

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1300 COLLEGE ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

83-1399

June 30, 1983

Pelham L. Jackson  
Koyukuk Gold Co.  
5331 E. 26th Ave., #6  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Mr. Jackson:

During my review of your Hammond River reclassification request, I noted that the Department did not respond to your March 15, 1982 letter advising us that you had never observed anadromous fish in the Hammond River. I believe you are aware that a draft response to your input was prepared, by our Anchorage staff, but not finalized. On behalf of the Department, I apologize for the oversight.

The results of a single survey which fails to document the presence of fish, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) survey cited in your letter, is not conclusive. The distribution of fish varies in accordance with the quality and quantity of habitat available. Accordingly, the numbers and distribution of fish vary from year to year depending on the size of the fish population competing for space. Weather conditions, instream flow, water chemistry and the time of year the fishery survey is conducted can also greatly affect the distribution of fish.

Your observation of no salmon may indeed be accurate for the time and location of your observations. Your statement that grayling are "dispersed" has been substantiated by the limited observation by the USFWS and this Department.

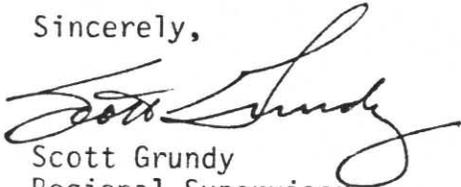
As near as I can determine, the Hammond River was designated on the basis of public comment to our biologists. In addition, Mr. Howard Metsker, an experienced biologist observed less than 25 king salmon in the Hammond River during July of 1975.

I would like to close with the statement that this Department will conduct a detailed survey of the Hammond River, but staff and funding do not permit such a commitment. In the interim, we will do the best we can to again document the presence of anadromous fish.

June 30, 1983

If you have any further concerns or questions, please write or visit us at 565 University Ave in Fairbanks or call 479-0883. Have a good mining season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Grundy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Scott Grundy  
Regional Supervisor  
Habitat Division