

Estimation of coho salmon escapement in streams adjacent to Perryville, Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, 2004

Abstract: Recent runs of coho salmon *Oncorhynchus kisutch* in the Kametolook, Three Star, and Long Beach rivers near Perryville have declined, and residents can no longer meet their subsistence needs in those rivers. Local residents are now taking coho salmon from streams outside the immediate vicinity of Perryville. With fishing effort spread out to other streams, we need to ensure escapement is maintained to meet the subsistence needs of the Native Village of Perryville. In order to prevent over harvest of these small stocks, escapement in those other streams needs to be monitored. In 2004, two aerial surveys were conducted to count adult coho salmon in streams near Perryville using low-level helicopter flights. During the survey in early October, coho salmon were abundant in most streams near Perryville, while few fish were counted during the survey in early November. Weather and local water quality conditions affected the survey interval and effectiveness in some streams. Numbers of coho salmon counted in 2004 were similar to those observed during surveys in 2003. While surveys were conducted earlier in October and November in 2004 than in 2003, future surveys should be scheduled even earlier, in late September and mid October, to be more effective.

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