

ABSTRACT

A two-year radiotelemetry study of Aniak River rainbow trout was initiated in 2008 to collect information on seasonal movements and distribution for determining whether discrete geographic stocks exist within the drainage. From 5 to 12 August 2008, radio tags were surgically transplanted into 125 rainbow trout in four different areas within 134 river kilometers (rkm) of the Aniak River drainage. Twenty-five rainbow trout were radiotagged in the lower 22 rkm of the Upper Aniak River (Aniak Lake to the confluence with the Kipchuk River), 25 were tagged in the lower 35 rkm of the Kipchuk River, 20 were tagged in the lower 17 rkm of the Salmon River, and 55 were tagged in the upper 60 rkm of the mainstem Aniak River below the confluence with the Kipchuk River. The first survey flight was on 25 September and a partial survey was flown on 9 October. Combining these two flights, it appears a minimum of 91 radio-tagged fish were still alive 40–50 days after tagging. Movement of these fish was not extensive during this time period. Additional flights will be flown in 2009 and the first half of 2010.

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