

## **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 2005, two aerial surveys were conducted to count adult coho salmon in streams near Perryville using low-level helicopter flights. Numbers of coho salmon counted in 2005 were lower than those observed during surveys in 2003 and 2004. Coho salmon run timing was also different in 2005. Most coho salmon were counted during the survey in late October 2005, whereas peak counts in previous years occurred in early October. Weather and local water quality conditions affected the survey interval and effectiveness in some streams.

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