



IN REPLY REFER TO:

RCA

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
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Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Habitat - Region III
83-1400

Scott Grundy
Habitat Supervisor
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Scott:

I was recently contacted on an observation of chinook (king) salmon made near the mouth of the Hammond River, a tributary to the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River, in 1975. The observation of adult king salmon was made from a 185 Cessna aircraft as I was flying near the Dietric (Alyeska) pipeline camp. At the time, comments on my observation during the latter part of July were provided to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fish Division. The fish observed were both in the Hammond Fork itself and near the village of Wiseman. I am sorry I don't recall the exact number of fish but know that the number was only a few - less than 25.

The fact that I observed the fish at all was the result of habitat and nearly 2,000 hours of counting and observing salmon from aircraft over a period of about 20 years in both the Columbia River drainage (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho), and in Alaska (employment with the Commercial Fish and Sport Fish Divisions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game).

The reason I was in the area was that I was employed by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Special Fishery Advisor for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Howard Metsker
RCA Technical Coordinator