



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Fish Distribution Database

Region USGS Quad(s)
 Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway
 Name of Waterway USGS Name Local Name
 Addition Deletion Correction Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # <u>11-225</u>	_____ ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	_____ Date
Revision Year: <u>2012</u>	_____ ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	_____ Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____ Both _____	 FDD Project Biologist	<u>9 May 11</u> Date
Revision Code: <u>F-1</u>	_____ Cartographer	_____ Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
CO spawning	1994-1998	yes		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

IMPORTANT: Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and observed upper extent of each species, as well as other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

Comments: Granite Creek is 2.5 miles in length and is a major tributary into Sawmill Creek. This nomination submission of Granite Creek (headwater spring to confluence with Sawmill Creek) is to provide a description and add aerial survey counts to the AWC database. A separate word document (Granite Creek.doc) details a descriptive explanation of Granite Creek and contains a USGS map and Google picture showing location. From 1994-1998, ADF&G conducted aerial surveys of Granite Creek and 34 other springs contributing to the Delta Clearwater River. TOPO! software was used to calculate distance and obtain lat/long location. The lower portion of Granite Creek is at the confluence with Sawmill Creek (N64° 01.409', W145° 18.185') is 14 miles above the mouth of the Delta Clearwater River. runs to its headwater springs (2.5 miles) which upwells from the ground (N63° 59.448', W145° 17.799'). No barriers exist for returning adult coho salmon, forest canopy over portions of the stream may have lead to undercounting of fish from the air. No change to the original AWC number for Granite Creek. *Supports existing AWC data*

Name of Observer (please print): James F. Parker
 Signature: _____ Date: 4/4/2011
 Agency: ADF&G - Sport Fish
 Address: Box 605
Delta Junction, AK 99737

This certifies that in my best professional judgment and belief the above information is evidence that this water body should be included in or deleted from the Fish Distribution Database.
 Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: _____ Revision 02/05
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): _____

Johnson, J D (DFG)

From: Parker, Fronty (DFG)
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Johnson, J D (DFG)
Subject: AWC nomination: Granite Creek (334-40-11000-2490-3416-5020)
Attachments: Granite Creek 04-04-2011.xls; Granite Creek.doc; AWC number system for DCR.xlsx

Granite Creek is a large spring tributary into Sawmill Creek which then goes into the Delta Clearwater River. The AWC number has not changed under the new organization as shown in the attached spreadsheet AWC number system for DCR.SLXS. Granite Creek is updated with aerial coho data.

-Fronty

Granite Creek (USGS name)

04/04/2011

Anadromous stream catalog number 334-40-11000-2490-3416-5020

Description: Granite Creek is an upper reach tributary to the DCR. The lower portion of Granite Creek is at the confluence with Sawmill Creek (N64° 01.409', W145° 18.185'). This confluence to Sawmill Creek is nearly 18 miles from the mouth of the DCR. From this point (Figure 1) Granite Creek runs upstream to its headwater springs (2.5 miles) which up-wells from the ground (N63° 59.448', W145° 17.799'). In 1994-1998 aerial Surveys were conducted to determine numbers of spawning coho salmon in non-boatable portions of the DCR.

Clearwater Creek as indicated on USGS maps or otherwise known locally as the Delta Clearwater River (DCR) is entirely spring fed. A report written in 1991 (Parker, J. F. 1991. Status of Coho Salmon in the Delta Clearwater River of Interior Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series 91-4, Anchorage.) gives a summary of coho life history and data collected on the DCR. The report documents the DCR being only 20 miles in length, as having the largest spawning concentration in the Yukon River drainage, the largest coho sport fishery in the Tanana River drainage, and an extensive record of coho escapement index counts. Adult coho salmon distribute throughout the DCR to spawn. Coho salmon eggs hatch in February and March and coho salmon fry emerge from the gravel in May, approximately 6 months after spawning. The springs provide consistent flows, little change in water temperature, highly productive aquatic communities, and favorable over-wintering habitat for rearing coho salmon. The majority of the juvenile coho salmon rear in the DCR for 1 - 3 years before smolting, and spend 1 year in the ocean before returning (Parker 1991).

DF&G conducts an annual coho salmon survey to assess the coho salmon escapement goal of 5,200–17,000. Annual coho counts since 1972 to the present are found in Table 1 (Parker, J. F. 2009. Fishery management report for sport fisheries in the Upper Tanana River drainage in 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 09-47, Anchorage.)

A significant portion of coho salmon are found spawning in non-navigatable portions of the river in short spring tributaries contributing to the DCR. Aerial counts for coho salmon in areas not counted by boat, were 21.9%, 23.8%, 19.0%, 17.1%, and 20.0% (averaging 20.36%) of the escapement, respectively (Table 1). This proportion is then applied to the mainstem DCR count and the resultant estimate for the non-navigable component is added to the mainstem count to obtain an estimate of total escapement.

Granite Creek aerial counts from 1994-1998 is presented in Table 2.

Anadromous species present: Coho salmon (spawning and rearing).

Other Species; round whitefish, Arctic grayling, long nose suckers, and slimy sculpins.

Anadromous species data collection:

This nomination is to provide a description for this water and provide aerial coho survey data.

Figure 1. Upper Delta Clearwater River, Google Earth picture with Granite Creek (highlighted in blue) from confluence with Sawmill Creek to headwater spring.



Table 1. Delta Clearwater River coho counts by boat and aerial counts from 1994-1998, expanded to include non-navigatable portions of the river in years when aerial surveys were not done.

Year	Mainstem DCR Escapement	Counts in Lower River Mile 0-8	Counts in Upper River Mile 8-18	Only Tributaries	Coho's % in Tributaries	Expanded Count to include Tributaries.
1972	632					803
1973	3,322					4,220
1974	3,954					5,023
1975	5,100					6,479
1976	1,920					2,439
1977	4,793					6,089
1978	4,798					6,095
1979	8,970					11,395
1980	3,946					5,013
1981	8,563					10,878
1982	8,365					10,627
1983	8,019					10,187
1984	11,061					14,052
1985	5,358					6,807
1986	10,857					13,793
1987	22,300					28,330
1988	21,600					27,441
1989	12,600					16,007
1990	8,325					10,576
1991	23,900					30,362
1992	3,963					5,035
1993	10,875					13,816
1994	62,675			17,565	21.9%	80,240
1995	20,100			6,283	23.8%	26,383
1996	14,070			3,300	19.0%	17,370
1997	11,525			2,375	17.1%	13,900
1998	11,100			2,775	20.0%	13,875
1999	10,975			2,967	21.3%	13,942
2000	9,225	4,200	5,025	2,494	21.3%	11,719
2001	46,875	19,375	27,500	12,013	21.3%	59,547
2002	38,625	17,700	20,925	10,441	21.3%	49,067
2003	102,800	41,575	61,225	27,791	21.3%	130,591
2004	37,550	16,775	20,775	10,551	21.3%	47,701
2005	31,175	13,825	17,350	8,428	21.3%	39,603
2006	15,950	10,100	5,850	4,312	21.3%	20,262
2007	14,650	7,325	7,325	3,961	21.3%	18,611
2008	7,500	2,475	5,025	1,917	21.3%	9,417
2009	16,850	9,425	7,425	4,307	21.3%	21,157
2010	5,867	1,961	3,906	1,586	21.3%	7,453