

**Fishery Data Series No. 93-15**

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**A Summary for Abundance, Catch Per Unit Effort,  
and Mean Length Estimates of Burbot Sampled in  
Rivers of Interior Alaska, 1986-1992**

by

**Matthew J. Evenson**

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April 1993

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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ESTIMATES OF BURBOT SAMPLED IN  
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Anchorage, Alaska

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#### ABSTRACT

This report compiles all catch per unit effort and mean length estimates obtained from sampling during 1986-1992 in 67 river sections located throughout the Tanana River drainage. Estimates were calculated for three length categories: partially recruited "small" burbot (300 to 449 millimeters total length), fully recruited "medium" burbot (450-799 millimeters total length), and partially recruited "large" burbot ( $\geq 800$  millimeters total length). In addition, seven estimates of abundance for burbot  $\geq 450$  millimeters total length from five different river sections are presented.

The specific objectives of this report were to estimate mean length and mean CPUE in one 24 kilometer section of the Tanana River and in one 24 kilometer section of the Chena River sampled during August and September, 1992. Estimates of mean CPUE in the Tanana River section were 0.21 (number of burbot caught per 24 hour set of one hoop trap) (SE = 0.03) for small burbot, 0.96 (SE = 0.08) for medium burbot, and 0.06 (SE = 0.01) for large burbot. Estimates of mean CPUE in the Chena River section were 0.07 (SE = 0.02) for small burbot, 0.41 (SE = 0.05) for medium burbot and 0.004 (SE = 0.004) for large burbot. Estimates of mean length for burbot sampled in the Tanana River section were 398 (millimeters total length) (SE = 6) for small burbot, 557 (SE = 5) for medium burbot, and 864 (SE = 16) for large burbot. Estimates of mean length for burbot sampled from the Chena River section were 388 (millimeters total length) (SE = 10) for small burbot and 575 (SE = 7) for medium burbot.

KEY WORDS: burbot, *Lota lota*, hoop traps, Tanana River, Chena River, catch per unit effort, mean length, abundance.

## INTRODUCTION

Research concerning burbot *Lota lota* stocks in flowing waters of the Tanana River system has been ongoing since 1983. The objectives of this research program have been to determine biological characteristics such as size, age, and density distributions, identify migratory and reproductive behavior, examine spawning characteristics, monitor harvests, and determine characteristics of the sport fishery. Results of this research have been published in a number of documents (Hallberg 1984 - 1986; Hallberg et al. 1987; Guinn and Hallberg 1990; Evenson 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992; Evenson and Hansen 1991; Clark et al. 1991; Bernard et al. 1991).

Initially, this research sought to identify individual stocks by identifying movements throughout the system. This was accomplished through a rigorous sampling program which marked and subsequently recaptured burbot in the mainstream Tanana River and in many tributary streams. This information indicated that movements were frequent and extensive throughout the system, and that for management purposes, the entire drainage should be considered a single stock (Evenson 1989 and 1990).

Since 1986, when extensive stock assessment sampling began, a number of estimates of abundance, CPUE, and mean length have been obtained (Hallberg et al. 1987; Evenson 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992). Assessment of this stock has been accomplished by estimating abundance, relative abundance through mean catch per unit effort (CPUE), and mean length for many sections of river throughout the system using a standardized design. These estimates have been obtained annually or semi-annually for important river sections (areas of large harvest such as the Chena and Tanana rivers near the city of Fairbanks). This assessment has indicated that annual exploitation is low relative to abundance for the entire system. Thus, the stock assessment research has been reduced, and is focused toward those river sections where a substantial harvest occurs.

The ultimate management goal of this stock assessment research has been to determine if annual harvests are sustainable. The purpose of this report is to compile into a single document all estimates of abundance, mean CPUE, and mean length obtained since 1986. The specific objectives of this investigation during 1992 were to estimate:

1. mean CPUE for all burbot 450 mm total length (TL) and longer in one 24 km section of the Tanana River and in one 24 km section of the Chena River; and,
2. mean length of all burbot 450 mm TL and longer in these two sections.

## STUDY AREA

The Tanana River is of glacial origin flowing over 900 km and draining 44,500 square miles. Major tributaries flowing from the south are primarily silt-laden glacial streams, while tributaries flowing from the north are clear run-

off streams (Figure 1). The upper and middle Tanana River is accessible year-round along most of its course from the Richardson and Parks Highways which parallel the river from the headwaters region near Northway downstream to Nenana. Many of the tributaries in this area are also accessible via various road systems. The lower Tanana River can be accessed by road only at Nenana, Minto, and Manley.

Throughout this report, sample sections will be referred to in terms of river kilometers (measured as the distance upstream from the rivers mouth). The river kilometers of important landmarks along the course of the Tanana River are shown in Table 1. Further, throughout this report sample sections are referred to as being located in one of three geographic areas. The "lower" section begins at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon rivers and extends upstream to the confluence of the Tanana and Nenana Rivers (river kilometers 0-267), and includes the Nenana River and all other tributaries located within. The "middle" section extends upstream to the confluence of the Delta River (river kilometers 268-514) and includes the Delta River and all other tributaries located within. The "upper" section includes the Tanana River and all tributaries upstream from the confluence of the Delta River.

Since 1986, nearly the entire length of the Tanana River has been sampled, as have sections in the lower reaches of the Kantishna, Tolovana, Nenana, Chena, Goodpaster, Chisana, and Nabesna rivers. During this investigation, one section of the Tanana River (river kilometers 336-360) and one section of the Chena River were sampled (river kilometers 0-24).

## METHODS

### Gear Description

Burbot were captured in two sizes of commercially available hoop traps. Large hoop traps were used for all sampling conducted in 1986 and 1987, while small hoop traps were used for all sampling conducted from 1988 through 1992. Bernard et al. (1991) provides a comprehensive account of the efficacy of both large and small traps. Small hoop traps were 3.05 m long with seven 6.35 mm steel hoops (Figure 2). Hoop diameters tapered from 0.61 m at the entrance to 0.46 m at the cod end. Each trap had a double throat (tied to the second and fourth hoops) which narrows to an opening 10 cm in diameter. All netting was knotted nylon woven into 25 mm bar mesh, bound with No. 15 cotton twine, and treated with an asphaltic compound. Each trap was kept stretched with two sections of 19 mm polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe attached by snap clips to the end hoops. These traps were used in all sections from 1988-1992.

Large hoop traps were of similar design, but were 3.66 m long, and had fiberglass hoops with inside diameters tapering from 91 to 69 cm (Figure 2). Throat diameters were 36 cm. Spreader bars made from PVC were also used to keep the traps stretched. These traps were used in all sections during 1986 and 1987.

Hoop traps were baited with cut Pacific herring *Clupea harengus* placed in perforated plastic containers. One end of a five to 10 m section of

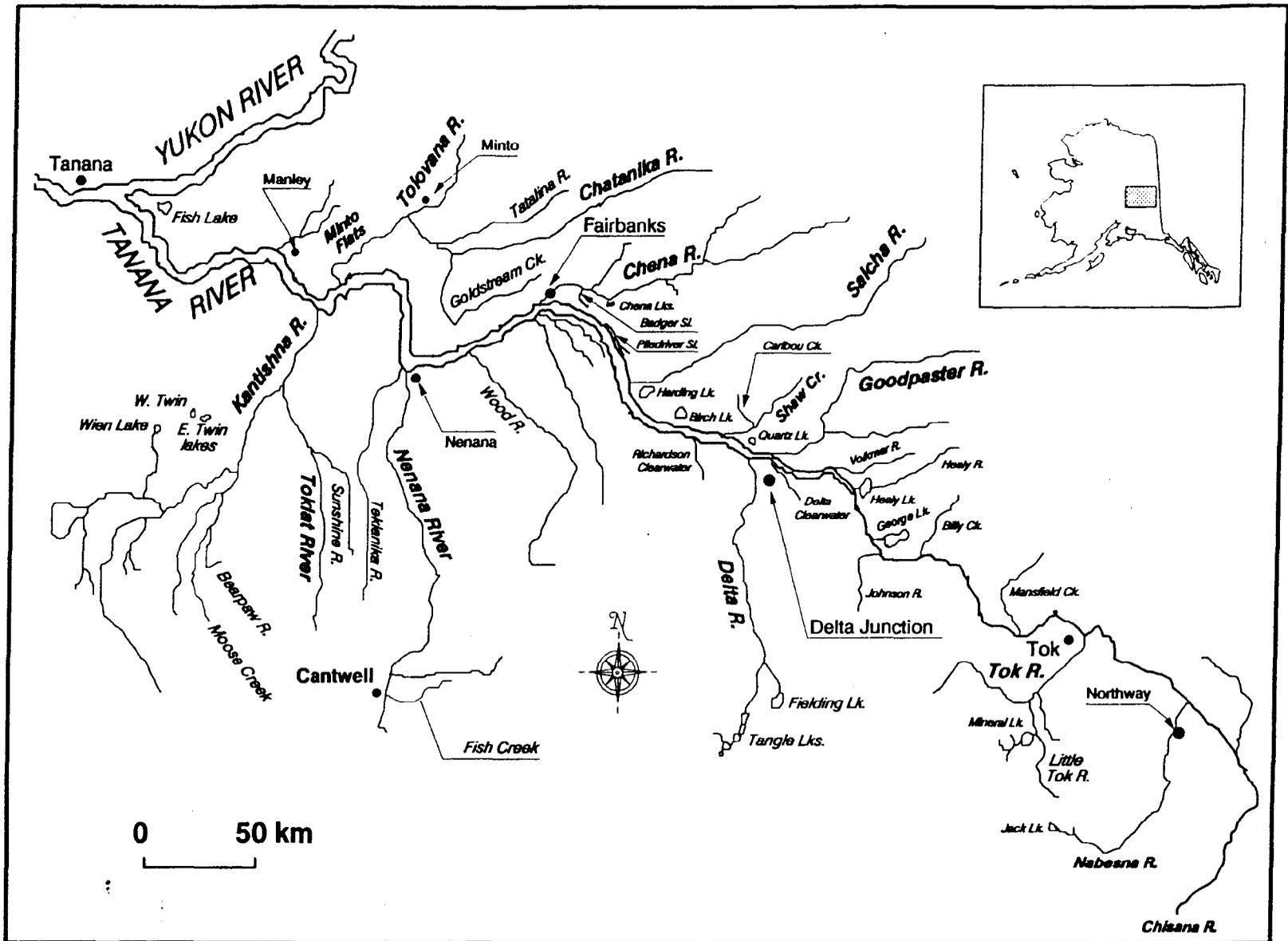


Figure 1. Map of the Tanana River drainage.

Table 1. Confluences of major tributaries and locations of bridges along the course of the Tanana River in river kilometers.

	Landmark	River Kilometer <sup>a</sup>
<u>Lower River</u>		
	Chitanana River	54
	Cosna River	64
	Manley Hot Springs Slough	98
	Kantishna River	154
	Tolovana River	168
	Nenana River	267
	Parks Highway Bridge	267
<u>Middle River</u>		
	Wood River	298
	Chena River	358
	Moose Creek	392
	Salcha River	429
	Little Delta River	462
	Shaw Creek	498
	Delta River	515
	Richardson Highway Bridge	515
<u>Upper River</u>		
	Goodpaster River	530
	Volkmar River	568
	Healy Lake Outlet	587
	George Lake Outlet	619
	Johnson River	630
	Robertson River	696
	Tok River	795
	Alaska Highway Bridge	816
	Confluence of Chisana	
	Nabesna River (Headwaters)	902

<sup>a</sup> Measured upstream from the Tanana River confluence with the Yukon River.

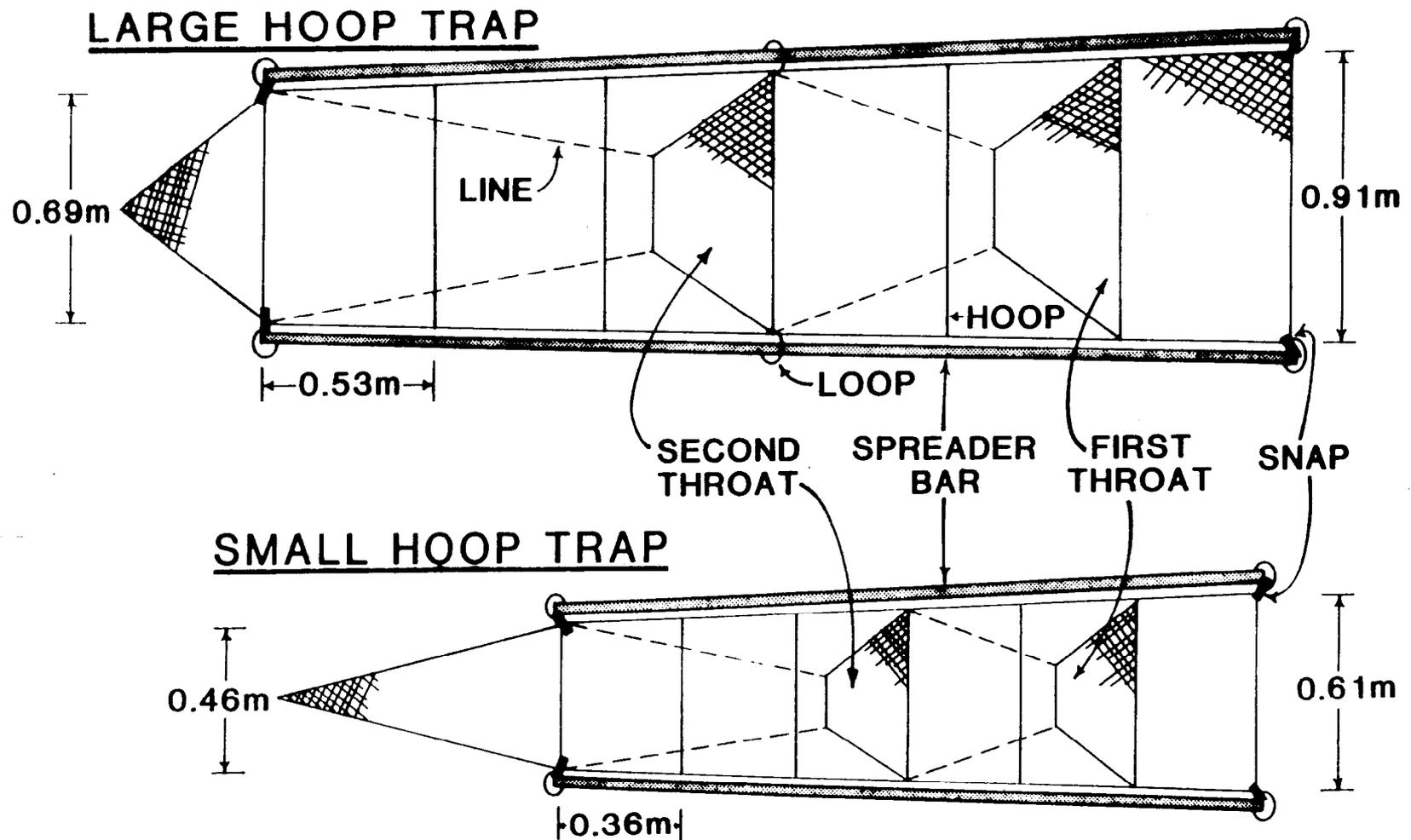


Figure 2. Diagrams of large and small hoop traps used to catch burbot in flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage.

polypropylene rope was tied to the cod end of each trap, while the other end was tied off to shore. The traps then fished on the river bottom near shore with the opening facing downstream. An outboard-powered riverboat was used to set, move, and retrieve the traps.

### Study Design

The general sampling protocol was similar for all river sections, except that the duration of the sampling events, and amount of effort were somewhat variable for each. Typically, a sampling event lasted five days and four nights. The density of traps within a section was variable and depended on the size of the section (has ranged from 16-64 km since 1986) and whether one or two sampling crews were used. A systematic sampling design was used in all sections. Traps were set along both shores at near equal intervals beginning at the most downstream end of the section and progressing to the most upstream end of the section. All traps were fished for approximately 24 hours, were rebaited, and were moved to a slightly upstream area. All trap locations were marked on a 1:63,360 USGS maps and were recorded to the nearest kilometer. All burbot captured were measured for total length (TL) to the nearest millimeter, and were tagged using individually numbered Floy internal anchor tags. All fish were released at the capture site.

During this investigation, two crews were used to sample each of the two sections. Each crew worked opposite sides of the river. Each section was 24 km in length, and in each section traps were set at a density of three traps per kilometer per day.

### Estimation of Parameters

Both sizes of traps effectively catch burbot 300 mm TL and larger. Burbot smaller than 300 mm TL can swim through the net mesh; they also tend not to be attracted to the bait as effectively as larger burbot. However, full recruitment of burbot to both large and small hoop traps has been tested using mark-recapture techniques and typically begins at 450 mm TL (Bernard et al. 1991; Evenson 1988 and 1990-1992). Burbot larger than 800 mm TL may not be fully recruited to small hoop traps, (that is, recaptured at the same rate as they were caught) but likely are to large hoop traps (Bernard et al. 1991). For these reasons, estimates of mean CPUE and mean length described below are given for three length strata: "small" (300-449 mm TL) "medium" (450-799 mm TL) and "large" ( $\geq 800$  mm TL). Because few burbot  $\geq 800$  mm TL are captured, medium and large burbot are typically combined when estimating abundance.

#### Catch per Unit Effort:

Estimates of mean CPUE have been obtained for 67 river sections since 1986 (Appendix A). The understanding of the selectivity of the hoop trap gear has been progressive. In 1986, size-selectivity of hoop traps had not been tested for. Consequently, estimates of mean CPUE were for all fish 300 mm TL and larger. In 1987, mark-recapture experiments conducted in the Tanana River indicated burbot became fully recruited to large hoop traps at 450 mm TL (Evenson 1988). Therefore, from 1987 through 1990, CPUE estimates were calculated for those burbot 300-449 mm TL (small), and for those larger than

450 mm TL (medium and large). In 1991, data were available which suggested that burbot 800 mm TL and larger (large) residing in the Tanana River were not fully recruited to small hoop traps (Bernard et al. 1991). Thus, mean CPUE estimates from 1991 and 1992 were calculated for three length categories (small, medium, and large). For the reasons described above regarding the progressive understanding of the gear selectivity, and because of the way data were recorded on data forms<sup>1</sup>, estimates of standard errors are not available for many CPUE estimates for various length strata.

Mean CPUE for each river section and its associated variance were calculated from the number of burbot caught per net-night for all traps set during each sampling period based upon the following equations from Wolter (1984):

$$\overline{\text{CPUE}}_c = \bar{X}_c = t^{-1} \sum_{h=1}^t X_{ch}; \quad (1)$$

$$V[\overline{\text{CPUE}}_c] = \frac{\sum_{h=2}^t [X_{ch} - X_{ch-1}]^2}{2t[t-1]} \quad (2)$$

where:

$X_{ch}$  = catch of burbot of size class  $c$  in hoop trap  $h$ ;

$t$  = the total number of hoop traps in a river section; and,

$s$  = the set number such that  $s = 1$  to  $t$  in order with  $i = 1$  the most downstream set and  $i = t$  the most upstream.

All estimates of mean CPUE throughout this report are given in units of number of burbot per net per overnight set, or burbot per net-night (bb/nn).

Mean Length:

Mean length and its associated variance was also calculated for three length categories as:

$$\bar{l}_a = \sum_{b=1}^n \frac{l_{ab}}{n_a}; \quad (3)$$

$$V[\bar{l}_a] = \sum_{b=1}^n \frac{(l_{ab} - \bar{l}_a)^2}{n_a(n_a-1)} \quad (4)$$

<sup>1</sup> From 1986 through 1988, two separate computer coded data forms were used to record catch and length information. The design of these forms did not allow for lengths of fish caught to be correlated with a given trap.

where:

$l_{ab}$  = length of burbot b in length category a; and,

$n_a$  = number of samples in length category a.

All estimates of mean length are expressed to the nearest millimeter of total length (TL).

Abundance:

Two different modifications of the basic formula for the Petersen model for two sample mark-recapture experiments (described in Seber 1982) have been used during past years to estimate abundance in three different sections of the Tanana River, one section of the Chena River, and one section of the Tolovana River. The assumptions for accurate use of the Petersen model and methods of testing these assumptions are described by Bernard and Hansen (1992). If these assumptions were all met, and if inter-river section movements were observed in low proportions, then the modified Petersen estimator of Bailey (1951, 1952) was used to estimate abundance. Alternatively, if significant movement of fish in the study section was observed between the marking (first event) and recapture (second event) samples, a modified Petersen estimator (Bernard Pers. Comm.<sup>2</sup>; Evenson 1988) was used to compensate for the movement of marked burbot out of the study section. Detailed descriptions of these estimates are given by Hallberg et al. (1987) and Evenson (1988, 1990, and 1991).

## RESULTS

### Catch per Unit Effort

A total of 339 and 131 burbot larger than 300 mm TL were caught with 277 and 272 net-nights of effort in the Tanana River and Chena River sections, respectively during 1992. Estimates of mean CPUE in the Tanana River section were 0.21 bb/nn (SE = 0.03) for small burbot, 0.96 bb/nn (SE = 0.08) for medium burbot, and 0.06 bb/nn (SE = 0.01) for large burbot. Estimates of mean CPUE in the Chena River section were 0.07 bb/nn (SE = 0.02) for small burbot, 0.41 bb/nn (SE = 0.05) for medium burbot and 0.004 bb/nn (SE = 0.004) for large burbot.

### Mean Length

Estimates of mean length for burbot sampled from the Tanana River section were 398 mm TL (SE = 6) for small burbot, 557 mm TL (SE = 5) for medium burbot, and 864 mm TL (SE = 16) for large burbot. Estimates of mean length for burbot sampled from the Chena River section were 388 mm TL (SE = 10) for small burbot and 575 mm TL (SE = 7) for medium burbot. Only one large burbot was captured in the Chena River section.

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<sup>2</sup> Bernard, David. Personal Communication. ADFG, Sport Fish Division, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518.

## Abundance

A total of seven mark-recapture experiments have been conducted since 1986 to estimate abundance in five different river sections (Appendix C). Densities of burbot (expressed in burbot per linear river kilometer; bb/km) have ranged from a low of 71 bb/km (SE = 14) in a section of the Chena River (river kilometer 0 - 24), to a high of 572 bb/km (SE = 41) in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 582 - 589).

## DISCUSSION

A total of 66 CPUE estimates have been obtained since 1986 (Appendix A). The largest estimate of mean CPUE for small burbot was 1.83 in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 523 - 532) in 1986. Estimates of mean CPUE for fully recruited burbot (medium) ranged from 0 in the lower Goodpaster River (river kilometer 0-15) during 1989 to 10.14 in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 553-564) during 1986. The largest estimate of mean CPUE for large burbot was 0.43 in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 889 - 903) in 1986.

Mean length estimates have been obtained for the same 66 sections sampled since 1986 (Appendix B). The largest mean length for fully recruited burbot (medium) was 691 mm noted in a section of the Yukon River (river kilometer 0-24 downstream from the Dalton Highway Bridge), while the smallest was 510 mm from a section of the Chena River (river kilometer 0-24) in 1990. Mean lengths for small burbot ranged from 350 mm in a section of the Kantishna River (river kilometer 0-43) sampled during 1989, to 422 mm in a section of the Tolovana River (river kilometer 37-78) sampled during 1988. Mean lengths of large burbot in sections for which more than 10 burbot were caught (16 of the 66 sections) ranged from 830 mm in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 784-848) sampled during 1988, to 915 mm in a section of the Tanana River (river kilometer 889-903) sampled during 1986.

Given the immenseness of the system, population parameters such as abundance, survival, and recruitment are difficult to determine with any degree of accuracy. Based on the single stock definition, and the estimated densities of burbot in various sections throughout the system, it is apparent that annual exploitation rates are quite low, and present harvest levels are sustainable.

Estimating mean CPUE for a given section requires less than half as much effort as does estimating abundance in the same section. Therefore, more of the system can be assessed through abundance indexing than can be from estimating actual abundance. However, because of the passive nature of hoop trap gear, the behavior of the fish can greatly influence the estimates of CPUE and size compositions. Thus, it is difficult to assess whether changes in these estimates from one sampling event to the next are real or perceived. Some seasonal patterns in these behavioral changes in catch rates are apparent. In general, catches tend to be high and variable in the spring (after ice-out) and in the fall (prior to ice cover). During the summer,

catches tend to be lower and more stable. The reasons for these fluctuations are unclear, and the timing of the fluctuations seems to vary by river area. These seasonal variations in catch rates have important implications when conducting mark-recapture experiments to estimate actual abundance. When catch rates are low, a great deal of fishing effort must be expended to obtain an adequate sample size. This may be cost-prohibitive in many cases. However, care must be taken when sampling during the spring and fall such that significant movements are not occurring during the sampling period, which can bias estimates of abundance using closed population models.

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APPENDIX A

Appendix A1. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates of burbot sampled in sections of the lower Tanana River, 1986 through 1989.

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Net Nights	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
06/23-06/27	1986	98-116	Large	104	71	0.68	NA <sup>a</sup>	257	2.47	NA	4	0.04	NA	261	2.51	NA
07/07-07/11	1986	247-265	Large	100	90	0.82	NA	82	0.82	NA	2	0.02	NA	84	0.84	NA
06/23-06/26	1987	102-112	Large	89	20	0.22	0.07	190	2.13	NA	6	0.07	NA	196	2.20	0.25
07/14-07/17	1988	48-112	Small	254	60	0.24	0.03	242	0.95	NA	5	0.02	NA	247	0.97	0.08
08/17-08/20	1988	160-216	Small	215	35	0.16	0.03	231	1.07	NA	25	0.12	NA	256	1.19	0.09
07/12-07/15	1989	0-54	Small	228	47	0.21	0.03	91	0.40	NA	0	0	0	91	0.40	0.05

<sup>a</sup> Means data is not available for this estimate (see Methods section for explanation).

Appendix A2. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates of burbot sampled in sections of the middle Tanana River, 1986 through 1992.

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Net Nights	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
08/19-08/22	1986	265-284	Large	67	23	0.34	NA <sup>a</sup>	196	2.93	NA	14	0.21	NA	210	3.13	NA
07/29-08/02	1986	334-352	Large	99	51	0.52	NA	94	0.95	NA	7	0.07	NA	101	1.02	NA
08/11-08/15	1986	334-352	Large	128	42	0.33	NA	57	0.45	NA	3	0.02	NA	60	0.47	NA
09/08-09/12	1986	356-377	Large	115	46	0.40	NA	70	0.61	NA	4	0.03	NA	74	0.64	NA
07/14-07/16	1987	270-283	Large	54	38	0.70	0.10	110	2.04	0.36	0	0	0	110	2.04	0.36
07/22-07/25	1987	339-354	Large	77	22	0.29	0.02	41	0.53	NA	6	0.08	NA	47	0.61	0.09
07/28-07/31	1987	339-354	Large	106	70	0.66	0.10	73	0.69	NA	6	0.06	NA	79	0.75	0.09
08/04-08/07	1987	339-354	Large	79	24	0.30	0.08	45	0.57	NA	2	0.03	NA	47	0.59	0.10
08/18-08/21	1987	339-354	Large	183	46	0.25	0.05	178	0.97	NA	14	0.08	NA	192	1.05	0.11
07/07-07/10	1987	360-378	Large	79	55	0.70	0.12	54	0.68	NA	6	0.08	NA	60	0.76	0.11
06/10-06/13	1987	430-442	Large	87	66	0.76	0.13	83	0.95	NA	4	0.05	NA	87	1.00	0.15
06/16-06/19	1987	498-510	Large	87	83	0.95	0.14	46	0.53	0.11	0	0	0	46	0.53	0.11
07/06-07/09	1988	312-376	Small	268	159	0.59	0.05	144	0.54	NA	1	<0.01	NA	145	0.54	0.05
06/13-06/16	1989	317-374	Small	237	137	0.58	0.06	125	0.53	NA	6	0.03	NA	131	0.55	0.05
06/20-06/24	1989	418-474	Small	225	136	0.60	0.07	42	0.19	0.03	0	0	0	42	0.19	0.03
08/14-08/16	1990	344-376	Small	90	44	0.49	0.10	96	1.07	NA	4	0.04	NA	100	1.11	0.12
07/11-07/17	1991	336-360	Small	310	97	0.31	0.04	247	0.80	0.07	3	0.01	0.01	250	0.81	0.07
08/24-08/28	1992	336-360	Small	277	57	0.21	0.03	266	0.96	0.08	16	0.06	0.01	282	1.02	0.08

<sup>a</sup> Means data is not available for this estimate (see Methods section for explanation).

Appendix A3. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates for burbot sampled in sections of the upper Tanana River, 1986 through 1990.

Sampling Dates	Year	River	Hoop	Net Nights	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
		km Sampled	Trap Size		Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
08/07-08/08	1986	523-532	Large	54	99	1.83	NA <sup>a</sup>	146	2.70	NA	2	0.04	NA	148	2.74	NA
08/11-08/15	1986	553-564	Large	90	96	1.07	NA	913	10.14	NA	19	0.21	NA	932	10.36	NA
07/08-07/11	1986	578-584	Large	100	108	1.08	NA	32	0.32	NA	0	0	0	32	0.32	NA
09/08-09/12	1986	608-619	Large	73	54	0.74	NA	63	0.86	NA	5	0.07	NA	68	0.93	NA
07/29-08/02	1986	705-721	Large	108	90	0.83	NA	120	1.11	NA	5	0.05	NA	125	1.16	NA
07/23-07/27	1986	889-903	Large	194	84	0.43	NA	425	2.19	NA	83	0.43	NA	508	2.62	NA
06/16-06/19	1987	520-536	Large	97	102	1.05	0.13	144	1.48	0.18	0	0	0	144	1.48	0.18
08/11-08/14	1987	553-571	Large	101	55	0.54	0.10	145	1.44	NA	1	0.01	NA	146	1.45	0.21
07/28-07/31	1987	578-594	Large	96	99	1.03	0.16	456	4.75	NA	7	0.07	NA	463	4.82	0.51
08/04-08/07	1987	578-594	Large	91	76	0.84	0.14	606	6.66	NA	9	0.10	NA	615	6.76	0.84
08/25-08/28	1987	578-594	Large	82	56	0.68	0.11	561	6.84	NA	14	0.17	NA	575	7.01	0.94
07/07-07/10	1987	806-829	Large	97	85	0.88	0.12	128	1.32	NA	6	0.06	NA	134	1.38	0.15
08/11-08/14	1987	842-853	Large	77	44	0.57	0.10	188	2.44	NA	9	0.17	NA	197	2.56	0.27
07/14-07/17	1987	894-915	Large	93	45	0.48	0.10	173	1.86	NA	17	0.18	NA	190	2.04	0.23
08/05-08/08	1988	526-592	Small	256	154	0.60	0.06	331	1.29	NA	3	0.01	NA	334	1.30	0.14
07/31-08/03	1988	656-720	Small	262	167	0.64	0.07	103	0.39	NA	2	0.01	NA	105	0.40	0.05
07/21-07/24	1988	784-848	Small	248	88	0.35	0.05	195	0.79	NA	15	0.06	NA	210	0.85	0.06

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Appendix A3. (Page 2 of 2).

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Net Nights	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
08/08-08/11	1989	632-662	Small	239	107	0.45	0.05	286	1.20	NA	7	0.03	NA	293	1.23	0.18
08/13-08/16	1989	714-766	Small	234	149	0.64	0.07	92	0.39	NA	1	<0.01	NA	93	0.40	0.05
06/21-06/28	1990	888-912	Small	458	109	0.24	0.03	254	0.55	NA	14	0.03	NA	268	0.59	0.04
07/10-07/18	1990	888-912	Small	393	89	0.23	0.02	331	0.84	NA	33	0.08	NA	364	0.93	0.05

<sup>a</sup> Means data is not available for this estimate (see Methods section for explanation).

Appendix A4. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates of burbot sampled in sections of tributaries of the Tanana River and in sections of the Yukon River, 1988 through 1992.

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Net Nights	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
<u>Chena River</u>																
09/07-09/09	1988	0-24	Small	88	23	0.32	0.08	65	0.90	0.13	0	0	0	65	0.90	0.13
06/27-06/30	1989	0-40	Small	120	30	0.25	0.06	74	0.62	NA <sup>a</sup>	1	0.01	NA	75	0.63	0.09
06/12-06/15	1990	0-24	Small	232	14	0.06	0.02	16	0.07	NA	0	0	0	16	0.07	0.02
08/21-08/24	1990	0-24	Small	204	41	0.20	0.04	82	0.40	NA	1	<0.01	NA	83	0.41	0.06
08/27-08/31	1990	0-24	Small	203	59	0.29	0.04	204	1.00	NA	1	<0.01	NA	205	1.01	0.11
09/06-09/07	1990	0-24	Small	73	26	0.36	0.03	90	1.23	NA	0	0	0	90	1.23	0.09
09/27-09/28	1990	0-24	Small	80	9	0.11	0.03	66	0.83	NA	2	0.03	NA	68	0.85	0.05
08/27-08/30	1991	0-24	Small	268	35	0.13	0.03	218	0.81	0.09	0	0	0	218	0.81	0.09
09/04-09/07	1991	0-24	Small	248	28	0.11	0.03	171	0.69	0.08	3	0.01	<0.01	174	0.70	0.08
08/31-09/04	1992	0-24	Small	272	19	0.07	0.02	111	0.41	0.05	1	<0.01	<0.01	112	0.41	0.05
<u>Tolovana River</u>																
09/14-09/21	1988	37-78	Small	192	5	0.03	0.01	211	1.10	NA	28	0.15	NA	239	1.24	0.10
07/29-08/01	1989	0-43	Small	121	6	0.05	0.02	87	0.72	NA	8	0.07	NA	95	0.79	0.09
06/12-06/19	1991	0-48	Small	570	37	0.07	0.01	595	1.04	0.06	1	<0.01	<0.01	596	1.05	0.06
06/26-07/03	1991	0-48	Small	568	39	0.07	0.01	235	0.41	0.03	2	<0.01	<0.01	237	0.42	0.03
<u>Yukon River</u>																
08/24-08-27	1988	(-22)-56	Small	239	6	0.03	0.01	122	0.51	NA	18	0.08	NA	140	0.59	0.06
07/16-07/18	1989	(-242)-(-203)	Small	170	8	0.05	0.02	33	0.19	NA	9	0.05	NA	42	0.25	0.05
10/01-10/04	1991	(-24)-0	Small	173	1	<0.01	<0.01	78	0.45	0.06	32	0.19	0.03	110	0.64	0.07

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Appendix A4. (Page 2 of 2).

Sampling		River	Hoop	Net	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
Dates	Year	km	Trap	Nights	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE	Catch	CPUE	SE
<u>Kantishna River</u>																
07/29-08/01	1989	0-43	Small	113	25	0.23	0.05	19	0.17	0.03	0	0	0	19	0.17	0.03
<u>Goodpaster River</u>																
06/27-06/28	1989	0-18	Small	58	17	0.29	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Chisana River</u>																
08/27-08/29	1989	0-38	Small	122	13	0.11	0.04	112	0.92	NA	13	0.11	NA	125	1.02	0.13
<u>Nenana River</u>																
08/20-08/23	1991	0-24	Small	242	67	0.28	0.04	147	0.61	0.07	13	0.05	0.02	160	0.66	0.07

<sup>a</sup> Means data is not available for this estimate (see Methods section for explanation).



APPENDIX B

Appendix B1. Mean length estimates of burbot sampled in sections of the lower Tanana River, 1986 through 1989.

Sampling		River	Hoop	Length	Small			Medium			Large			Medium + Large		
Dates	Year	km	Trap	Range	(300-449 mm TL)			(450-799 mm TL)			(≥800 mm TL)			(≥450 mm TL)		
		Sampled	Size	(mm TL)	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE
06/23-06/27	1986	98-116	Large	270-990	71	388	5	257	564	5	4	838	21	261	596	5
07/07-07/11	1986	247-265	Large	295-912	90	386	4	82	534	7	2	891	22	84	543	9
06/23-06/26	1987	102-112	Large	302-866	20	388	9	190	600	6	6	836	10	196	607	6
07/14-07/17	1988	48-112	Small	304-845	60	391	6	242	560	5	5	824	10	247	566	5
08/17-08/20	1988	160-216	Small	275-952	35	392	6	231	583	6	25	859	8	256	610	8
07/12-07/15	1989	0-54	Small	289-773	47	380	7	91	562	9	0	ID <sup>a</sup>	ID	91	562	9

<sup>a</sup> Insufficient data.

Appendix B2. Mean length estimates of burbot sampled in sections of the middle Tanana River, 1986 through 1992.

Sampling		River	Hoop	Length	Small			Medium			Large			Medium + Large		
Dates		km	Trap	Range	(300-449 mm TL)			(450-799 mm TL)			(≥800 mm TL)			(≥450 mm TL)		
Year	Sampled	Size	(mm TL)	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	
1986	08/19-08/22	265-284	Large	280-1,010	23	391	9	196	602	6	14	879	16	210	621	7
1986	07/29-08/02	334-352	Large	260-863	51	382	6	94	552	8	7	839	9	101	572	10
1986	08/11-08/15	334-352	Large	266-905	42	379	7	57	556	14	3	846	29	60	570	13
1986	09/08-09/12	356-377	Large	294-954	46	365	6	70	548	11	4	887	35	74	566	14
1987	07/14-07/16	270-283	Large	307-790	38	399	6	110	554	8	0	ID <sup>a</sup>	ID	110	554	18
1987	07/22-07/25	339-354	Large	315-1,025	22	400	7	41	544	12	6	888	41	47	588	21
1987	07/28-07/31	339-354	Large	304-1,079	70	396	5	73	552	9	6	885	45	79	578	13
1987	08/04-08/07	339-354	Large	308-1,028	24	399	7	45	569	12	2	937	92	47	584	16
1987	08/18-08/21	339-354	Large	311-1,000	46	411	4	178	570	7	14	882	17	192	593	9
1987	07/07-07/10	360-378	Large	312-937	55	389	5	54	524	8	6	854	24	60	557	15
1987	06/10-06/13	430-442	Large	305-952	66	387	5	83	556	9	4	899	17	87	572	11
1987	06/16-06/19	498-510	Large	300-743	83	385	4	46	525	10	0	ID	ID	46	525	10
1988	07/06-07/09	312-376	Small	235-855	159	388	3	144	520	5	1	855	ID	145	523	5
1989	06/13-06/16	317-374	Small	278-895	137	381	4	125	535	6	6	849	13	131	549	8
1989	06/20-06/24	418-474	Small	275-773	136	372	3	42	560	13	0	ID	ID	42	560	13
1990	08/14-08/16	344-376	Small	300-900	44	393	6	96	540	8	4	856	23	100	553	8
1991	07/11-07/17	336-360	Small	238-922	97	386	5	247	530	4	3	893	19	250	534	4
1992	08/24-08/28	336-360	Small	277-1,040	57	398	6	266	557	5	16	864	16	282	574	6

<sup>a</sup> Insufficient data.

Appendix B3. Mean length estimates of burbot sampled in sections of the upper Tanana River, 1986 through 1990.

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Length Range (mm TL)	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE
08/07-08/08	1986	523-532	Large	279-921	99	390	4	146	536	6	2	864	58	148	541	6
08/11-08/15	1986	553-564	Large	295-962	96	421	3	913	579	3	19	842	10	932	584	3
07/08-07/11	1986	578-584	Large	235-742	108	355	3	32	528	13	0	ID <sup>a</sup>	ID	32	528	13
09/08-09/12	1986	608-619	Large	307-916	54	371	6	63	606	13	5	849	21	68	624	14
07/29-08/02	1986	705-721	Large	285-940	90	367	5	120	581	8	5	859	24	125	593	9
07/23-07/27	1986	889-903	Large	270-1,147	84	383	5	425	578	4	83	915	9	508	633	7
06/16-06/19	1987	520-536	Large	308-750	102	389	4	144	525	5	0	ID	ID	144	525	5
08/11-08/14	1987	553-571	Large	300-933	55	394	5	145	556	7	1	933	ID	146	559	7
07/28-07/31	1987	578-594	Large	312-962	99	409	3	456	566	3	7	863	23	463	571	4
08/04-08/07	1987	578-594	Large	321-920	76	404	4	606	606	3	9	848	14	615	615	3
08/25-08/28	1987	578-594	Large	344-895	56	417	4	561	585	4	14	837	7	575	591	4
07/07-07/10	1987	806-829	Large	305-1,000	85	379	4	128	558	7	6	874	31	134	572	9
08/11-08/14	1987	842-853	Large	326-985	44	399	6	188	587	6	9	866	22	197	600	7
07/14-07/17	1987	894-915	Large	307-1,010	45	392	6	173	570	7	17	865	18	190	569	9
08/05-08/08	1988	526-592	Small	268-865	154	390	3	331	560	4	3	846	10	334	563	5
07/31-08/03	1988	656-720	Small	290-966	167	374	3	103	578	10	2	890	76	105	584	10
07/21-07/24	1988	784-848	Small	288-908	88	382	4	195	587	6	15	830	7	210	604	7

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Appendix B3. (Page 2 of 2).

Sampling		River	Hoop	Length	Small			Medium			Large			Medium + Large		
Dates	Year	km	Trap	Range	(300-449 mm TL)			(450-799 mm TL)			(≥800 mm TL)			(≥450 mm TL)		
		Sampled	Size	(mm TL)	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE
08/08-08/11	1989	632-662	Small	274-1,070	107	388	4	286	581	5	7	866	36	293	588	6
08/13-08/16	1989	714-766	Small	205-820	149	374	3	92	547	8	1	820	ID	93	550	9
06/21-06/28	1990	888-912	Small	246-986	109	389	4	254	564	5	14	846	15	268	579	5
07/10-07/18	1990	888-912	Small	270-1,030	89	396	4	331	590	5	33	884	12	364	617	5

<sup>a</sup> Insufficient data.

Appendix B4. Mean length estimates of burbot sampled in sections of tributaries of the Tanana River and in sections of the Yukon River, 1988 through 1992.

Sampling Dates	Year	River km Sampled	Hoop Trap Size	Length Range (mm TL)	Small (300-449 mm TL)			Medium (450-799 mm TL)			Large (≥800 mm TL)			Medium + Large (≥450 mm TL)		
					Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE
<u>Chena River</u>																
09/07-09/09	1988	0-24	Small	306-754	23	394	8	65	557	8	0	ID <sup>a</sup>	ID	65	557	8
06/27-06/30	1989	0-40	Small	295-802	30	366	6	74	568	10	1	802	ID	75	571	10
06/12-06/15	1990	0-24	Small	265-600	14	375	14	16	510	12	0	ID	ID	16	510	12
08/21-08/24	1990	0-24	Small	302-873	41	400	7	82	540	8	1	873	ID	83	544	8
08/27-08/31	1990	0-24	Small	294-852	59	409	5	204	555	5	1	852	ID	205	556	5
09/06-09/07	1990	0-24	Small	316-762	26	391	9	90	554	7	0	ID	ID	90	554	7
09/27-09/28	1990	0-24	Small	315-905	9	381	18	66	554	9	2	888	18	68	564	9
08/27-08/30	1991	0-24	Small	288-785	35	385	8	218	562	5	0	ID	ID	218	562	5
09/04-09/07	1991	0-24	Small	295-895	28	382	9	171	565	5	3	850	27	174	569	5
08/31-09/04	1992	0-24	Small	307-843	19	388	10	111	575	7	1	843	ID	112	577	7
<u>Tolovana River</u>																
09/14-09/21	1988	37-78	Small	364-910	5	422	15	211	634	6	28	851	6	239	660	7
07/29-08/01	1989	0-43	Small	280-875	6	397	13	87	584	9	8	831	9	95	605	11
06/12-06/19	1991	0-48	Small	299-807	37	398	8	595	577	3	1	807	ID	596	577	3
06/26-07/03	1991	0-48	Small	249-875	39	373	8	235	558	4	2	853	23	237	560	4
<u>Yukon River</u>																
08/24-08-27	1988	(-22)-56	Small	311-1,000	6	392	20	122	628	7	18	874	16	140	660	10
07/16-07/18	1989	(-242)-(-203)	Small	209-970	8	374	18	33	585	13	9	887	19	42	650	22
10/01-10/04	1991	(-24)-0	Small	400-1,070	1	400	ID	78	691	9	32	893	12	110	750	8

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Appendix B4. (Page 2 of 2).

Sampling		River	Hoop	Length	Small			Medium			Large			Medium + Large		
Dates	Year	km	Trap	Range	(300-449 mm TL)			(450-799 mm TL)			(≥800 mm TL)			(≥450 mm TL)		
		Sampled	Size	(mm TL)	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE	Catch	Mean	SE
<u>Kantishna River</u>																
07/29-08/01	1989	0-43	Small	242-610	25	350	9	19	526	12	0	ID	ID	19	526	12
<u>Goodpaster River</u>																
06/27-06/28	1989	0-18	Small	335-445	17	386	6	0	ID	ID	0	ID	ID	0	ID	ID
<u>Chisana River</u>																
08/27-08/29	1989	0-38	Small	347-1,060	13	410	10	112	616	8	13	883	21	125	644	11
<u>Nenana River</u>																
08/20-08/23	1991	0-24	Small	290-903	67	380	5	147	574	7	13	842	9	160	596	6

<sup>a</sup> Insufficient data.



APPENDIX C

Appendix C1. Abundance, density and catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates of burbot 450 mm TL and larger sampled in various river sections throughout the Tanana River drainage.

River	River km Sampled <sup>a</sup>	Year	Abundance <sup>b</sup>	SE	Density <sup>b</sup>	SE	CPUE <sup>c</sup>	SE	Catchability Coefficient <sup>d</sup>
Tanana	336 - 352	1986	1,936 <sup>e</sup>	448	121	28	0.82	ND <sup>j</sup>	0.007
Tanana	336 - 352	1987	2,541 <sup>f</sup>	680	159	43	0.86	0.10	0.005
Tanana	582 - 589	1987	4,004 <sup>g</sup>	287	572	41	7.02	0.86	0.012
Tanana	888 - 912	1990	2,232 <sup>h</sup>	456	93	19	0.93	0.05	0.010
Chena	0 - 24	1990	1,752 <sup>h</sup>	264	73	11	0.79	0.03	0.011
Chena	0 - 24	1991	1,704 <sup>i</sup>	336	71	14	0.76	0.06	0.011
Tolovana	0 - 48	1991	6,048 <sup>i</sup>	2,256	126	47	0.73	0.03	0.006

<sup>a</sup> River kilometers are measured upstream from the river mouth.

<sup>b</sup> Abundance and density estimates are shown as number of large burbot (450 mm TL and larger) per river kilometer.

<sup>c</sup> Catch-per-unit-effort estimates (CPUE) are shown as number of burbot 450 mm TL and larger caught per net-night.

<sup>d</sup> Calculated as CPUE divided by density (from Everhart and Youngs 1981).

<sup>e</sup> Modified from Hallberg et al. (1987). Original estimate was for burbot 300 mm TL and longer

<sup>f</sup> From Evenson (1988).

<sup>g</sup> Modified from Evenson (1988). Original estimate was given for a larger section

<sup>h</sup> Modified from Evenson (1991). Original estimate was for burbot 400 mm TL and longer.

<sup>i</sup> From Evenson (1992).

<sup>j</sup> No data available.