

Summary of Whitefish movement, Whitefish Lake weir, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2001

Abstract: A rigid weir with both an upstream and downstream trap was installed and operated at the outlet of Whitefish Lake between September 21st and October 11th, 2001. Study objectives are to enumerate daily whitefish passage into and out of Whitefish Lake, determine areas in the Kuskokwim River drainage where Whitefish Lake fish are harvested, and estimate age composition, for whitefish sampled. The study was delayed in 2001 pending signing of a land lease for the camp and weir location. Numerous weir modifications were made to accommodate channel morphology and boat passage, and to remain clear of the lands on the opposite side of the outlet at the lake. These modifications and camp construction delayed a fish tight operation until September 21. All whitefish that passed through the weir were identified to species, measured to the nearest 5mm, tagged with individual numbered grey floy t bar tags, and the first 100 of each species had a genetic sample taken and archived. Approximately 5 fish from each 10mm size group had a scale taken from either the traps or from subsistence gill nets.

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