was estimated for preemergent fry sampling sites for all 44 Kodiak and 18 Chignik index streams using the same criteria as above.

RESULTS

To calculate total escapement estimates using a spawner abundance curve a reliable stream life estimate is required. In 1989, the average pink salmon stream life for East Paramanof creek and Afognak River was an estimated 8.7 days and 8.19 days respectively (average 8.44 days). The 1989 pink salmon total escapements for the Afognak District were calculated based upon this value. However, for the remainder of the Kodiak and Chignik management districts a stream life value of 15 days was employed (grounded upon the professional judgement of regional ADF&G staff). In 1990, six stream systems provided pink salmon stream life estimates. The average for each of the four methods used are: 8.6 days, 12.4 days, 7.4/12.2 days, and 14.6 days (Table 1). According to Perrin and Irvine (1990) the true or theoretical stream life is one which is neither positively or negatively biased, which relates to whether the method over or under represents the actual population present. This value is felt to be approximated by the weighted average of 15.7 days (Table 1). In evaluating the various methods both methods 1 and 2 previously mentioned have a negative bias due to fish visibility by observers (Table 3). This problem influences the estimates derived by the first two methods but has no influence on the latter two methods due to the use of tagging data. Stream life estimates derived using tagged fish data are depicted in Tables 2 and 3. The overall or theoretical stream life value calculated in 1990 (14.6 days), is not appreciably different than the 15 day value used for estimating total escapements in 1989. It should be noted that the stream life values observed for 1990 were under distinctly different escapement magnitudes and spawner

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_	Stream Life Method											
System	Cum. Fish Days From Foot Survey Counts/Total Escap. Through Veir	Cum. Fish Days From Foot Survey Counts/Cum. Carcass Count	Weighted Avg. for Surveyed Counted Live Tagged Fish (Not Adj. for Visibility)	Weighted Avg. for Surveyed Counted Live Tagged Fish (Adj. for Visibility)	Weighted Avg. for Tagged Fish Using Carcase Recoveries							
Bar Ling	7.9	15.4	7.8	14.9	17.5							
Afognak	6.7		3.8	7.8	9.9							
Pink	6.5	6.8										
Akalura	3.5	5.9	6.0	9.9	10.8							
Piller		16.4										
Sal tery	13.7	15.8	14.2	18.8	18.6							
Paramanof	13.2	14.2	5.1	9.6	15.9							
Average	8.6	12.4	7.4	12.2	14.6							

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System	Stream Life in Number of Days									
	Tag Group 1	Tag Group 2	Tag Group 3	Tag Group 4	Weighted Average					
Barling	19.89	17.61	17.26		17.5					
Afognak	10.14	8.43			9.9					
Akalura	13.42	8.05			10.8					
Saltery	25.08	18.90	14.77	13.44	18.6					
Paramanof	21.43	20.19	14.77	9.50	15.9					
Average	17.99	14.64	15.60	11.47	14.6					

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Table 3. Estimated pink salmon average stream life based on live fish foot surveys of four color coded tag groups, consisting of about 150 fish per code per week, for selected Kodiak Management Area streams, 1990.

	Stream Life in Number of Days											
	Tag G	iroup	Tag	Group 2	Tag	Group 3	Tag	Group 4	Weigh	ited Ave	rage*	
System	Not Adj.	Adj.	Not Adj.	Adj."	Not Adj.	Adj.	Not Adj.	Adj.	Not Adj.	Adj.	NA/A	
Barling	10.4	15.4	7.3	15.1	7.7	14.8			7.8	14.9	0.53	
Afognak	4.0	8.1	2.6	6.3					3.8	7.8	0.48	
Akalura	7.5	9.7	4.3	10.0					6.0	9.9	0.61	
Saltery	19.1	26.1	13.8	18.7	10.5	14.6	11.2	13.2	14.2	18.8	0.76	
Paramanof	7.9	11.8	4.0		4.2	11.5	3.8	6.4	5.1	9.6	0.53	
Average	9.8	14.2	6.4	12.5	7.5	13.6	7.5	9.8	7.4	12.2	0.58	

^{*}Weighted average stream life derived by a weighting factor representing the escapement counted during the respective tagging periods.

The adjustment is based on the visibility of tagged fish by tag color group and stream. For example if only 75 of 150 tagged fish of a specific color code were observed on the first survey following tagging, the number of tagged fish observed begining with the first survey following release of the 150 color coded tagged fish was increased by a factor of 2.0.



densities than those which were experienced during the 1989 spawning event.

Aerial survey calibration as defined (Fish/Shellfish Detailed Study Plan 7b) could not be adequately evaluated due to prolonged inclement weather which limited the number of surveys available for the stream systems designated. It is doubtful whether the calibration information, if obtained, would have been useful in evaluating 1989 escapements in light of the rather minimal escapements observed in 1990, Paramanof Ck.(24,446), Saltery Ck.(5,121), Akalura Ck.(2,604), Barling Ck.(18,953), Afognak R.(27,808), Pillar Ck.(13,348).

Total available pink salmon spawning habitat estimates and variances were estimated for 43 Kodiak and 18 Chignik index streams (Tables 4 and 5). Spawner densities were calculated using finalized escapement data from 1989, and total available spawning habitat estimates. In addition, 95% confidence intervals were calculated based upon the assumption that the habitat data is approximated by a symmetrical distribution. Stream specific spawner densities and 1989 total estimated escapements are used as a preliminary step in evaluation of preemergent fry data collected as part of Fish/Shellfish Study 8b, and associated impact assessment modeling forthcoming.

At this time, spawning habitat estimates for the preemergent fry sampling sites have not been calculated.

STATUS OF INJURY ASSESSMENT

All of the stated objectives within this project have been met, except for calculation of the spawning area estimates for the preemergent fry sampling sites and the detailed spawner distribution maps. The 1989 spawner distribution maps for each of the index streams within the Kodiak and Chignik Management Areas will be completed by 15 January, while estimates for the preemergent fry sampling site spawning habitat should be completed by February 1991.

Within this study and its associated objectives impact is not directly addressed; results from this investigation will be integrated into an impact assessment conducted within Fish/Shellfish Study 8b.

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Table 4. Kodiak Management Area pink salmon preemergent fry index stream estimated escapements, total available spawning habitat, desired escapement goals and theoretical optimum and observed spawner densities, 1989.

							ty
Habitat	Std.	_(# of	Fish)				6 C.I.
£51.	Dev.	1909	Des irred	Jupin.	EST.	LOW	High
5.524.4 41.345.9 10.414.6 29.223.2 619.7 839.7 27.864.6 58,724.6	42.81 128.32 380.701 145.21 24.33 17.92 62.66 196.51	4,022 20,056 106,347 95,700 6,000 39,207 41,611 20,794	18,418 18,418 30,000 73,671 6,000 20,000 36,835	0.445 2.880 2.520 9.682	0.485 10.21 3.274 9.682 46.69 1.493	0.721 0.483 9.768 3.254 9.233 45.48 1.489 0.352	0.73 0.48 10.6 3.29 10.1 47.9 1.49 0.35
174,557		333,737	203,342	1.164	1.911		
67,847.2 62,370.7 46,903.4 68,798.2 44,646.3 40,176.9 97,817.9 116,852.0	170.78 159.92 352.74 275.38 253.7 213.82 145.08 314.32	193,167 795,899 410,913 353,333 63,820	55,253 257,847 110,506 18,418 18,418	0.885 5.497 1.606 0.412	3.097 16.96 5.972 7.914	1.762 3.087 16.81 5.943 7.858 1.578 6.583 0.887	1.773 3.100 17.12 6.002 7.970 1.599 6.600 0.893
428,561		2,686,215	755,124	1.762	6.268		
829,515 364,644 176,630	820.2 511.36 244.43	109,880 45,655 1,692	40,000 10,000 18,418		0.125	0.124	0.13 0.12 0.00
1,370,789		157,227	68,418	0.049	0.114	are an investment	

21,532 137,755 111,431 171,739	104.98 354.84 279.8 272.08	2,097 315,559 1,093,543 1,783,196		0.342 0.871 1.983 1.930	0.097 2.290 9.813 10.38	0.096 2.283 9.783 10.36	0.09 2.29 9.84 10.4
442,457		3,194,395	679,896	1.536	7.219		
22,738 75,210 7,824 19,588 53,637 32,472 53,695	181.74 197.93 57.95 97.2 156.5 118.87 121.32	69,762 147,423 118,323 1,192,683 196,087 142,535 214,541	36,835 110,506 36,835 147,341 36,835 36,835 60,000	1.619 1.469 4.707 7.521 0.686 1.134 1.117	3.068 1.960 15.12 60.88 3.655 4.389 3.995	3.038 1.953 14.98 60.51 3.642 4.369 3.984	3.09 1.96 15.2 61.2 3.66 4.40 4.00
265,164		2,081,354	465,187	1.754	7.849		
	5,524.4 41,345.9 10,414.6 29,223.2 619,7 839.7 27,864.6 58,724.6 174,557 67,847.2 62,370.7 46,903.4 68,798.2 44,646.3 40,176.9 97,817.9 116,852.0 428,561 829,515 364,644 176,630 1,370,789 21,532 137,755 111,431 171,739 442,457 22,738 75,210 7,824 19,588 53,637 32,472 53,695 265,164	5,524.4 42.81 41,345.9 128.32 10,414.6 380.701 29,223.2 145.21 619.7 24.33 839.7 17.92 27,864.6 62.66 58,724.6 196.51 174,557 67,847.2 170.78 62,370.7 159.92 46,903.4 352.74 68,798.2 275.38 44,646.3 253.7 40,176.9 213.82 97,817.9 145.08 116,852.0 314.32 428,561 829,515 820.2 364,644 511.36 176,630 244.43 1,370,789 21,532 104.98 137,755 354.84 111,431 279.8 171,739 272.08 442,457 22,738 181.74 75,210 197.93 7,824 57.95 19,588 97.2 53,637 156.5 32,472 118.87 53,695 121.32	### Std. Gev. 1989 5,524.4	Est. Dev. 1989 Desired 5,524.4 42.81 4,022 18,418 41,345.9 128.32 20,056 18,418 10,414.6 380.701 106,347 30,000 29,223.2 145.21 95,700 73,671 619.7 24.33 6,000 6,000 839.7 17.92 39,207 27,864.6 62.66 41,611 20,000 58,724.6 196.51 20,794 36,835 174,557 333,737 203,342 67,847.2 170.78 119,943 36,835 174,557 333,737 203,342 67,847.2 170.78 119,943 36,835 179,899 257,847 68,782 275,38 410,913 110,506 44,646.3 253,77 353,333 18,418 44,848 40,176.9 213.82 63,820 18,418 97,817.9 145.08 645,157 184,176 116,852.0 314.32 103,983 73,671 428,561 2,686,215 755,124 829,515 820.2 109,880 40,000 364,644 511.36 45,655 10,000 116,630 244.43 1,692 18,418 1,370,789 157,227 68,418 1,370,789 157,227 68,418 21,532 104.98 2,097 7,367 137,755 354.84 315,559 120,000 111,431 279.8 1,93,543 221,012 171,739 272.08 1,783,196 331,517 442,457 3,194,395 679,896 22,738 181.74 69,762 36,835 19,588 97.2 1,192,683 147,423 110,506 7,824 57,95 118,323 36,835 19,588 97.2 1,192,683 147,423 110,506 7,824 57,95 118,323 36,835 19,588 97.2 1,192,683 147,341 150,637 156.5 196,087 36,835 36,835 32,472	Habitat Est. Dev. 1989 Desired Opti. 5,524.4 42.81 4,022 18,418 3.333 41,345.9 128.32 20,056 18,418 0.445 10,414.6 380.701 106,347 30,000 2.880 29,223.2 145.21 95,700 73,671 2.520 619.7 24.33 6,000 6,000 9.682 839.7 17.92 39,207	Habitat Std. Legar Leg	Habitat Est. Dev. 1989 Desired Opti. Foint 957

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Table 4. (page 2 of 2)

		1		Feer			Spawner (Inds	Densit	У
Strea Name	Number	Habitat Est.	Std. Dev.	_(# of	Persent Fish) Desired	Opti.	Point Est.	951 Low	C.I. High
Northeast	District			,					4
Pillar Buskin R.	259-102 259-211	2,541 47,945	23.12 222.86	42,950 272,785	100,000	2.085	16.90 5.689	16.71 5.656	17.09 5.722
Subtotals		50,486		315,735	100,000	1.980	6.253		
Mainland	District								
Kukak Missack Kinak Dakavak Kashvik Alinchak Portage Dil Jute Kanatak Big Ck.	262271 262-402 262-451 262-551 262-604 262-651 262-702 262-751 262-801 262-802 262-851	21,257 5,345 21,738 34,635 117,682 3,317 4,543 10,966 5,473 23,005 77,704	82.24 121.06 126.93 365.18 219.38 42.98 79.98 87.96 60.62 140.18 184.84	3,802 36,120 54,327 65,910 282,600 541,827 138,880 115,612 23,303 158,350 2,078,433	7,367 11,051 73,671 73,671 92,088 73,671 36,835 36,835 3,684 36,835 221,012	0.346 2.067 3.389 2.127 0.782 22.20 8.107 3.358 0.673 1.601 2.844	0.178 6.757 2.499 1.902 2.401 163.3 30.56 10.54 4.257 6.883 26.74	0.178 6.572 2.481 1.878 2.395 160.7 29.91 10.43 4.200 6.831 26.66	0.179 6.95 2.51 1.926 2.400 166.0 31.29 10.64 4.310 6.939 26.88
Subtotals		325,667		3,499,164	666,720	2.047	10.74		

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Table 5. Chignik Management Area total pink salmon spawning habitat estimated 1989 total escapements and observed spawner density by preemergent fry index stream.

				1000	Spawner Density (Inds./M^2)				
<u>Strea</u> Name	m_ Number	Habitat Est (M^2)	Std. Dev.	1989 Escapement (# of Fish)	Point Est.	95% Low	C.I. High		
Hook	272-302	153,244	390.46	45,000		0.292			
Kumliun	272-501	24,234	74.05	89,499		3.679	3.707		
North Fk. Amber	272-702 272-703	128,837 200,041	280.06 632.83	25,497 53,000	0.197	0.197	0.198		
Ocean Bh.	272-801	80.014	279.47	14.080	0.175		0.176		
Chg. (904)	272-904	19,245	188.23	32,000		1.642			
Chg. (905)	272-905	54,284	132.53	89,000	1.639	1.634	1.644		
Agripina	272-961	115,699	251.61	82,592	0.713		0.715		
Ivan R.	273-722	189,000	416.27	32,000	0.169	0.168	0.169		
Foot Bay	273-802	18,063	120.45	10,800	0.597	0.593	0.602		
Spoon	273-823	23,652	60.79	1,700	0.071		0.072		
Portage	272-842 275-406	19,107 256,723	76.62 302.304	1,200 168.403	0.062		0.063		
Ivanof Humpback	275-502	110.294	208.29	51,000		0.461	0.463		

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This is an interim or draft document. Data presentation, analysis, interpretation, and conclusions are subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact the Environmental Section Alaska Department of Law before citing.

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