

# **Migration, Tagging Response, and Distribution of Chinook Salmon Returning to the Taku River, 2018**

by

**Philip Richards**

**Jeff Williams**

**Sarah J. H. Power**

**Ian Boyce**

**Aaron Foos**

and

**Bonnie Huebschwerlen**

**June 2018**

---

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**



## Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

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

***REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PLAN SF.1J.2018.06***

**MIGRATION, TAGGING RESPONSE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
CHINOOK SALMON RETURNING TO THE TAKU RIVER, 2018**

by

Philip Richards, Jeff Williams, and Sarah J. H. Power  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Douglas

and

Ian Boyce, Aaron Foos, and Bonnie Huebschwerlen  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fish  
333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518

June 2018

The Regional Operational Plan Series was established in 2012 to archive and provide public access to operational plans for fisheries projects of the Divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish, as per joint-divisional Operational Planning Policy. Documents in this series are planning documents that may contain raw data, preliminary data analyses and results, and describe operational aspects of fisheries projects that may not actually be implemented. All documents in this series are subject to a technical review process and receive varying degrees of regional, divisional, and biometric approval, but do not generally receive editorial review. Results from the implementation of the operational plan described in this series may be subsequently finalized and published in a different department reporting series or in the formal literature. Please contact the author if you have any questions regarding the information provided in this plan. Regional Operational Plans are available on the Internet at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>.

*Philip Richards, Jeff Williams, and Sarah Power  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish,  
P.O. Box 110024  
Juneau, AK 99811-0024*

*and*

*Ian Boyce, Aaron Foos, and Bonnie Huebschwerlen  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Stock Assessment,  
419 Range Road, Suite 100, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 3V1, Canada*

*This document should be cited as follows:*

*Richards, P., J. Williams, S. J. H. Power, I. Boyce, A. Foos, and B. Huebschwerlen. 2017. Migration, tagging response, and distribution of Chinook salmon returning to the Taku River, 2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Regional Operational Plan ROP.SF.1J.2018.06, Anchorage.*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

**If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:**

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240

**The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:**

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648,

(Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

**For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:**

ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage AK 99518 (907) 267-2375

## SIGNATURE/TITLE PAGE

Project Title: Migration, Tagging Response, and Distribution of Chinook Salmon Returning to the Taku River, 2018

Project leader(s): Philip Richards, Fisheries Biologist III  
Jeff Williams, Fisheries Biologist II

Division, Region and Area Sport Fish, Region I, Douglas

Project Nomenclature: *Pacific Salmon Commission, Restoration and Enhancement Fund-Northern Fund*

Period Covered April–September, 2018

Field Dates: April 30–September 10, 2018

Plan Type: Category III

## Approval

Title	Name	Signature	Date
Project Leader	Phillip Richards		3-14-18
Assistant Project Leader	Jeff Williams		3/14/18
F&G Coordinator	Ed Jones		3/15/18
Biometrician	Sarah Power		3/14/18
Area Management Biologist	Dan Teske		4/1/18
Research Coordinator	Jeff Nichols		4/1/18
Regional Supervisor	Judy Lurn		4/1/18

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iii
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	iii
ABSTRACT .....	1
PURPOSE.....	1
BACKGROUND .....	1
OBJECTIVES.....	3
Primary objectives: .....	3
Secondary Objectives: .....	3
METHODS.....	5
Capture and tagging.....	5
Sample size and Precision .....	7
Tracking and Data collection.....	9
Fates.....	10
Spawning Locations .....	10
ASSUMPTIONS .....	11
DATA ANALYSIS .....	12
Proportion of fish tagged that migrate past the U.S./Canadian Border.....	12
Proportion at or passing a location .....	13
Number of fish at a location .....	15
SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES .....	15
RESPONSIBILITIES .....	16
REFERENCES CITED .....	17
APPENDIX A .....	19

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Proposed daily tagging rate of Chinook Salmon on the Taku River based on long-term average run timing to the lower Taku River. ....	6
2. List of tag and fates codes to be recorded for all radio tagged Chinook Salmon on the Taku River, 2018.....	11

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Taku River drainage in Southeast Alaska, identifying key landmarks, including the locations of the mark-recapture experiment and remote telemetry stations.....	4

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1. Description of procedures for downloading radio tracking remote station data on the Taku River. ....	20
A2. Detailed radiotag deployment form for Taku River Chinook salmon, 2018. ....	22





## ABSTRACT

Large Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* captured during the annual mark-recapture experiment on the Taku River will be tagged with radio tags. Remote tracking stations on the lower river will be used to estimate the proportion of Chinook salmon that progress upstream, the migration rate to the U.S./Canada border and through the Canadian fishery and tagging response of marked fish. Aerial surveys will be used to determine spawning distribution and the number of radio tagged fish within the aerial survey index areas.

Key words: mark-recapture, Taku River, Chinook salmon, telemetry, radio tags, escapement, dropout rate, migration rate, Pacific Salmon Treaty, tagging response, abundance-based management.

## PURPOSE

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) and Taku River Tlingit First Nations (TRTFN), was allocated funds from the Northern Fund Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission to conduct Chinook salmon radiotelemetry studies on the Taku River in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. These radiotelemetry studies will help gain insights into key assumptions of the annual Taku River Chinook salmon mark-recapture experiment that—to an unknown degree—have the potential for biasing abundance estimates. Aerial surveys will be used to determine the spawning distribution extent of Chinook salmon in the drainage, while also estimating the proportion returning to the most significant spawning tributaries to compare with previous radiotelemetry studies conducted on the Taku River in 1989 and 1990. Radio tagged fish will also be tracked during the annual aerial index area surveys to determine the number of radio tagged fish within each aerial index area while the survey is taking place.

## BACKGROUND

Abundance based management of Taku River Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* is mandated by Chapter 1, paragraph 2 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST 2008). As part of this requirement, mark-recapture abundance estimates of large Chinook salmon ( $\geq 660$  mm mid eye to fork of tail (MEF)) in the Taku River have occurred in 1989 and 1990, and annually since 1995. Objective criteria and methods of the mark-recapture project are described in a separate operational plan entitled *Production and Escapement of Chinook Salmon in the Taku River, 2016-2018* (Williams et al. 2016). This mark-recapture program is the foundation for abundance-based management of Taku River Chinook salmon. Any violations of the underlying assumptions of the mark-recapture experiment must be quantified to produce accurate inseason and postseason abundance estimates.

The primary objective of the annual Taku River Chinook salmon mark-recapture experiment is to estimate spawning escapement above the U.S./Canada border. Unaccounted dropouts (i.e., fish lost to tagging mortality, emigration, or tag loss following initial capture, but prior to crossing the U.S./Canada border) will cause mark-recapture abundance estimates in the Taku River to be biased high (Bernard et al. 1999). During previous radiotelemetry studies in 1989 and 1990 in the Taku River (Pahlke and Bernard 1996), the dropout rate was estimated to be 11% and 20%, respectively. Preliminary results from the 2015, 2016, and 2017 telemetry studies on the Taku and River indicate dropout rates of 16%, 23% and 19% on the Taku, respectively. The 23% dropout rate observed on the Taku River in 2016 was the highest dropout rate observed for Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska (Weller and Evans 2012; Pahlke and Etherton 1999; Richards et al 2008; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; Pahlke and Waugh 2003; Pahlke et al 1999; Johnson et al 1992) and potentially all

of Alaska (John Eiler, biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska, personal communication, February 2015). Radiotagging allows for more accurate estimation for the dropout rate compared to spaghetti tagging. Radiotagging should distinguish upstream movement of tags compared to those that don't, whereas downstream movement of spaghetti tags can only be discerned by the chance interception of spaghetti tagged fish in marine commercial and sport fisheries. Fish marked inriver with spaghetti tags are sometimes recaptured downstream of the study site in marine fisheries. However, these recaptured fish likely only account for a small fraction of the marked fish that dropped out of the system (i.e., dropped out of the mark-recapture experiment), therefore likely biasing estimates high due to unaccounted dropouts (McPherson et al. 1996; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; McPherson et al. 1997; McPherson et al. 1998; McPherson et al. 1999; Jones et al. 2010). This telemetry project will help to quantify dropout rates and the variability surrounding it in three consecutive years. Dropout rates determined from this study may be applied to help reduce bias on abundance estimates.

Migration rates between mark (event 1) and recapture (event 2) sites influence inseason abundance estimates by altering the number of marks available during event 2. For example, if the migration rate is assumed to be faster than the true migration rate, more marks (tags) will be available during event 2 while the number of captures and recaptures remains the same; therefore, biasing the inseason estimate high. If the migration rate is assumed to be slower than the true migration rate, fewer marks (tags) will be available during event 2 while the number of captures and recaptures remains the same; therefore, biasing the inseason estimate low. Differences in migration rate by as little as two days can yield significant changes in inseason abundance projections by adding or subtracting significant numbers of marks (tags) available during event 2. Inseason abundance estimates are crucial for abundance-based management as mandated by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC 2007). Migration rates between the event 1 marking site and the event 2 Canadian inriver assessment/commercial fishery (hereafter referred to as the Canadian fishery), a distance of about 5 km, average approximately 12 days; however, these rates have ranged from 1 day to >30 days (McPherson et al. 1996; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; McPherson et al. 1997; McPherson et al. 1998; McPherson et al. 1999; Jones et al. 2010).

Many factors likely influence migration rates, including water level, run timing, and tagging-induced behavior, the latter of which often leads to "sulking" behavior and slower initial migration rates (Bernard et al. 1999; Jones and McPherson 2002; Eiler et al. 2014; John Eiler, biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska, personal communication, February 2015). Marked Chinook salmon typically delay their upstream migration for approximately 4 days after being released and when they resume upstream migration, they do so at a slower rate than the unmarked population (Bernard et al. 1999; Eiler et al. 2014; John Eiler, biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska, personal communication, February 2015). Therefore, if marked fish transit the event 2 Canadian fishery at a slower rate than unmarked fish due to handling-induced behavior, they will likely be subject to a higher probability of capture in event 2. A higher probability of capture in the Canadian fishery is a significant issue on the Taku River, and this occurred 15 out of the 17 years (McPherson et al. 1996; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; McPherson et al. 1997; McPherson et al. 1998; McPherson et al. 1999; Jones et al. 2010; Jeff Williams, biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska, personal communication, April 2016).

Monitoring radio tagged fish in the lower Taku River with several remote tracking stations will allow us to assess their migration rates to the U.S./Canada border and through the Canadian fishery.

Results will be used to help quantify migration rates and will be applied to future inseason abundance estimates. Results will also be compared to a sister telemetry project conducted on the Stikine River in 2015 and 2016.

Aerial spawning surveys of Taku River Chinook salmon have been standardized since the early 1970s and occur annually in the Nakina, Nahlin, Dudidontu, Kowatua, and Tatsamenie rivers (McPherson et al. 2010; Pahlke, 2010) (Figure 1). In the stock-recruit analysis developed by McPherson et al. (2000), peak aerial counts were found to be highly correlated with 5 years of matched mark-recapture studies. At that time, the sum of peak counts was used to develop an expansion factor of 5.2, which would be applied to subsequent peak count sums, to estimate escapements in years without mark-recapture studies. In the succeeding 15 years, the sum of peak counts compared to matched mark-recapture estimates (leading to calculation of an expansion factor) was found to have changed and has since averaged 7.4 (SD=1.7) (McPherson et al. 2010; Richards et al. *in prep*). An expansion factor of 5.2 or less has not been observed since 1999 (Richards et al. *in prep*). The change in the expansion factor could be due to multiple factors including a change in spawning distribution, changes in environment, factors affecting the efficiency of counting Chinook salmon, and/or biased mark-recapture estimates. In addition to verifying assumptions in the mark-recapture experiment, tracking radiotagged Chinook salmon during the annual aerial spawning surveys will allow us to estimate the proportion of tagged fish in each aerial index area over three consecutive years.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:**

1. Estimate the proportion of large Chinook salmon ( $\geq 660$  mm MEF) tagged with spaghetti tags below the border that migrate past the U.S./Canada border, such that the estimate is within 5 percentage points of the true value 95% of the time.
2. Estimate the proportion of large Chinook salmon migrating past Canyon Island that spawn in traditional aerial index areas, such that the estimate is within 5 percentage points of the true value 95% of the time.
3. Estimate the number of large Chinook salmon within the aerial survey index areas, such that the estimate is within 50 percentage points of the true value 95% of the time.

### **SECONDARY OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe tagging response in relation to dropout rates and migration rates of large Chinook salmon tagged during event 1 up to and within the Canadian fishery;
2. Collect tissue samples from all radio tagged Chinook salmon for genetic analysis.
3. Identify spawning areas of large Chinook salmon through fixed-wing aerial surveys and radio telemetry so that all spawning areas containing  $> 2\%$  of the spawning population of large Chinook salmon are identified with a probability of at least 97.8 percentage points, and so that if spawners are distributed uniformly among 50 areas, the probability of detecting all 50 areas is at least 30 percentage points.

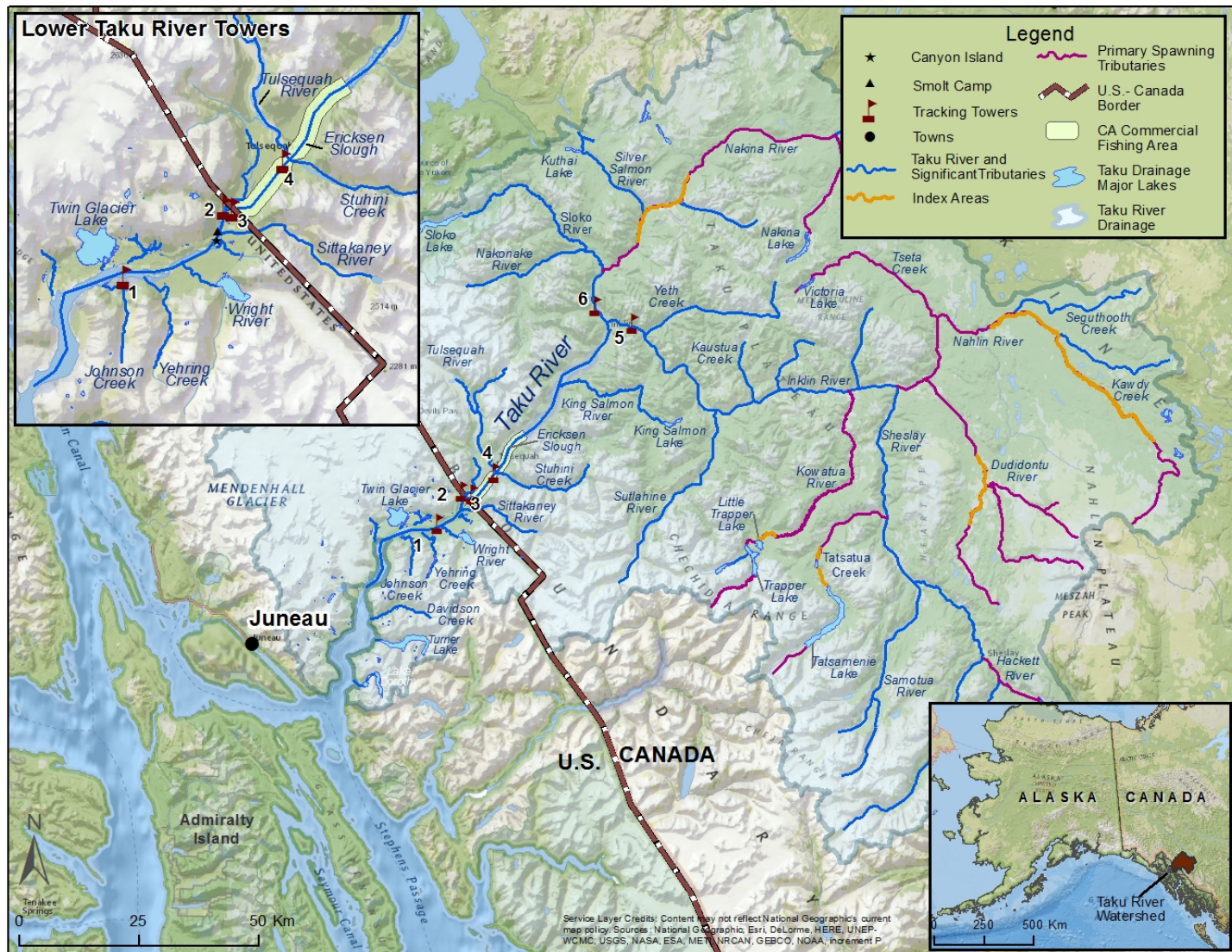


Figure 1.—Taku River drainage in Southeast Alaska, identifying key landmarks, including the locations of the mark-recapture experiment and remote telemetry stations.

# METHODS

## CAPTURE AND TAGGING

Internal pulse-coded radio tags manufactured by Advanced Telemetry Systems (ATS™) will be placed in large Chinook salmon that are handled and marked in conjunction with the spaghetti-tagged Chinook salmon in the mark-recapture experiment. Objective criteria and detailed methods of the mark-recapture project are described in a separate operational plan entitled *Production and Escapement of Chinook Salmon in the Taku River, 2016-2018* (Williams et al. 2016).

Chinook salmon will be captured using a drift gillnet near Canyon Island, below the junction of the Taku River mainstem and the U.S./Canada border (Figure 1). Personnel from ADF&G will capture Chinook salmon in a drift gillnet operated by a team of two people. Williams et al. (2016) provides a complete description of capture methods to be employed. Mesh in the drift gillnet will be 18.4 cm (stretch), a size that generally catches large Chinook and some jacks (fish <660 mm MEF). The gillnet will be 36.6 m long and approximately 5.5 m deep. One skiffs will be used during the drift gillnet tagging operation and a minimum of 2 people will operate the skiff. The crew will aim to fish 7 days per week. The time expended fishing during each drift will be tallied and used to complete a minimum of 4 wet net hours per day (Williams et al. 2016). Operations will begin in late April and end in early July. The first Chinook salmon has generally been captured around late April, while the final capture generally occurs around mid-July.

Chinook salmon of any size, captured in good condition will be measured, inspected to determine their sex, sampled to collect scales, and triple-marked as described in Williams et al. (2016). All data will be recorded in forms, also described in Williams et al. (2016). In addition to the three marks applied in the traditional mark-recapture experiment, a proportion of all large fish captured will also receive a radio tag. Radio tags will be gently inserted through the mouth and into the fish's stomach using a 0.7 cm diameter, 30 cm long plastic tube (Eiler 1990; Eiler et al. 2014). Anesthesia will not be used at any time during tagging or marking operations. The plastic tube will be marked with reference points in proportion to fish size to assist in proper tag insertion depths. The esophagus will be visually inspected to ensure that none of the tag body is visible and that the antenna is exiting through the center of the esophagus.

Each radio tagged fish will receive the ATS™ F1845B radio tags. The tags will be 52-mm long, 19-mm in diameter, 26-g in mass, have a 30-cm external whip antenna, a terminal battery life of 180 d, and operate on several frequencies within the 150.000 - 152.999 MHz range. Three frequencies will have 100 pulse codes resulting in 300 uniquely identifiable radio tags. Each radio tag will be equipped with a mortality indicator mode that activates when the radio tag is motionless for approximately 24 h.

The radio tags will be deployed in proportion to the 1988 to 2017 catches of Chinook salmon in in the lower Taku River, statistical weeks 18 through 27 (approximately April 28 to June 30, 2018, Table 1). The ultimate goal is to apply the radio tags proportionally throughout the run while using 250 tags. Daily tagging goals are outlined in Table 1. To maintain the proportionality, if the radio tags scheduled for a day cannot be deployed due to low catches, those tags will be deployed on the following day. Radio tags recovered in U.S. and Canadian fisheries will be returned and may be redeployed in new fish if necessary.

Table 1.—Proposed daily tagging rate of Chinook Salmon on the Taku River based on long-term average run timing to the lower Taku River.

Date	Crew	Tags per day	Cumulative total
28-Apr	Drift gillnet 1	1	1
29-Apr	Drift gillnet 1	1	2
30-Apr	Drift gillnet 1	1	3
1-May	Drift gillnet 1	1	4
2-May	Drift gillnet 1	1	5
3-May	Drift gillnet 1	1	6
4-May	Drift gillnet 1	2	8
5-May	Drift gillnet 1	2	10
6-May	Drift gillnet 1	2	12
7-May	Drift gillnet 1	2	14
8-May	Drift gillnet 1	3	17
9-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	21
10-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	25
11-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	29
12-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	33
13-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	37
14-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	41
15-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	45
16-May	Drift gillnet 1	4	49
17-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	54
18-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	59
19-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	64
20-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	69
21-May	Drift gillnet 1	6	75
22-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	80
23-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	85
24-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	90
25-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	95
26-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	100
27-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	105
28-May	Drift gillnet 1	6	111
29-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	116
30-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	121
31-May	Drift gillnet 1	5	126

--continued--



Table 1.–Page 2 of 2.

Date	Crew	Tags per day	Cumulative total
1-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	131
2-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	136
3-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	141
4-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	146
5-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	152
6-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	158
7-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	164
8-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	170
9-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	176
10-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	182
11-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	6	188
12-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	193
13-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	198
14-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	203
15-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	208
16-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	5	213
17-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	4	217
18-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	4	221
19-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	4	225
20-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	4	229
21-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	3	232
22-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	3	235
23-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	3	238
24-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	2	240
25-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	2	242
26-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	2	244
27-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	2	246
28-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	2	248
29-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	1	249
30-Jun	Drift gillnet 1	1	250

The axillary appendage from each radio tagged fish will be collected for genetic stock identification (GSI). All axillary appendages from individual Chinook salmon will be stored separately in full strength ethanol and paired with the radio tag number.

## **SAMPLE SIZE AND PRECISION**

Primary objective 1 relates to the dropout rate of tagged individuals. Other than for the Taku River in 2016 (23%), the worst-case scenarios estimate that up to 20% of tagged fish drop out (Johnson et al. 1992; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; Pahlke et al. 1996; Richards et al. 2008; Pahlke and Etherton 1999; Weller and Evans 2012). Drop out rates from 2015 to 2017 on the Taku were 16%, 23% and

19% respectively. For sample size calculations we will use 20%. Tag loss or tag failure prior to upstream migration will be included in the dropout rate since distinguishing between these events is not possible. This may bias estimates, but it is believed that tag failure is small. Eiler (2014) deployed nearly 3,000 ATS radio tags in Chinook salmon on the Yukon River and had no known tag failures. For the sample size determination for the estimates of the proportion of fish that migrate upstream, we assume there is no data loss. Our objectives are written in relation to upstream migration, the converse of the dropout rate. In our worst-case scenario this translates to an 80% upstream migration rate after tagging. Tagging will occur in one location, near Canyon Island below the U.S./Canada border. For our calculation we assume that 450 fish will be spaghetti tagged.

A sample size of 239 will give us a relative precision of within 5 percentage points for a 95% CI when using a finite population correction factor<sup>1</sup>. This is within our 250 expected numbers of tags applied.

Next consider the secondary objective 3 which is to identify the spawning areas of large Chinook salmon ( $\geq 660$  mm MEF) through fixed-wing aerial surveys and telemetry so that spawning areas representing  $> 2\%$  of the spawning population of large Chinook salmon are identified 97.8% of the time. Also, as part of objective 2 if spawners are distributed uniformly among 50 areas ( $100\%/2\%$ ), the probability of detection of all 50 locations is at least 50%. Validation is as follows. With 250 tags deployed and a 20% dropout rate, and approximately 4% expected to be caught in river fisheries, the overall tag loss rate is expected to be 24% so approximately 190 will be available to identify spawning areas. Using a spatial Poisson process, the expected number of tags in an area with 2% of the spawning population  $\lambda$ , is  $190 \times 0.02 = 3.8$ , the probability of detecting no tags (0) in an area that contains 2% of the spawning population is  $\frac{3.8^0}{0!} e^{-3.8} \approx 0.022$ . The probability of detecting at least one tag in an area that contains 2% of the spawning population is  $1 - 0.022 = 97.8\%$ . The probability of detecting all 50 possible areas is  $(97.8\%)^{50}$  or approximately 32%.

Next consider a subset of spawning areas, the aerial index area (Primary Objective 2). Only certain tributaries of the Taku River run clear enough and have favorable enough conditions that fairly consistent aerial surveys may be conducted. Identifying those fish that spawn inside the aerial index area versus outside the aerial index area is a binomial process. The current expansion factors between aerial surveys and mark recapture estimates averages about 7.4. In other words, the aerial surveys in aerial index areas account for about 13.5% of the drainage wide escapement estimate (McPherson et al. 2010; Richards et al. *in prep*). To be within 5 percentage points 95% of the time, with a 24% data loss rate, and a population of 8,700, the sample size required is 236 fish (Thompson 2002, pg 42).

Now consider the estimated number of fish inside the aerial index area ( $\hat{N}_i$ ) (Primary Objective 3). To estimate the number of fish inside the aerial index area, take the estimated proportion of fish inside the aerial index area and multiply it by the estimated escapement of fish. In order to calculate variance, Goodman's equation (1960) is employed using the estimate and estimated variance for both the overall escapement and proportion of fish inside the aerial index area. For the escapement of fish let us use last year's estimate of approximately 8,700 fish with variance approximately 677,300, which is derived by equation 1 below.

---

<sup>1</sup> Divisional language.



$$\hat{m}_2 = \frac{(\hat{n}_1+1)(\hat{n}_2+1)}{N+1} - 1 \quad (1)$$

Substitute in the estimated values for the known values in the variance equation for a modified form of Chapman's version of Petersen's abundance estimator (Seber 1982), below, to calculate the approximate variance expected:

$$var(\hat{N}) = \frac{(\hat{n}_1+1)(\hat{n}_2+1)(\hat{n}_1-\hat{m}_2)(\hat{n}_2-\hat{m}_2)}{(\hat{m}_2+1)^2(\hat{m}_2+2)} \quad (2)$$

For the estimated proportion of fish, we use the 13.5% of drainage wide fish counted in the aerial surveys. For the estimated variance of that proportion, we make use of the fact that we plan on radio tagging 250 fish, 190 of which should be available to calculate the proportion inside the index area and the equation below for the estimated variance for a proportion (Thompson 2002). The estimated variance then without using a finite population correction factor is approximately 0.000618.

$$var(\hat{p}) = \frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n-1} \quad (3)$$

With estimates and estimated variances for both the escapement of fish and the proportion of fish inside the aerial index areas, compute an estimated variance for the estimated number of fish inside the aerial index areas using Goodman's equation (1960).

$$var(\hat{N}_i) = \hat{N}^2 var(\hat{p}_i) + \hat{p}_i^2 var(\hat{N}) - var(\hat{N})var(\hat{p}_i) \quad (4)$$

This gives an estimated standard error of approximately 243. Then the calculated ½ width of the 95% confidence interval would be within 1.96\*243 fish, which is about 476 fish, or within about 41% of the estimated  $N \cdot p = 8,700 \cdot 13.5\% = 1175$  fish, which is within our precision criteria. This indicates that our estimate would have 41% relative precision with a 95% CI. Thus, radiotagging 250 fish should be sufficient. If stratification by time, area, or other variable is necessary then the estimates will be less precise and objective criteria may not be achieved.

## TRACKING AND DATA COLLECTION

Remote tracking stations at six locations will record movements (upstream or downstream passage) of radiotagged fish (Figure 1). The tracking stations will be constructed and operated as described in Eiler (1995), except that they will not have satellite up-link capabilities (also see Richards et al. 2016). Each remote tracking station will consist of an ATS R4500C integrated receiver and data logger, two directional Yagi antennae (one aimed upstream and one aimed downstream), and a solar panel and battery power system. The stations will be strategically placed to afford the antennae unobstructed downstream and upstream views. Radiotagged fish within reception range of the tracking stations will be uniquely identified and recorded on the data logger. The detection range of each tracking station will be verified by placing radio tags in the water column through likely migration routes and observing preliminary data logger results. The tracking stations will record date and time that each radio tag is detected, the antenna that detected the tag (upstream, downstream, or both combined), the signal strength, and the activity pattern (active or inactive) of the radio tag. The tracking stations will be programmed to record this data every 60 minutes. The location of each radio tag relative to the station (upriver or downriver from the site) will be deduced by comparing the upstream and downstream antenna signal strengths. A reference radio tag placed near each tracking station will verify that the station components are functioning

properly and to identify if/when the tracking station stops working. Telemetry stations 1-4 (Figure 1) will be checked at least once weekly and data will be downloaded from the receivers via a laptop computer. Telemetry stations 5 and 6 (also Figure 1) will be checked approximately every three weeks. All data will be immediately downloaded onto a laptop computer and copied on a separate external hard drive. A logbook will be maintained at each station noting date, staff, settings, and battery voltage for each visit. A checklist with radio receiver settings and the download steps will also be stored at each site, such as described in Appendix A.

## **FATES**

Tag and fate codes are identified in Table 2 for those Chinook salmon receiving a radio tag. The hundreds digit will indicate if the fish was captured using gillnet gear (100) or fishwheel gear (200- used in previous years). The tens digit indicates whether the fish was radio tagged above the U.S./Canadian border on the fishing grounds (10) or not (00). For those fish radio tagged below the U.S./Canadian border the ones digit indicates whether that fish passed the U.S./Canada border (0 if not); otherwise the ones digit indicates whether that fish progressed upstream (1). The tenths digit defines a fate further for both those that progressed upstream of the border and those that did not. For those that progress upstream, the “hundredths” and/or “thousandths” digit can be used to further indicate which area of the Taku River the fish were last located in. The ten thousandths digit will indicate with a “1” if the fish was captured more than once by gillnet crews that were tagging.

## **SPAWNING LOCATIONS**

Attempts will be made to locate each Chinook salmon fitted with a radio transmitter periodically by aerial surveys. Four drainage-wide fixed-wing aerial surveys will be flown to identify spawning locations at two-week intervals starting around July 22. Surveys will be conducted on the mainstem Taku River and the 7 major spawning tributaries (Nakina, Nahlin, Dudidontu, Tatsatua, Hackett, and Kowatua Rivers, and Tseta Creek; Figure 1) previously identified through radiotelemetry work completed in 1989 and 1990 and described in Pahlke and Bernard (1996). Antennas will be mounted on each side of the aircraft and both antennae will feed into one receiver via a switch box. An ATS<sup>TM</sup> 4520 receiver with internal GPS receiver will be used during the surveys to record the location of each fish. The date and time of decoding, and the frequency, pulse code, latitude and longitude, signal strength, and activity status of each decoded transmitter will be automatically recorded by the receiver. Spawning sites will be inferred by maximum upstream locations of radio tags and each fish will be then assigned to one of 7 spawning areas as described in Pahlke and Bernard (1996).

Chinook salmon will also be tracked during the traditional helicopter aerial surveys to determine the number of radiotagged fish within each index area (Nakina, Nahlin, Dudidontu, Tatsatua, and Kowatua Rivers) during the time of the survey. Standardized aerial surveys have been conducted on these 5 systems since 1975. Seven aerial survey flights are scheduled during the traditional peak spawning period. Richards et al. (2014) provide thorough descriptions and methodology related to the annual aerial index surveys for Chinook salmon on select drainages in Southeast Alaska.

Table 2.–List of tag and fates codes to be recorded for all radio tagged Chinook Salmon on the Taku River, 2018.

Place holder	Digit	Meaning
Hundreds	1	captured using gillnet gear
	2	captured using fish wheel gear
Tens	0	tagged below the U.S. Canada border near Canyon Island
	1	tagged above the U.S. Canada border on Canadian fishing grounds.
Ones	0	(if tagged above the border, but fish did not progress upstream) or (if tagged below the border, fish did not pass the border)
	1	(if tagged above the border, fish progressed up stream), (if tagged below the border, fish progressed passed the border)
Tenths	0	tag never located, unknown fate
	1	regurgitated tag or died near tagging site
	2	recovered in U.S. fishery (marine)
	3	tracked to a tributary below the U.S./Canada border
	4	captured in fishery in Canada
Hundredths	5	tracked to a probable spawning area above the U.S./Canada border
	0	Spawning, but outside of 7 identified spawning areas (see below)
	1	spawning area 1
	2	spawning area 2
Thousandths	#	spawning area # (numbered through to 7)
	0	outside of aerial survey index areas
	1	aerial survey index area 1
	2	aerial survey index area 2
Ten Thousandths	#	aerial survey index area # (numbered through to 7)
	0	never recaptured by tagging crews
	1	captured by tagging crews more than once while tagging

## ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions of the experiment include: 1) Chinook salmon will be tagged for radio-tracking in proportion to the run 2) tagging will not change the destination (and/or fate) of a fish; and 3) fates of radio-tracked fish will be accurately determined.

The first assumption will be true if fishing effort and catchability is constant for all “stocks” (fish spawning in the same area) in the immigration. Sampling effort will be held as consistent as possible during the immigration. If non-proportional tagging occurs, as determined by the Taku mark recapture analysis (Williams et al. 2016) the proportions will be stratified by time. If fishing effort in event 1 and/or the Canadian fishery is not consistent across the run, and if run timing is correlated to the final destination of the fish, this will affect the ratios of tagged fish seen in the various spawning areas.

The second assumption will be true if tagging does not change the destination of a fish. Although the drift gillnet project is new, capture and handling techniques have been highly refined on the

Taku River over the past 22 years; only healthy fish are tagged, and the utmost care is given to each fish (Williams et al. 2016). Eiler et al. (2014) and Richards et al. (2008) used nearly identical capture and handling techniques to radiotag nearly 3,000 and 350 Chinook salmon on the Yukon and Stikine rivers, respectively, and showed negligible handling mortality (2-3%). And although short-term behavior was influenced in the Yukon River, the long-term behavior and ultimate fate of radiotagged Chinook salmon was not likely influenced (Eiler 2014). There are however factors that may influence certain aspects of this study. A higher probability of capturing marked fish occurs nearly every year in the Taku River Canadian fishery when compared to spawning grounds; that is to say, there is a lower probability of capturing marked fish on the spawning grounds than in the Canadian fishery. Tracking the movement of radiotagged fish to and within the Canadian fishery will provide insights related to the higher probability of capture assuming radiotagged fish behave similar to spaghetti tagged. The destination of radiotagged fish will also change if for unknown reasons (i.e., predation, emigration, and handling mortality) radiotagged fish are removed at an unequal rate throughout the run. Tracking the movement of radio tagged fish within the Taku River will also provide insights as to how this might affect estimates of inseason abundance.

The third assumption will be true if: 1) the remote tracking stations and radio tags remain operational throughout the project; 2) remote tracking stations are able to detect all fish passing the site; 3) aerial surveys are able to detect all radio tagged fish; and 4) aerial surveys locate fish at their final destination. It is likely that towers and tags will remain operational throughout the project and concerted efforts will be given to installing, testing, and monitoring all remote tracking stations. Eiler (1995) found tracking success to be > 97% for Chinook passing undamaged remote tracking stations on the Taku River and other Chinook salmon telemetry studies in Southeast Alaska had similar high detection rates in aerial surveys and at fixed tracking stations (Johnson et al. 1992; Pahlke and Bernard 1996; Pahlke et al. 1996; Pahlke and Etherton, 1999; Richards et al. 2008; Weller and Evans, 2012). Aerial surveys may not detect the final destination of fish if the first survey occurs after fish have reached their final destination and their carcasses progressed downstream, or if the last survey is flown before tagged fish have reached their final destination. The use of fixed-winged and helicopter surveys will be employed to attempt to bracket the entire spawning escapement. All fish that were radiotagged and that will successfully spawn should be at or near their spawning location during at least one of the aerial tracking surveys (Richards et al. 2014).

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

### **PROPORTION OF FISH TAGGED THAT MIGRATE PAST THE U.S./CANADIAN BORDER**

Proportion of large Chinook ( $\geq 660$  mm MEF) radiotagged  $p_{r,t}$  that migrate past the U.S./Canadian border will be calculated for different strata  $t$ . Fish tagged must pass the radio towers closest to the U.S./Canadian border to be considered progressing upstream. The  $t$  strata may be used to distinguish between any number of strata, such as time, size or gender. Appropriate statistical tests will be conducted to determine if stratification is necessary, with the null hypothesis being that proportions are not different between strata. Such tests include a chi-squared for more than 2 strata or a t-test for two strata. Strata may be combined to form one stratum if proportions of radiotagged and spaghetti tag fish are similar for all strata. The equation for  $p_{r,t}$  is as follows:

$$p_{r,t} = \frac{m_{r,t}}{M_{r,t}} \quad (5)$$

Where  $m_{r,t}$  is the number of radio tagged fish during strata t detected as progressing up stream of the  $M_{r,t}$  radio tagged fish during strata t.

The estimate of the proportion of spaghetti tagged fish that pass the border,  $\hat{p}_{up}$ , will be weighted by the proportion of fish that are spaghetti tagged during strata t in relation to all the fish that are spaghetti tagged during the season,  $w_t$ . The weighted proportion is a known quantity with no variance.

$$w_t = \frac{M_t}{\sum_{t=1}^T M_t} \quad (6)$$

where  $M_t$  is the number of tagged fish, regardless of tag choice that were tagged during strata t. The sum of all  $M_t$  is equal to the total number of marked fish,  $M$ , which includes those that were fitted with radio tags as well as those that were not. The estimate for the proportion of tagged fish progressing upstream,  $\hat{p}_{up}$ , will be:

$$\hat{p}_{up} = \sum_{t=1}^T w_t * p_{r,t} \quad (7)$$

Eiler (2014) deployed nearly 3,000 ATS radio tags in Chinook salmon on the Yukon River and had no known tag failures. All tags deployed in 2015 and 2016 were detected and assigned a fate. The amount of error caused by tag failure will therefore be considered negligible. An estimate of the variance for each location and strata period can be calculated using the unbiased estimator with a finite population correction factor presented in Thompson (2002) multiplied by the square of the weighting factor:

$$var(\hat{p}_t) = w_t^2 \left( \frac{M_t - M_{r,t}}{M_t} \right) \frac{\hat{p}_{r,t}(1 - \hat{p}_{r,t})}{M_{r,t} - 1} \quad (8)$$

The variance of the estimated proportion of upstream migration is the sum of the variances for each  $\hat{p}_t$ .

$$var(\hat{p}_{up}) = \sum var(\hat{p}_t) \quad (9)$$

## PROPORTION AT OR PASSING A LOCATION

A location may be defined as the area above the U.S./Canada border or more specifically to an identified spawning area. Either set of locations can be estimated as described below.

Chi-squared tests will be used to determine if geographic or temporal, size or gender stratification is required via procedures outlined in Appendix B of Williams et al. 2016. If separate strata are required for abundance estimates, those same strata will be used for both abundance estimate and the estimates of proportion at or passing a location. The strata, denoted with a 't', may indicate time, or any manner of strata. If strata are not found to be different then the following equations can be simplified to one stratum.

The proportion of large Chinook salmon ( $\geq 660$  mm MEF) at a non-overlapping, mutually independent location (a) will be estimated for each stratum (t) (i.e. time period) by dividing the number of fish with radio tags found in a particular location by the estimated number of marked

fish available. The number of fish available is defined as the estimated number of marked fish that progressed upstream minus those fitted with radio tags that were caught in an in-river fishery.

$$\hat{P}_{a,t} = \frac{r_{a,t}}{m_t - c_t - x_t} \quad (10)$$

$r_{a,t}$  = number of large fish released with radio tags during stratum t that survived inriver fisheries to spawn in an area a;

$m_t$  = number of large fish released with radio tags during stratum t;

$c_t$  = number of large fish released with radio tags during stratum t, but caught in inriver fisheries;

$x_t$  = number of large fish released with radio tags during stratum t, but subsequently did not progress up stream. This includes those tagged at Canyon Island as well as those tagged above the US Canadian border.

The overall proportion for all strata t combined will be calculated using:

$$\hat{P}_a = \sum_t \hat{w}_t \hat{P}_{a,t} \quad (11)$$

$$\hat{w}_t = \frac{\hat{N}_t}{\sum_{t=1}^T \hat{N}_t} \quad (12)$$

Where:

$\hat{N}_t$  = estimated number of large fish to be passing the tagging site during strata t from Williams et al. 2016; and

$\hat{w}_t$  = estimated weight of radio tags during stratum t compared to all strata.

Variances for the  $\hat{P}_a$  will be estimated via parametric bootstrapping (Efron and Tibshirani 1993). Statistics for each stratum will be calculated for the proportion of radio tagged fish in stratum t ( $\theta_t$ ), harvest rate in in-river fisheries for fish fitted with radio tags in stratum t ( $u_t$ ), the proportion for test subjects fitted with radio tags in stratum t that will arrive at the location ( $\rho_{a,t}$ ), and the proportion of fish fitted with radio tags in stratum t that fail ( $\zeta_t$ ):

$$\hat{\theta}_t = \frac{m_t}{\hat{N}_t} \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{u}_t = \frac{c_t}{m_t} \quad (14)$$

$$\hat{\rho}_{a,t} = \frac{r_{a,t}}{m_t} \quad (15)$$

$$\hat{\zeta}_t = \frac{x_t}{m_t} \quad (16)$$

For each iteration of the simulation (denoted by the subscript b), a vector of strata abundance of tagged fish was generated with the following multinomial distribution:

$$(N_{1(b)}^*, \dots, N_{t(b)}^*, \dots, N_{n(b)}^*) \sim \text{multinomial}(\hat{N}, \hat{w}_1, \dots, \hat{w}_t, \dots, \hat{w}_n) \quad (17)$$

Next, this vector will be translated into numbers of large fish with radio tags released for each stratum ( $m_{t(b)}^*$ ):

$$m_{t(b)}^* = N_{t(b)}^* \hat{\theta}_t \quad (18)$$

For each stratum, a vector of time period recoveries on the spawning grounds, catches, and failures will be generated with the following multinomial distribution:

$$(r_{1,t(b)}^*, \dots, r_{a,t(b)}^*, \dots, r_{n,t(b)}^*, c_{t(b)}^*, x_{t(b)}^*) \sim \text{multinomial}(m_{t(b)}^*, \hat{p}_{1,t}, \dots, \hat{p}_{a,t}, \dots, \hat{p}_{n,t}, \hat{u}_t, \hat{\zeta}_t) \quad (19)$$

The resulting vectors will be inserted into equations (10-12) as per obvious substitution to produce a simulated value  $P_{a(b)}^*$  for each iteration. At least 10,000 iterations will be computed and the variance for  $P_a$  will be estimated by the sample variance of the  $P_{a,t(b)}^*$  simulated values.

## NUMBER OF FISH AT A LOCATION

The number of large Chinook salmon at a spawning location  $\hat{N}_{LEL}$  will be estimated by multiplying the estimate of abundance of large escaping Chinook salmon  $\hat{N}_{LE}$  (Williams et al. 2016) and the estimate of proportion of large Chinook salmon at a spawning location  $\hat{P}_a$  as estimated by this study, together:

$$\hat{N}_{LEL} = \hat{N}_{LE} * \hat{P}_a \quad (20)$$

The variance will be estimated by parametric bootstrapping (Efron and Tibshirani 1993). For each iteration of the simulation (denoted by the subscript b), simulated values of  $\hat{N}_{LE(b)}$  from the approximately normal distribution of  $\sim N(\hat{N}_{LE}, \text{var}(\hat{N}_{LE}))$  (Williams et al. 2016) will be multiplied by the simulated values of  $P_{a(b)}^*$  as described above to produce an estimate of fish at a location. Similar methods are used in Cleary et al. (2013). A vector of at least 10,000 such estimates will be produced and the variance for  $\hat{N}_{LEL}$  will be estimated by finding the sample variance of the  $\hat{N}_{LEL}$  simulated values.

## SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

Field activities for tagging Chinook salmon at Canyon Island will begin in late April and extend through early July. The remote tracking stations will be functioning prior to any fish being tagged in the mark-recapture experiment. Remote tracking stations will be checked at least once weekly and data will be downloaded via a laptop computer. Data will be immediately copied on a second portable, external hard drive. All telemetry data and genetic samples will be sent to Philip Richards and Jeff Williams weekly. A draft report will be written in Juneau by ADF&G by 30 April, 2019 and distributed for editing and further development to FOC shortly thereafter. Changes to the report will be submitted by FOC to ADF&G by 1 July, 2019 and the final report will be submitted for peer review by 1 September, 2019.

# **RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **I. Agency Responsibilities**

- A. ADF&G. Will plan project in cooperation with FOC. Will write operational plan with FOC. Will provide all ATS telemetry receivers and about one half of the remote tracking stations and associated hardware. Will purchase all radio tags and necessary hardware. Will install and monitor all remote tracking stations on the lower Taku River.
- B. FOC. Will assist in planning of project. Will provide about one half of the remote tracking stations and associated hardware.

## **II. U.S. Personnel Responsibilities**

Philip Richards, FBIII, Project Leader. Will oversee and assist with all aspects of the project including planning, budget, sample design, permits, equipment, and supervising field operations. Coalesces, edits, analyzes and reports data; assists with fieldwork.

Jeff Williams, FBII. In concert with Philip Richards, and Ian Boyce, sets up all aspects of project, including planning, budget, sample design, permits, equipment, personnel, and training. Assists in supervising Canyon Island operations and assists with supervision of recovery. Coalesces, edits, analyzes, and reports data; assists with fieldwork; arranges logistics with field crew. Takes lead role in analysis and first draft of report.

Ed Jones, Salmon Research Coordinator. This position is responsible for general oversight of this project and the Chinook stock assessment program in the region. Reviews project planning, operational plans and technical reports.

Sarah J. H. Power, Biometrician II. Provides input to and approves sampling design. Reviews operational plan and provides biometric details. Writes programming code for statistical analysis. Reviews and conducts analysis in concert with project leaders for final report.

Nathan Frost, FBI. This position is responsible for supervising the drift gillnet portion of the field tagging program. Will coordinate schedules with crew and share responsibility for all aspects of field operations, including safe operation of riverboats, and other equipment, tagging, data collection, and general field camp duties.

Joe Simonowicz, F&WT III. Will be responsible for assisting in all aspects of field operations, including safe operation of riverboats, and other equipment, tagging, data collection, and general field camp duties. Will assist in remote tracking station installation and coordinate weekly data downloads.

## **II. Canadian Personnel Responsibilities**

Ian Boyce and Bonnie Huebschwerlen, FOC. In concert with Jeff Williams and Philip Richards, assist in all aspects of the program, including: tag application, tag recovery, and report preparation. Will be responsible for scheduling Canadian staff at both the tagging and recovery sites. Will participate in both the tagging and recovery component of the program. Will arrange and participate in meetings with Canadian, commercial, and Aboriginal fishers. Will provide recovery data to ADF&G. Will review data, provide input into report, write sections regarding recovery and serve as co-author.



## REFERENCES CITED

- Arnason, A. N., C. W. Kirby, C. J. Schwarz, and J. R. Irvine. 1996. Computer analysis of data from stratified mark-recovery experiments for estimation of salmon escapements and other populations. Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. 2106: 37 p.
- Bernard, D. R., J. J. Hasbrouck, and S. J. Fleischman. 1999. Handling-induced delay and downstream movement of adult Chinook Salmon in rivers. Fisheries Research 44:37-46.
- Cleary, Peter, R. Yanusz, and J. Campbell. 2013. Susitna River Chinook and coho salmon inriver abundance and distribution and pink salmon spawning distribution. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Operational Plan ROP.SF.2A.2013.24, Palmer.
- Darroch, J. N. 1961. Two-sample capture-recapture census when tagging and sampling are stratified. Biometrika 48: 241-60.
- Eiler, J. H. 1990. Radio transmitters used to study salmon in glacial rivers. Pages 364-369 [in] N. C. Parker, A. E. Giorgi, R. C. Heidinger, D. B. Jester Jr., E. D. Prince, and G. A. Winans, editors. Fish-marking techniques. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 7, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Eiler, J. H. 1995. A remote satellite-linked tracking system for studying Pacific salmon with radiotelemetry. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 124:184-193.
- Eiler, J. G., M. M. Masuda, T. R. Spencer, R. J. Driscoll, and C. B. Schreck. 2014. Distribution, stock composition and timing, and tagging response of wild chinook salmon returning to a large, free-flowing river basin, Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 143:6, 1476-1507.
- Efron, B., and R. J. Tibshirani. 1993. An introduction to the bootstrap. Chapman Hall, New York. 436 p.
- Goodman, L. A. 1960. On the exact variance of products. Journal of the American Statistical Association 66:708-713.
- Johnson, R. E., R. P. Marshall, and S. T. Elliott. 1992. Chilkat River Chinook salmon studies, 1991. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish Fishery Data Series 92-49, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Jones, Ed, and S. McPherson. 2002. A mark-recapture experiment to estimate the escapement of Chinook salmon in the Unuk River, 2000. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Fishery Data Series No. 02-17, Anchorage.
- Jones, E. L. III, S.A. McPherson, D. Reed, I.M. Boyce. 2010. Spawning abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku River from 1999 to 2007. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fisheries Data Series Report 10-70, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., D. R. Bernard, S. K. Kelley, P. A. Milligan, and P. Timpany. 1996. Spawning abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku River in 1995. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fisheries Data Series Report 96-36, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., D. R. Bernard, S. K. Kelley, P. A. Milligan, and P. Timpany. 1997. Spawning abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku River in 1996. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fisheries Data Series Report 97-14, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., D. R. Bernard, S. K. Kelley, P. A. Milligan, and P. Timpany. 1998. Spawning abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku River in 1997. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fisheries Data Series Report 98-41, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., D. R. Bernard, R. J. Yanusz, P. A. Milligan, and P. Timpany. 1999. Spawning abundance of Chinook salmon in the Taku River in 1998. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fisheries Data Series Report 99-26, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., D. R. Bernard, and John H. Clark. 2000. Optimal production of Chinook salmon from the Taku River. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fisheries, Fishery Manuscript 00-2, Anchorage.
- McPherson, S. A., E. L. Jones III, S. J. Fleischman, and I. M. Boyce. 2010. Optimal production of Chinook salmon from the Taku River through the 2001 year class. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Manuscript Series No. 10-3, Anchorage.

## REFERENCES CITED (Continued)

- Pahlke, K. A. and D. R. Bernard. 1996. Abundance of the Chinook salmon escapement in the Taku River, 1989 to 1990. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Research Bulletin 3(1): 9–20, Juneau.
- Pahlke, K. A., S. A. McPherson, and R. P. Marshall. 1996. Chinook salmon research on the Unuk River, 1994. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish Fishery Data Series 96–14, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Pahlke, K. A., and P. Etherton. 1999. Abundance and distribution of the chinook salmon escapement on the Stikine River, 1997. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish Fishery Data Series 99–6, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Pahlke, K. A., P. Etherton, R. E. Johnson, and J. E. Andel. 1999. Abundance and distribution of the Chinook salmon escapement on the Alsek River, 1998. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 99-44, Anchorage.
- Pahlke, K. A., and B. Waugh. 2003. Abundance and distribution of the Chinook salmon escapement on the Alsek River, 2002. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 03-20, Anchorage.
- Pahlke, K. A. 2010. Escapements of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska and transboundary rivers in 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery data Series No. 10-71, Anchorage.
- PSC (Pacific Salmon Commission). 2007. Salmon management and enhancement plans for the Stikine, Taku and Alsek rivers, 2007. December 2007. TCTR (07)-3. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- PST (Pacific Salmon Treaty). 2008. Treaty between the governments of Canada and the government of the United States of America concerning Pacific salmon. <http://www.psc.org/pubs/Treaty/Treaty%20July%202014.pdf>
- Richards, P. J., P. Etherton, J. A. Der Hovanisian, K.A. Pahlke, and J. L. Weller. 2008. Abundance and distribution of the Chinook salmon escapement on the Stikine River, 2005 and production and harvest of fish from brood year 1998. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Fishery Data Series No. 08-33, Anchorage.
- Richards, P. J., B. Elliott, T. Johnson, T. Jaecks, J. Williams, and E. Jones. *In prep.* Spawning escapements of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska, 2009 to 2014.
- Richards, P. J., T. Johnson, and S. J. H. Power. 2014. Escapements of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska and Transboundary Rives in 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Regional Operational Plan SF.IJ.2014.11.
- Richards, P., T. Jaecks, S. J. H. Power, I. Boyce, and P. Etherton. 2015. Migration, landslide passage, tagging response, and distribution of Chinook salmon returning to the Stikine River, 2015. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division, Regional Operational Plan ROP.SF.IJ.2015.05, Anchorage.
- Seber, G. A. F. 1982. The estimation of animal abundance and related parameters. 2nd edition. Griffin and Company, Ltd. London.
- Thompson, S. K. 2002. Sampling, 2nd ed. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
- Williams, J. T., S. J. H. Power, and E. L. Jones III. 2016. Production and Escapement of Chinook salmon in the Taku River, 2016-2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Operational Plan No. SF.IJ.2016.11, Anchorage.
- Williams, J. T., S. J. H. Power, and E. L. Jones III. 2015. Estimation of Chinook salmon escapement in the Taku River, 2015. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Operational Plan No. SF.IJ.2015.03, Anchorage.
- Weller, J. L., and D. G. Evans. 2012. Production of Unuk River Chinook salmon through 2009 from the 1992-2006 broods. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 12-85, Anchorage.

## **APPENDIX A**

## **Procedures for Downloading Radio Tracking Station**

### **ATS 4500 Receivers**

1. Check the station for damage.
2. Check that the receiver was configured correctly by the last user:
  - a. The receiver is automatically cycling through radio frequencies
  - b. The GAIN is turned to “10”
  - c. The volume is turned to “0”
3. Turn on Laptop, open ASTWINREC 4500. There is a shortcut labeled “AST Download on the desktop.
4. Connect serial cable to PC/Clone port on the receiver and to the serial port on the laptop
5. On the receiver, press ESC then use the arrow keys to scroll to “PC”. Press ENTER.
6. The receiver should now read, “PC Mode: Active”.
7. In the ATSWinRec window on the laptop, click “Offload Data”. Press “OK”
8. In the notebook in the metal station box, on a new sheet of paper record the:
  - a. Date and time
  - b. Name of staff completing the download
  - c. Number of blocks of data to offload, Click “Offload”
9. After the data has been offloaded, you will be asked if you want to delete targets in the receiver. Click, “NO”. The download can take up to 45 minutes to complete if there are 98,000 blocks of data.
10. Save the data file under: Taku Telemetry\Salmon\Tower Downloads subdirectory. Name the file in “location\_date” formate (eg. Border Tower\_08012016” for August 1, 2016 at the U.S./Canada tower on the lower Taku River.
11. Exit ATSWinRec after the data file has been saved
12. On the receiver, press ESC to return to the main menu. Press SHIFT then TEST to see the amount of charge in the battery. Record the number of volts in the notebook along with the voltage for the battery and solar panel. On the receiver, press ESC to return to the main menu. Scroll to “STATIONARY” and press ENTER. Scroll to NEW SCAN, press ENTER
13. A number of default settings will appear. Click ENTER to agree with all of the default settings except for:
  - a. Select “1” for TABLE #
  - b. Select “2” for ANTENNA’S
  - c. Select “NO” for GOES
  - d. Select “YES” for REFERENCE TAG, then enter the reference tag number (eg. 151183)
  - e. Select 60 min store rate

---

-continued-

14. Make sure the receiver is automatically cycling through all radio frequencies.
15. Disconnect serial cable, keep notebook in enclosure box, secure enclosure box
16. Before closing and locking the box ensure:
  - a. The GAIN is turned to “10”, the highest setting
  - b. The VOLUME is turned to “0”, the lowest setting

#### Troubleshooting Downloads

1. After connecting serial cable between receiver and laptop, receiver reads: “PC Mode: No PC”.
  - a. On the laptop go to the Microsoft ActiveSync icon in the upper left corner of the screen. Double click.
  - b. In FILE, go to Connection Settings. Make sure the first box is **unchecked** (“Allow serial cable or infrared connection to this COM port” should be unchecked).
  - c. Once this setting has changed in Microsoft ActiveSync, close ATSWinRec, disconnect serial cable, reopen ATSWinRec, then follow steps 3-4 above.

#### Backup Data

1. After the download is complete, immediately back up the data on a thumb drive under the same name.

After returning to the cabin, email the latest files to Jeff Williams or Phil Richards.

Appendix A2.–Detailed radiotag deployment form for Taku River Chinook salmon, 2018.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
28-Apr	DG 1		150.240	0		
29-Apr	DG 1		150.240	1		
30-Apr	DG 1		150.240	2		
1-May	DG 1		150.240	3		
2-May	DG 1		150.240	4		
3-May	DG 1		150.240	5		
4-May	DG 1		150.240	6		
4-May	DG 1		150.240	7		
5-May	DG 1		150.240	8		
5-May	DG 1		150.240	9		
6-May	DG 1		150.240	10		
6-May	DG 1		150.240	11		
7-May	DG 1		150.240	12		
7-May	DG 1		150.240	13		
8-May	DG 1		150.240	14		
8-May	DG 1		150.240	15		
8-May	DG 1		150.240	16		
9-May	DG 1		150.240	17		
9-May	DG 1		150.240	18		
9-May	DG 1		150.240	19		
9-May	DG 1		150.240	20		
10-May	DG 1		150.240	21		
10-May	DG 1		150.240	22		
10-May	DG 1		150.240	23		
10-May	DG 1		150.240	24		
11-May	DG 1		150.240	25		
11-May	DG 1		150.240	26		
11-May	DG 1		150.240	27		
11-May	DG 1		150.240	28		
12-May	DG 1		150.240	29		
12-May	DG 1		150.240	30		
12-May	DG 1		150.240	31		
12-May	DG 1		150.240	32		
13-May	DG 1		150.240	33		
13-May	DG 1		150.240	34		
13-May	DG 1		150.240	35		
13-May	DG 1		150.240	36		
14-May	DG 1		150.240	37		
14-May	DG 1		150.240	38		
14-May	DG 1		150.240	39		
14-May	DG 1		150.240	40		
15-May	DG 1		150.240	41		
15-May	DG 1		150.240	42		
15-May	DG 1		150.240	43		

-continued-

Appendix A2.–Page 2 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
15-May	DG 1		150.240	44		
16-May	DG 1		150.240	45		
16-May	DG 1		150.240	46		
16-May	DG 1		150.240	47		
16-May	DG 1		150.240	48		
17-May	DG 1		150.240	49		
17-May	DG 1		150.240	50		
17-May	DG 1		150.240	51		
17-May	DG 1		150.240	52		
17-May	DG 1		150.240	53		
18-May	DG 1		150.240	54		
18-May	DG 1		150.240	55		
18-May	DG 1		150.240	56		
18-May	DG 1		150.240	57		
18-May	DG 1		150.240	58		
19-May	DG 1		150.240	59		
19-May	DG 1		150.240	60		
19-May	DG 1		150.240	61		
19-May	DG 1		150.240	62		
19-May	DG 1		150.240	63		
20-May	DG 1		150.240	64		
20-May	DG 1		150.240	65		
20-May	DG 1		150.240	66		
20-May	DG 1		150.240	67		
20-May	DG 1		150.240	68		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	69		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	70		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	71		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	72		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	73		
21-May	DG 1		150.240	74		
22-May	DG 1		150.240	75		
22-May	DG 1		150.240	76		
22-May	DG 1		150.240	77		
22-May	DG 1		150.240	78		
22-May	DG 1		150.240	79		
23-May	DG 1		150.240	80		
23-May	DG 1		150.240	81		
23-May	DG 1		150.240	82		
23-May	DG 1		150.240	83		
23-May	DG 1		150.240	84		

-continued-

Appendix A2.–Page 3 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
24-May	DG 1		150.240	85		
24-May	DG 1		150.240	86		
24-May	DG 1		150.240	87		
24-May	DG 1		150.240	88		
24-May	DG 1		150.240	89		
25-May	DG 1		150.240	90		
25-May	DG 1		150.240	91		
25-May	DG 1		150.240	92		
25-May	DG 1		150.240	93		
25-May	DG 1		150.240	94		
26-May	DG 1		150.240	95		
26-May	DG 1		150.240	96		
26-May	DG 1		150.240	97		
26-May	DG 1		150.240	98		
26-May	DG 1		150.240	99		
27-May	DG 1		150.260	0		
27-May	DG 1		150.260	1		
27-May	DG 1		150.260	2		
27-May	DG 1		150.260	3		
27-May	DG 1		150.260	4		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	5		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	6		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	7		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	8		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	9		
28-May	DG 1		150.260	10		
29-May	DG 1		150.260	11		
29-May	DG 1		150.260	12		
29-May	DG 1		150.260	13		
29-May	DG 1		150.260	14		
29-May	DG 1		150.260	15		
30-May	DG 1		150.260	16		
30-May	DG 1		150.260	17		
30-May	DG 1		150.260	18		
30-May	DG 1		150.260	19		
30-May	DG 1		150.260	20		
31-May	DG 1		150.260	21		
31-May	DG 1		150.260	22		
31-May	DG 1		150.260	23		
31-May	DG 1		150.260	24		
31-May	DG 1		150.260	25		

-continued-



Appendix A2.–Page 4 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
1-Jun	DG 1		150.260	26		
1-Jun	DG 1		150.260	27		
1-Jun	DG 1		150.260	28		
1-Jun	DG 1		150.260	29		
1-Jun	DG 1		150.260	30		
2-Jun	DG 1		150.260	31		
2-Jun	DG 1		150.260	32		
2-Jun	DG 1		150.260	33		
2-Jun	DG 1		150.260	34		
2-Jun	DG 1		150.260	35		
3-Jun	DG 1		150.260	36		
3-Jun	DG 1		150.260	37		
3-Jun	DG 1		150.260	38		
3-Jun	DG 1		150.260	39		
3-Jun	DG 1		150.260	40		
4-Jun	DG 1		150.260	41		
4-Jun	DG 1		150.260	42		
4-Jun	DG 1		150.260	43		
4-Jun	DG 1		150.260	44		
4-Jun	DG 1		150.260	45		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	46		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	47		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	48		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	49		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	50		
5-Jun	DG 1		150.260	51		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	52		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	53		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	54		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	55		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	56		
6-Jun	DG 1		150.260	57		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	58		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	59		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	60		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	61		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	62		
7-Jun	DG 1		150.260	63		

-continued-

Appendix A2.–Page 5 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	64		
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	65		
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	66		
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	67		
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	68		
8-Jun	DG 1		150.260	69		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	70		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	71		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	72		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	73		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	74		
9-Jun	DG 1		150.260	75		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	76		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	77		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	78		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	79		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	80		
10-Jun	DG 1		150.260	81		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	82		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	83		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	84		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	85		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	86		
11-Jun	DG 1		150.260	87		
12-Jun	DG 1		150.260	88		
12-Jun	DG 1		150.260	89		
12-Jun	DG 1		150.260	90		
12-Jun	DG 1		150.260	91		
12-Jun	DG 1		150.260	92		
13-Jun	DG 1		150.260	93		
13-Jun	DG 1		150.260	94		
13-Jun	DG 1		150.260	95		
13-Jun	DG 1		150.260	96		
13-Jun	DG 1		150.260	97		

-continued-

Appendix A2.–Page 6 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
14-Jun	DG 1		150.260	98		
14-Jun	DG 1		150.260	99		
14-Jun	DG 1		150.280	0		
14-Jun	DG 1		150.280	1		
14-Jun	DG 1		150.280	2		
15-Jun	DG 1		150.280	3		
15-Jun	DG 1		150.280	4		
15-Jun	DG 1		150.280	5		
15-Jun	DG 1		150.280	6		
15-Jun	DG 1		150.280	7		
16-Jun	DG 1		150.280	8		
16-Jun	DG 1		150.280	9		
16-Jun	DG 1		150.280	10		
16-Jun	DG 1		150.280	11		
16-Jun	DG 1		150.280	12		
17-Jun	DG 1		150.280	13		
17-Jun	DG 1		150.280	14		
17-Jun	DG 1		150.280	15		
17-Jun	DG 1		150.280	16		
18-Jun	DG 1		150.280	17		
18-Jun	DG 1		150.280	18		
18-Jun	DG 1		150.280	19		
18-Jun	DG 1		150.280	20		
19-Jun	DG 1		150.280	21		
19-Jun	DG 1		150.280	22		
19-Jun	DG 1		150.280	23		
19-Jun	DG 1		150.280	24		
20-Jun	DG 1		150.280	25		
20-Jun	DG 1		150.280	26		
20-Jun	DG 1		150.280	27		
20-Jun	DG 1		150.280	28		
21-Jun	DG 1		150.280	29		
21-Jun	DG 1		150.280	30		
21-Jun	DG 1		150.280	31		
22-Jun	DG 1		150.280	32		
22-Jun	DG 1		150.280	33		
22-Jun	DG 1		150.280	34		
23-Jun	DG 1		150.280	35		
23-Jun	DG 1		150.280	36		
23-Jun	DG 1		150.280	37		
24-Jun	DG 1		150.280	38		
24-Jun	DG 1		150.280	39		

-continued-

Appendix A2.–Page 7 of 7.

Date	Crew	Spag Tag #	Frequency	Code	Date Deployed	Comments
25-Jun	DG 1		150.280	40		
25-Jun	DG 1		150.280	41		
26-Jun	DG 1		150.280	42		
26-Jun	DG 1		150.280	43		
27-Jun	DG 1		150.280	44		
27-Jun	DG 1		150.280	45		
28-Jun	DG 1		150.280	46		
28-Jun	DG 1		150.280	47		
29-Jun	DG 1		150.280	48		
30-Jun	DG 1		150.280	49		