

## ABSTRACT

During August and September 2007, 9 sheefish *Stenodus leucichthys* were captured and surgically implanted with radio transmitters in the upper portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage with the primary objective to document spawning locations. Seven of the 9 tagged fish were judged to have survived tagging and handling. Movements were recorded by a series of 9 stationary tracking stations located throughout the drainage and during three aerial surveys that were conducted between late September and mid-October, the typical spawning period of sheefish. One gravid female travelled to a 3km section within a previously described spawning area in the Big River, and was presumed to have spawned there. No other spawning areas could be identified with certainty. Five radio-tagged sheefish were detected near Bethel during late October and early November. These fish began their 600 plus kilometer migration from the upper Kuskokwim River to their overwintering areas in the lower Kuskokwim River in mid-October. This project is ongoing through 2009, with additional radio tags to be deployed in 2008. Aerial surveys will be conducted throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage to locate those fish tagged in 2007 and 2008 during summer and fall of 2008 and 2009.

*Stuby, Lisa. 2008. Spawning Distribution and Migratory Timing of Kuskokwim River sheefish using radiotelemetry U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2008 Annual Report (Study No. 07-029). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Fairbanks, Alaska.*