# Karluk River Steelhead Population Assessment Operational Plan, 2017 

by

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| Weights and measures (metric) General |  |  |  | Mathematics, statistics all standard mathematical |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| centimeter | cm | Alaska Administrative Code |  |  |  |
| deciliter | dL |  | AAC | signs, symbols and |  |
| gram | g | all commonly accepted |  | abbreviations |  |
| hectare | ha | abbreviations | e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc. | alternate hypothesis | $\mathrm{H}_{\text {A }}$ |
| kilogram | kg |  |  |  | $e$ |
| kilometer | km | all commonly accepted |  | catch per unit effort | CPUE |
| liter | L | professional titles | e.g., Dr., Ph.D., | coefficient of variation | CV |
| meter | m |  | R.N., etc. | common test statistics | (F, t, $\chi^{2}$, etc.) |
| milliliter | mL | at | @ | confidence interval | CI |
| millimeter | mm | compass directions: |  | correlation coefficient |  |
|  |  | east | E | (multiple) | R |
| Weights and measures (English)cubic feet per second |  | north | N | correlation coefficient (simple) |  |
|  | $\mathrm{ft}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ | south | S |  | r |
| foot | ft | west | W | covariance | cov |
| gallon | gal | copyright | © | degree (angular ) | - |
| inch | in | corporate suffixes: |  | degrees of freedom | df |
| mile | mi | Company | Co. | expected value | E |
| nautical mile | nmi | Corporation | Corp. | greater than | $>$ |
| ounce | oz | Incorporated | Inc. | greater than or equal to | $\geq$ |
| pound | lb | Limited | Ltd. | harvest per unit effort | HPUE |
| quart | qt | District of Columbia | D.C. | less than | < |
| yard | yd | et alii (and others) | et al. | less than or equal to | $\leq$ |
|  |  | et cetera (and so forth) | etc. | logarithm (natural) | 1 n |
| Time and temperature |  | exempli gratia |  | logarithm (base 10) | $\log$ |
| day | d | (for example) | e.g. | logarithm (specify base) | $\log _{2}$, etc. |
| degrees Celsius | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Federal Information |  | minute (angular) | , |
| degrees Fahrenheit | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | Code | FIC | not significant | NS |
| degrees kelvin | K | id est (that is) | i.e. | null hypothesis | $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ |
| hour | h | latitude or longitude | lat or long | percent | \% |
| minute | min | monetary symbols |  | probability | P |
| second | S | (U.S.) months (tables and | \$, ¢ | probability of a type I error (rejection of the null |  |
| Physics and chemistry all atomic symbols |  | figures): first three |  | hypothesis when true) | $\alpha$ |
|  |  | letters | Jan,..., Dec | probability of a type II error |  |
| alternating current | AC | registered trademark | ${ }^{\text {® }}$ | (acceptance of the null |  |
| ampere | A | trademark | тм | hypothesis when false) | $\beta$ |
| calorie | cal | United States |  | second (angular) | " |
| direct current | DC | (adjective) | U.S. | standard deviation | SD |
| hertz | Hz | United States of |  | standard error | SE |
| horsepower | hp | America (noun) | USA | variance |  |
| hydrogen ion activity (negative log of) | pH | U.S.C. | United States Code | population sample | Var var |
| parts per million | ppm | U.S. state | use two-letter |  |  |
| parts per thousand | ppt, |  | abbreviations <br> (e.g., AK, WA) |  |  |
| volts | V |  |  |  |  |
| watts | W |  |  |  |  |

# REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PLAN SF.2A.2017.05 

# KARLUK RIVER STEELHEAD POPULATION ASSESSMENT OPERATIONAL PLAN, 2017 

by<br>Tyler Polum<br>Mark Witteveen<br>and<br>Adam Reimer

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## Signature/Trtle Page

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Page

LIST OF TABLES ..... iii
LIST OF FIGURES ..... iii
LIST OF APPENDICES ..... iii
ABSTRACT ..... 1
INTRODUCTION ..... 1
Purpose ..... 1
Background ..... 1
OBJECTIVES ..... 3
METHODS ..... 4
Study Design ..... 4
Mark-Recapture Assumptions ..... 4
Data Collection and Reduction ..... 5
Tagging ..... 6
Weir Sampling ..... 6
Sample Sizes ..... 7
Tag Recoveries ..... 7
Data Analysis ..... 7
Abundance Estimate ..... 7
Spawning Survival ..... 8
Age, Sex, and Length. ..... 8
SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES ..... 9
RESPONSIBILITIES ..... 9
BUDGET SUMMARY ..... 10
REFERENCES CITED ..... 11
APPENDIX A: MARK-RECAPTURE TESTING PROCEDURES ..... 13
APPENDIX B: SAMPLING FORMS ..... 19

## LIST OF TABLES

Table ..... Page
Steelhead catch (harvest plus release) in the Karluk River, 2006-2015 ..... 2
2 Steelhead kelt counts at the Karluk River weir, 2012-2016. ..... 3

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Page1 Map of the Karluk River drainage showing "the Portage," which is the primary staging area for KarlukRiver studies, and the locations of river miles (RM) along the Karluk River. 2
LIST OF APPENDICES
AppendixA1 Detection and mitigation of selective sampling during a 2-event mark-recapture experiment14
A2 Tests of consistency for the Petersen estimator (Seber 1982: p. 438). ..... 17
B1 Steelhead tagging form. ..... 20
B2 Tag recovery form. ..... 21


#### Abstract

A mark-recapture experiment will be implemented in the Karluk River drainage to attempt to estimate the spawning abundance of steelhead in the Karluk River. At least 127 steelhead will be marked prior to spawning during April 2017 in known overwintering areas and all emigrating kelts will be recaptured at the Karluk River weir from midMay through July 15 and examined for tags. This study will update previous population estimates last conducted in 1997.


Key words: steelhead, Oncorhynchus mykiss, mark-recapture, abundance, Karluk River, age-sex-length

## INTRODUCTION

## Purpose

This study seeks to estimate spawning abundance of Karluk River steelhead through a markrecapture experiment. The 2017 season will be a pilot study aimed at replicating the successful mark-recapture study design used in the 1990s (Begich 1999), and to assess feasibility of a longer term study from 2018 to 2021. Both kelt counts and previous spawning abundance estimates have been highly variable from year to year and if the objectives of this study are met, a multi-year study will be warranted.

## BACKGROUND

The Karluk River (Figure 1), located on the southwest side of Kodiak Island, supports the largest steelhead trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) sport fishery in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) by both catch as well as popularity for anglers (Table 1). There is a long history of anglers targeting steelhead in the Karluk River drainage but the fishery has recently become more popular with anglers seeking a remote and less crowded steelhead fishing destination. Anglers primarily target steelhead in the Karluk River during the month of October at a location known as "the Portage" (Figure 1).
The Karluk River is approximately 24 miles in length from the outlet of Karluk Lake, through the Karluk Lagoon, to its mouth in the Shelikof Straight (Figure 1). In addition to the steelhead fishery, the Karluk River drainage also supports sport fisheries for sockeye (O. nerka) and coho ( $O$. kisutch) salmon, and has historically supported a Chinook salmon (O. tschawytscha) fishery, though Chinook salmon runs have been severely depressed since 2005. Rainbow trout (the nonadramous form of steelhead trout) and Dolly Varden (Salvelinus malma) are also caught incidentally to other species. The Karluk River drainage also supports large commercial fisheries targeting primarily sockeye and pink salmon ( $O$. gorbuscha), but coho and Chinook salmon are also harvested. Subsistence fisheries occur mostly in the Karluk Lagoon and primarily consist of harvests of sockeye and coho salmon; however, harvests do occur in other areas of the Karluk River and other species are harvested in smaller numbers.


Figure 1.-Map of the Karluk River drainage showing "the Portage," which is the primary staging area for Karluk River studies, and the locations of river miles (RM) along the Karluk River.

Table 1.-Steelhead catch (harvest plus release) in the Karluk River, 2006-2015.

| Year | Guided Angler Catch | SWHS Catch |
| :---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2006 | 524 | 754 |
| 2007 | 324 | 968 |
| 2008 | 327 | 2,196 |
| 2009 | 749 | 859 |
| 2010 | 663 | 216 |
| 2011 | 506 | 1,556 |
| 2012 | 503 | 236 |
| 2013 | 250 | 22 |
| 2014 | 488 | 108 |
| 2015 | 740 | 1,005 |
| Average |  | 792 |
| $2006-2015$ | 507 | 7 |

Source: Freshwater Logbook Database (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. 2006 to present. Accessed September 3, 2016. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential. Contact Research and Technical Services for data requests.]); Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Internet]. 1996-present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited November 2016). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/

Karluk River steelhead return to the freshwater in the fall beginning in September, with peak run-timing in mid-October and continuing into early November. There are no spring-run steelhead in the Karluk River. Overwintering and migration of steelhead in the Karluk River has been documented by Chatto (1984) and indicates that more than $75 \%$ of overwintering can occur in river miles (RM) 12-20, surrounding the area known as "the Portage." Other areas of possible overwintering include RM 22-24 near the lake outlet and some areas of the river below RM 12 where spawning does occur. Spawning primarily occurs in April, though can continue into early May, and steelhead migrate to the ocean following spawning. Survival to repeat spawning is generally low, ranging between $24 \%$ and $31 \%$ (Begich 1999). Several studies concerning the population size and movement of Karluk River steelhead have been conducted (Chatto 1984; Begich 1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1999). Using a mark-recapture tagging experiment, Begich (1999) estimated population sizes during 1992-1997 that ranged from 4,107 fish to 10,802 fish. In recent years, the only indicators of abundance have been weir counts of steelhead that spawned in the river and migrated to the ocean (kelts). These kelt counts are obtained beginning in late May from a weir operated to enumerate salmon migrating to the freshwater and, as a result, the early portion of the kelt outmigration is not enumerated in some years. In the last 5 years, kelt counts at the Karluk River weir have averaged 1,254 fish and ranged from 836 to 1,605 fish (Table 2). In contrast, kelt counts averaged 4,780 fish and ranged from 2,749 to 6,928 fish between 1992 and 1997, when spawning abundance was last estimated (ADF\&G Division of Commercial Fisheries Westward Region Escapement Database).

Table 2.-Steelhead kelt counts at the
Karluk River weir, 2012-2016.

| Year | Steelhead kelts |
| :---: | ---: |
| 2012 | 836 |
| 2013 | 1,605 |
| 2014 | 1,381 |
| 2015 | 1,278 |
| 2016 | 1,168 |
| Average |  |
| $2012-2016$ | 1,254 |

Source: ADF\&G Division of Commercial Fisheries Westward Region Escapement Database.

## OBJECTIVES

1) Estimate the number of spawning steelhead in the Karluk River during the spring of 2017 such that the estimate is within $25 \%$ of the actual abundance $95 \%$ of the time.
2) Estimate the age, sex, and length composition of the spawning population in the Karluk River during the spring of 2017 such that the estimates are within 11.5 percentage points of the actual proportions $90 \%$ of the time.
3) Count kelts emigrating through the Karluk River weir from approximately 16 May through 15 July, 2017.
4) Estimate the age, sex, and length composition of the kelts emigrating through the Karluk River weir in each third of the spring of 2017 emigration such that the estimates are within 11.5 percentage points of the actual proportions $90 \%$ of the time.

## METHODS

## Study Design

This study will estimate the number of steelhead in the Karluk River spawning population, enumerate the kelt outmigration, and collect biological information. The study design follows Begich (1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1999) although the 2017 season is considered a pilot study because the methods have been changed slightly and because of the amount of time since this population was last studied.
Steelhead overwinter in the upper Karluk River and concentrate in the Portage area where they can be captured with hook and line and sampled (Begich 1992; Chatto 1984). After spawning, surviving kelts emigrate through a weir located in the lower river just above Karluk Lagoon (Figure 1). This situation makes it possible to conduct a 2 -event, mark-recapture experiment to estimate the abundance of the spawning population. The first event (marking) will primarily occur in RM 12-20 and effort will be primarily directed in areas where fish are known to congregate prior to spawning. Although there are known to be fewer fish overwintering at the outlet of Karluk Lake (RM 20-24) and in the lower river (RM 4-12) (Chatto 1984), tagging will also be conducted for at least 1 day at each of these locations to attempt to deploy tags in any overwintering populations in these areas. Fish will be caught with hook and line, tagged, sampled for age, sex, and length, and released. The second event (recapture) will occur at the weir where all emigrating kelts will be examined after the weir is installed. Significant natural mortality is known to occur between spawning and emigration. This experiment assumes that mortality occurring between prespawning capture and kelt emigration is equal for both tagged and untagged fish and that the derived estimate is of population abundance at the time of tagging.

Based on previous tagging studies (Begich 1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1999), tagging will occur as soon as spring ice conditions allow access to the Karluk River drainage, which could be as soon as 5 April or as late as 1 May. Sampling will occur for 5 consecutive days or until sampling goals are achieved. If necessary, a second trip may be warranted if sampling goals are not achieved or conditions are not as anticipated.
Sampling of the prespawning population will occur daily, employing hook and line techniques by 2 three-person crews. Each crew may be able to cover more than 1 location per day and sampling effort will be equally distributed across each location.
Sampling at the weir will occur from approximately mid-May through 15 July. All emigrating kelts will be examined for marks including both tags and fin clips and a fraction of the fish examined will be sampled for age, sex, and length data.

## Mark-Recapture Assumptions

This experiment is designed to use a Peterson-type abundance estimator. In order for the spawning population estimate produced by this mark-recapture study to be unbiased, certain standard assumptions must be met (Seber 1982). Assumptions of the model are as follows:

1) There is no recruitment, immigration or emigration from the population over the duration of the experiment.

This assumption is addressed by the study design and life history of steelhead in the Karluk River drainage: steelhead immigrate into the study area in the fall prior to the marking event, marking occurs prior to spawning and emigration, and fish are recaptured during emigration from the study area. We must also assume that spawning mortality is equal among tagged and untagged fish.
2) Marking and handling does not affect the probability of capture.

There is no explicit test for this assumption and we assume mortality after tagging is attributable to the spawning event rather than the tagging event. Holding and handling time will be minimized to reduce stress on tagged fish. Sampling teams will use water-filled sampling troughs and teams will consist of 3 people to ensure that at least 2 are tagging fish at the same time to minimize holding and handling time.
3) No marks are lost between events and all marks are reported at the second event.

Tagged fish will receive a fin clip in addition to a visual tag to ensure that all tagged individuals are detected at the weir. Weir personnel will individually inspect all emigrating steelhead trout for marks and fin clips at the weir.
4) One of the following 3 conditions is met:
a) All fish have an equal probability of being marked.
b) All fish have an equal probability of being captured in the second event.
c) Marked and unmarked fish mix completely between sampling events.

Two of these conditions have a reasonable chance of being satisfied with this experimental design. During the marking event, effort will be distributed throughout known overwintering areas prior to the peak spawning period and all steelhead will have an equal chance of being marked because overwintering steelhead are primarily sedentary. In addition, sport fishing gear is not thought to be size selective amongst fish of spawning size. During the recapture event, it is possible that the weir could form a census of emigrating individuals, provided monitoring occurs prior to the start of emigration; however, it is unknown if any steelhead will have emigrated prior to installation of the weir in mid-May. Mixing between events is highly likely given that several weeks elapse between the marking and recapture events and marking occurs prior to spawning and emigration. These conditions will be evaluated by time, sampling area, size, and sex using the procedures described in Appendices A1-A2.
We note that Begich (1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1999) concluded the mark-recapture assumptions were satisfied between 1992 and 1997 and used a Peterson-type estimator in all years.

## DATA COLLECTION AND REDUCTION

Data will be collected for 5 days during the month of April when the marking event is conducted at the Portage and from approximately 16 May through 15 July when kelts are enumerated (recapture event) at the weir.

## Tagging

Biological data collected during the first event will include measurement of mid eye to tail fork (METF) length to the nearest millimeter, examination for damaged mouth parts that may have resulted from hooking damage, and sex will be recorded. Sex will be determined based on head shape, girth to length ratio, and presence of ovipositor, eggs, or milt. Steelhead will be tagged with an individually numbered Floy T-Bar anchor tag, with contact information for the project leaders included on the tags, and the tag number will be recorded. Tags will be placed on the left side of the fish near the posterior insertion of the dorsal fin. A portion of the right ventral fin (right pelvic) will be clipped on each fish released with a tag.

Scales will be collected for age determination. Steelhead trout scales develop first along the lateral line and spread most rapidly in the middle and posterior part of the body (Paget 1920). Thus, the annulus marking the first year of growth is most likely to be visible on scales from this preferred scale area. Scales from this area also tend to be oval-shaped and symmetrical (Maher and Larkin 1955), and therefore relatively easy to interpret. Four scales will be removed from each fish and mounted on a gum card. Scale impressions will be made into cellulose plastic and read for age determination. Scale analysis will incorporate the methods of Mosher (1969), Jones (Unpublished) ${ }^{1}$ and Wallis (Unpublished) ${ }^{2}$.
Biological data will be recorded in a waterproof logbook in addition to the date, scale card number, spawning status, recapture status, and area in which the fish was captured to the nearest tenth of a river mile. All data will be transferred to a sampling form at the end of each day (Appendix B1).

A waterproof logbook will also be kept each day of the number of fish caught, marked, recaptured, and killed, the areas fished, and the names of sampling personnel. All data will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet upon returning to the Kodiak and archived in the Kodiak Division of Sport Fish (SF) data archives.

## Weir Sampling

A steelhead trap will be installed in the Karluk River salmon weir to capture emigrating steelhead. SF personnel will assist with installation of this trap and any design modifications. Division of Commercial Fisheries (CF) personnel will examine, sample, and count all emigrating steelhead kelts at the weir. All steelhead kelts will be examined for tags and fin clips, and the tag number and fin clip will be recorded in a waterproof notebook. All tag and finclip information will be recorded daily on the Tag Recovery Form (Appendix B2) and a new form will be started each day. Age, sex, and length information will be collected from a portion of the kelts as outlined in the next section. These data will be returned to the SF office in Kodiak with each resupply flight to the weir camp. All data will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet upon returning to Kodiak and archived in the Kodiak SF data archives.

[^0]
## Sample Sizes

All emigrating kelts will be examined for marks after the weir is installed, and therefore all tagged survivors will be recaptured, provided the weir remains in place during the entire emigration. The sample size analysis assumes that the 2012-2016 average of 1,253 kelts will emigrate in 2017. The estimates of annual spawning survival (proportion) during the 1992-1997 study ranged from 0.36 to 0.67 and averaged 0.61 (Begich 1999). In a worst case scenario, where spawning survival is only 0.35 , we would need to tag 125 steelhead during the marking event to expect to meet our objective criteria (within $25 \%$ of the actual abundance $95 \%$ of the time) using the methods described in Robson and Regier (1964).

In order to meet the objective criteria for age composition estimates, 127 fish would need to be sampled, assuming a scale regeneration rate of $40 \%$. To ensure age sampling goals are met, at least 127 steelhead will be tagged although only 125 are required to meet the objective criteria. Although tagging event samples sizes approached 200 fish during the 1990s, the precision criteria associated with age composition estimates for this pilot study have been deliberately relaxed. Because biological data are collected on all captured steelhead, sufficient samples should be collected in 2017 to estimate both abundance and age composition to satisfy objective criteria.

Age, sex, and length data will be collected from the first 10 of every 30 steelhead that are passed through the weir in 2017. In order to meet the objective criteria for age composition estimates, 127 fish would need to be sampled from each third of the emigration, assuming a scale regeneration rate of $40 \%$. This sample size will be achieved if the 2017 emigration meets or exceed the 2012-2016 average emigration ( 1,253 kelts) and 1 out of every 3 emigrating steelhead kelts are sampled. The project leader may increase or decrease the sampling rate inseason if the emigration appears to be considerably larger or smaller, respectively, than the 2012-2016 average.

## Tag Recoveries

Tagged steelhead may be harvested by sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries after the marking event. Tags will include contact information for the project leaders so that tags can be returned and information about harvest location can be collected. Any tags recovered from these fisheries will be recorded on the Tag Recovery Form (Appendix B2).

## Data Analysis

## Abundance Estimate

The study design described above is a 2 -sample mark-recapture study that has been successfully used before on the Karluk River (Begich 1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1999). Previous abundance estimates did not require stratification by size, sex, time, or area. If stratification is not required, spawning abundance ( $N_{a}$ ) will be estimated by Chapman's version of the Peterson abundance estimator (Seber 1982):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{N}_{a}=\frac{(M+1)(C+1)}{R+1}-1, \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
M=\text { number of fish marked and released in the first event, }
$$

$R \quad=$ number of marked fish recaptured in the second event, and
$C=$ number of fish examined for marks in the second event,
and the variance is estimated by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{N}_{a}\right)=\frac{(M+1)(C+1)(M-R)(C-R)}{(R+1)^{2}(R+2)} . \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Equal probability of capture by size and sex will be evaluated using the procedures described Appendix A1. If capture probability differs by size or sex, the dataset will be stratified into sizesex groups where equal probability of capture is demonstrated within each group and separate abundance estimates will be produced for each size-sex stratum using the procedures described in Appendix A1. Geographic or temporal violations of the probability of capture assumptions will be tested using the procedures described in Appendix A2. Because the marking event will occur in a short period of time (about 5 days), we plan to use area strata ${ }^{3}$ for the marking event and temporal strata for the recapture event (each third of the emigration) in the consistency tests described in Appendix A2. If probability of capture differs by time or area, a stratified estimator (Darroch 1961) will be used.

## Spawning Survival

The survival of tagged fish to emigration can be calculated by age and sex $\left(S_{i}\right)$ using the weir recapture information. For any class, the survival will be estimated as a binomial proportion (Cochran 1977):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{S}_{k}=\frac{R_{k}}{M_{k}}, \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where
$R_{k} \quad=$ number of tagged fish at the weir (recaptures) in class $k$,
$M_{k}=$ number of fish tagged during spring sampling (marked) in class $k$.
The variance of survival will be estimated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{S}_{k}\right)=\frac{\hat{S}_{k}\left(1-\hat{S}_{k}\right)}{M_{k}-1} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

## Age, Sex, and Length

Mean length-at-age and associated variance will be estimated using normal procedures. The proportion of steelhead in each age, sex, or size class $\left(p_{i}\right)$ will be estimated as a binomial proportion (Cochran 1977):

[^1]\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{p}_{i}=\frac{n_{i}}{n_{t}}, \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

where
$n_{i}=$ number of steelhead of age, sex, or size class $i$, and
$n_{t}=$ total number of steelhead sampled,
and where the variance is estimated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{p}_{i}\right)=\frac{\hat{p}_{i}\left(1-\hat{p}_{i}\right)}{n_{t}-1} . \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

An estimate of abundance by age of the prespawning population will be made as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{N}_{a i}=\hat{N}_{a} \hat{p}_{i} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the variance will be estimated by (Goodman 1960)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{N}_{a i}\right)=\hat{N}_{a}^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{p}_{i}\right)+\hat{p}_{i}^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{N}_{a}\right)-\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{p}_{i}\right) \operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{N}_{a}\right) . \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

An estimate of abundance by age of the emigrating kelt population will be made with

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{N}_{w i}=N_{w} \hat{p}_{i}, \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the variance by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{N}_{w i}\right)=N_{w}^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(\hat{p}_{i}\right) \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $N_{w}$ is the count of steelhead kelts.

## SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

Results from this project will be summarized in a Fishery Data Series report, for which a draft will be submitted to the Research Supervisor by 1 March, 2018. Probable dates for sampling activities are summarized below.

| Dates | Activity |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 April-9 April | Field camp prep. |
| 10 April-15 April | Conduct sampling as conditions allow. |
| 16 April-14 May | Alternate dates for sampling. |
| 16 April-15 May | Data reduction and analysis. |
| 16 May-15 July | Tag recovery at the weir; counting and sampling kelts. |
| November-March | Further data reduction and analysis, write report. |

## RESPONSIBILITIES

## Tyler Polum, Fishery Biologist III, Project Leader

Duties: Responsible for the supervision of all aspects of the Karluk River steelhead project, managing the project budget, and writing the final report.

Mark Witteveen, Fishery Biologist II, Project Leader
Duties: Responsible for supervision of all aspects of the Karluk River steelhead project, managing the project budget, and writing the final report.

Michelle Stratton, Fisheries Biologist I, Project Biologist
Duties: Assist with implementation and coordination of all aspects of field work and sampling. Assist with data entry, reduction, and analysis.

Katrina Del Carmen, Fish \& Wildlife Technician II
Duties: Assist with field camp preparations, sampling in the field, and data entry.
Adam Reimer, Biometrician II
Duties: Assist with project design and data analysis.
Tim McKinley, Fishery Biologist IV
Duties: Final report editing and project support.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

FY 18

| Line item | Category | Budget (\$K) |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 100 | Personal Services | 6.0 |
| 200 | Travel | 1.2 |
| 300 | Contractual | 9.8 |
| 400 | Commodities | 3.0 |
| 500 | Equipment | 0 |
| Total |  | 20.0 |

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## APPENDIX A: MARK-RECAPTURE TESTING PROCEDURES

Appendix A1.-Detection and mitigation of selective sampling during a 2 -event mark-recapture experiment.

Size- and sex-selective sampling may cause bias in 2-event mark-recapture estimates of abundance and size and sex composition. Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) 2-sample tests are used to detect size-selective sampling and contingency table analyses (chi-square tests of independence) are used to detect evidence of sex-selective sampling.
Results of the KS and chi-square tests ( $\chi^{2}$ ) will dictate whether the data needs to be stratified to obtain an unbiased estimate of abundance. The nature of the detected selectivity will also determine whether the first, second, or both event samples are used for estimating size and sex compositions.

## DEFINITIONS

$\mathrm{M}=$ Lengths or sex of fish marked in the first event,
$\mathbf{C}=$ Lengths or sex of fish inspected for marks in the second event, and
$\mathbf{R}=$ Lengths or sex of fish marked in the first event and recaptured in the second event.

## Size-Selective Sampling: KS Tests

Three KS tests are used to test for size-selective sampling:
KS Test $1 \quad \mathrm{C}$ vs $\mathrm{R} \quad$ Used to detect size selectivity during the 1st sampling event.
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Length distributions of populations associated with C and R are equal.
KS Test 2 M vs $\mathrm{R} \quad$ Used to detect size selectivity during the 2nd sampling event.
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Length distributions of populations associated with M and R are equal.
KS Test 3 M vs C Used to corroborate the results of the first 2 tests.
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Length distributions of populations associated with M and C are equal.

## Sex-selective Sampling: Chi-square Tests

Three contingency table analyses ( $\chi^{2}$ tests on $2 \times 2$ tables) are used to test for sex-selective sampling:
$\chi^{2}$ Test $1 \quad \mathrm{C}$ vs $\mathrm{R} \quad$ Used to detect sex selectivity during the 1 st sampling event. $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Sex is independent of the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{R}$ classification,
$\chi^{2}$ Test $2 \quad \mathrm{M}$ vs $\mathrm{R} \quad$ Used to detect sex selectivity during the 2 nd sampling event.
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Sex is independent of the M-R classification,
$\chi^{2}$ Test $3 \quad \mathrm{M}$ vs $\mathrm{C} \quad$ Used to corroborate the results of the first 2 tests.
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ : Sex is independent of the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}$ classification.
Table A1 presents possible results of selectivity testing, their interpretation, and prescribed action.

Appendix A1.-Page 2 of 3.
Table A1.-Possible results of selectivity testing, interpretation, and action.

| KS or $\chi^{2}$ Test |  |  |  | Interpretation and action |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Case | M vs. R <br> (2nd event test) | $\begin{gathered} \text { C vs. R } \\ \text { (1st event test) } \end{gathered}$ | M vs. C (1st vs. 2nd event) |  |
| I | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Interpretation: No selectivity during either sampling event. <br> Action: <br> Abundance: Use a Petersen-type model without stratification. <br> Composition: Use all data from both sampling events. |
| II | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Interpretation: No selectivity during the 1st event but there is selectivity during the 2nd event. <br> Action: <br> Abundance: Use a Petersen-type model without stratification. <br> Composition: Use data from the 1st sampling event without stratification. 2nd event data only used if stratification of the abundance estimate is performed, with weighting according to Equations 1-3 below. |
| III | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{o}}$ | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Interpretation: No selectivity during the 2nd event but there is selectivity during the 1st event. Action: <br> Abundance: Use a Petersen-type model without stratification. <br> Composition: Use data from the 2nd sampling event without stratification. 1 st event data may be incorporated into composition estimation only after stratification of the abundance estimate and appropriate weighting according to Equations 1-3 below. |
| IV | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Either result | Interpretation: Selectivity during both 1st and 2nd events. <br> Action: <br> Abundance: Use a stratified Petersen-type model, with estimates calculated separately for each stratum. Sum stratum estimates for overall abundance. <br> Composition: Combine stratum estimates according to Equations $1-3$ below. |
| V | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Fail to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ | Reject $\mathrm{H}_{\text {o }}$ | Interpretation: The results of the 3 tests are inconsistent. <br> Action: <br> Need to determine which of Cases I-IV best fits the data. Inconsistency can arise from high power of the M vs. C test or low power of the tests involving R. Examine sample sizes (generally M or C from $<100$ fish and R from $<30$ are considered small), magnitude of the test statistics ( $\mathrm{D}_{\text {max }}$ ), and the $P$ values of the 3 tests to determine which of which of Cases I-IV best fits the data. |

Appendix A1.-Page 3 of 3.

## Composition Estimation for Stratified Estimates

An estimate of the proportion of the population in the $k t h$ size or sex category for stratified data with $I$ strata is calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{p}_{k}=\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{\hat{N}_{i}}{\hat{N}} \hat{p}_{i k} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

with variance estimated as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{var}\left[\hat{p}_{k}\right] \approx \frac{1}{\hat{N}^{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{I}\left(\hat{N}_{i}^{2} \operatorname{var}\left[\hat{p}_{i k}\right]+\left(\hat{p}_{i k}-\hat{p}_{k}\right)^{2} \operatorname{var}\left[\hat{N}_{i}\right]\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where
$\hat{p}_{i k}=$ estimated proportion of fish belonging to category $k$ in stratum $i ;$
$\hat{N}_{i}=$ estimated abundance in stratum $i$; and
$\hat{N}=$ estimated total abundance
where

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{N}=\sum_{i=l}^{I} \hat{N}_{i} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Appendix A2.-Tests of consistency for the Petersen estimator (Seber 1982: p. 438).

## Tests of Consistency for Petersen Estimator

Three contingency table analyses are used to determine if the Petersen estimate can be used (Seber 1982). If any of the null hypotheses are not rejected, then a Petersen estimator may be used. If all 3 of the null hypotheses are rejected, a temporally or spatially-stratified estimator (Darroch 1961) should be used to estimate abundance.

Seber (1982) describes 4 conditions that lead to an unbiased Petersen estimate, some of which can be tested directly:

1) Marked fish mix completely with unmarked fish between events.
2) Equal probability of capture in event 1 and equal movement patterns of marked and unmarked fish.
3) Equal probability of capture in event 2.
4) The expected number of marked fish in recapture strata is proportional to the number of unmarked fish.

In the following tables, the terminology of Seber (1982) is followed, where $a$ represents fish marked in the first event, $n$ is the number of fish captured in second event, and $m$ is the number of marked fish that were recaptured; $m_{\cdot j}$ and $m_{i}$. represent summation over the $i$ th and $j$ th indices, respectively.

## I. Mixing Test

Tests the hypothesis (condition 1) that movement probabilities $\left(\theta_{i j}\right)$, describing the probability that a fish moves from marking stratum $i$ to recapture stratum $j$, are independent of marking stratum: $\mathrm{H}_{0}: \theta_{i j}=\theta_{j}$ for all $i$ and $j$.

| Area-Time marking stratum (i) | Area-Time recapture stratum $(j)$ |  |  |  | Not recaptured$a_{i}-m_{i}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | $\cdots$ | t |  |
| 1 | $m_{11}$ | $m_{12}$ | $\ldots$ | $m_{l t}$ | $a_{1}-m_{1}$. |
| 2 | $m_{21}$ | $m_{22}$ | $\cdots$ | $m_{2 t}$ | $a_{2}-m_{2}$. |
| $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ |
| S | $m_{s I}$ | $m_{s 2}$ | $\cdots$ | $m_{s t}$ | $a_{s}-m_{s}$. |

## II. Equal Proportions Test ${ }^{4}$ (SPAS ${ }^{5}$ terminology)

Tests the hypothesis (condition 4) that the marked to unmarked ratio among recapture strata is constant: $\mathrm{H}_{0}: \Sigma_{i} a_{i} \theta_{i j} / U_{j}=k$, where $k$ is a constant, $U_{j}$ is unmarked fish in stratum $j$ at the time of 2nd event sampling, and $a_{i}$ is the number of marked fish released in stratum $i$. Failure to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ means the Petersen estimator should be used only if the degree of closure among tagging strata is constant; i.e., $\Sigma_{j} \theta_{i j}=\lambda$ (Schwarz and Taylor 1998: p. 289). A special case of closure is when all recapture strata are sampled, such as in a fishwheel to fishwheel experiment, where $\Sigma_{j} \theta_{i j}=1.0$; otherwise, biological and experimental design information should be used to assess the degree of closure.

|  | Area-Time recapture stratum $(j)$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Status of sampled fish | 1 | 2 | $\ldots$ | t |
| Recaptured $\left(m_{\cdot j}\right)$ | $m \cdot{ }_{\bullet}$ | $m_{\bullet 2}$ | $\ldots$ | $\bullet_{\bullet}$ |
| Unmarked $\left(n_{j}-m_{\cdot j}\right)$ | $n_{1}-m_{\bullet}$ | $n_{2}-m_{\bullet 2}$ | $\ldots$ | $n_{t}-m_{\bullet}$ |

## III. Complete Mixing Test (SPAS terminology)

Tests the hypothesis that the probability of resighting a released animal is independent of its stratum of origin: $\mathrm{H}_{0}: \Sigma_{j} \theta_{i j} p_{j}=d$, where $p_{j}$ is the probability of capturing a fish in recapture stratum $j$ during the second event, and $d$ is a constant.

|  | Area-Time marking stratum $(i)$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Status of sampled fish | 1 | 2 | $\ldots$ | s |
| Recaptured $\left(m_{i}\right)$ | $m_{1}$. | $m_{2}$. | $\ldots$ | $m_{s} \bullet$ |
| Not Recaptured $\left(a_{i}-m_{i \cdot}\right)$ | $a_{1}-m_{1}$. | $a_{2}-m_{2}$. | $\ldots$ | $a_{s}-m_{s}$. |

[^2]
## APPENDIX B: SAMPLING FORMS

Appendix B1.-Steelhead tagging form.

| Sample Date | Tag Number | Recapture (Y/N) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sex } \\ & \text { (M/F) } \end{aligned}$ | Spawned Out (YIN) | Snout-Fork Length (mm) | Scales Collected (Y/N) |  | Capture <br> Location | Sampler Initials | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| n Clip. | = Yes/No ; | ) $=$ Right/L |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Appendix B2.-Tag recovery form.

| Sample Date | Tag Number | Fin Clip (Y/N) | Fin Clip Location | Sampler Initials | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| Fin Clip - (Y)/(N) = Yes/No ; $(\mathrm{R}) /(\mathrm{L})=$ Right/Left |  |  |  |  |  |


[^0]:    1 Jones, D. E. Unpublished. Handbook for interpretation of steelhead trout scales in Southeast Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau.
    2 Wallis, J. Unpublished. Handbook for interpretation of steelhead trout scales from Anchor River. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Homer.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ Roughly: below Portage, Portage (RM 16-17), and above Portage, although these definitions will be refined and made explicit based on observations the crew makes during the 2017 tagging event.

[^2]:    4 There is no $1: 1$ correspondence between Tests II and III and conditions $2-3$ above. It is pointed out that equal probability of capture in event 1 will lead to (expected) nonsignificant Test II results, as will mixing, and that equal probability of capture in event 2 along with equal closure ( $\Sigma_{j} \theta_{i j}=\lambda$ ) will also lead to (expected) nonsignificant Test III results.
    5 Stratified Population Analysis System (Arnason et al. 1996).

