State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Fish Distribution Database

X

Region: SCN

USGS Quad(s): TALKEETNA A-5

Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway: 247-41-10200-2053-3229-4102

Name of Waterway: ☐ USGS Name ☐ Local Name

☑ Addition ☐ Deletion ☐ Correction ☐ Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination #	07 499		11/2/07
		ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision Year:	2008		11/2/07
Revision to:	Atlas ____ Catalog ____	ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	Date
	Both X		10/17/07
		FDD Project Biologist	Date
Revision Code:	A-2		11/19/07
		Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
sockeye salmon	8/27/2007			X	☑
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐

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: Add new stream 247-41-10200-2053-3229-4102 with sockeye salmon presence based on aerial observations

Name of Observer (please print): Andy Barclay

Signature: [signature] Date: 10/10/2007

Agency: ADF&G - CF

Address: 333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

This certifies that in my best professional judgment and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Fish Distribution Database.

Signature of Area Biologist: [signature] Date: 11/21/07

Name of Area Biologist (please print):

Revision 02/05

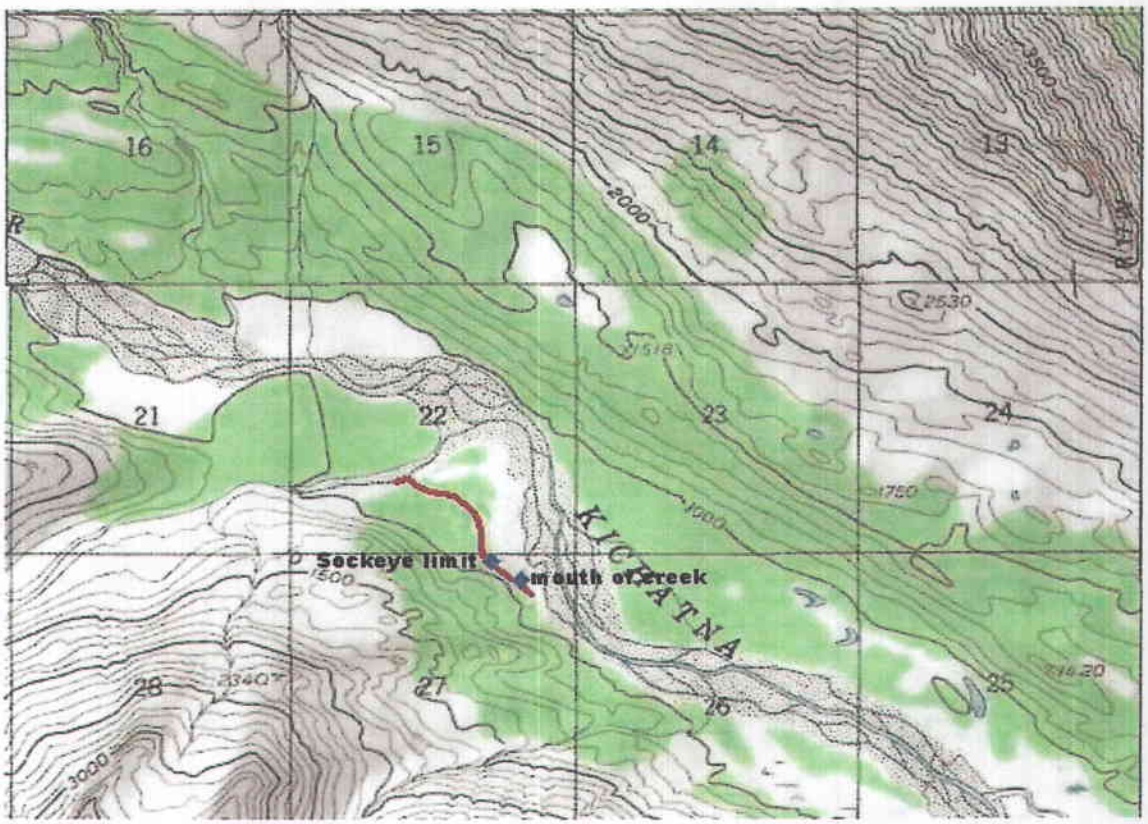


Figure 2 – Kichatna River sampling site 1

While looking for another sampling site we saw sockeye throughout the river in shallow areas were we could see through the water and in sloughs. There were a few clear streams that had sockeye at their mouths, but not enough to sample. We flew to one of the creeks I found sockeye in on my scouting trip the week before (N62.17258, W152.21700) (Fig. 3). There were many sockeye upstream on this creek but we couldn't land the helicopter nearby because the ground was too uneven and marshy. There was a large beaver dam near the mouth of the creek and it looked too difficult to hike up the stream. We landed on the Kichatna River at a point that looked good for hiking through the bushes back to the stream. After bushwacking for about 10 minutes we all decided this was a bad idea and it was getting late in the day. We left this creek to find an easier sampling location at around 16:30.

At 17:00 we landed at a creek upriver that had a mixture of sockeye and chum in the mouth and a few upstream spawning (N62.19426, W152.27960) (Fig. 3). We collected 19 sockeye samples in 45 minutes and we decided that we were running out of time so we decided to fly to Spink Creek. There weren't enough chum to warrant a collection.

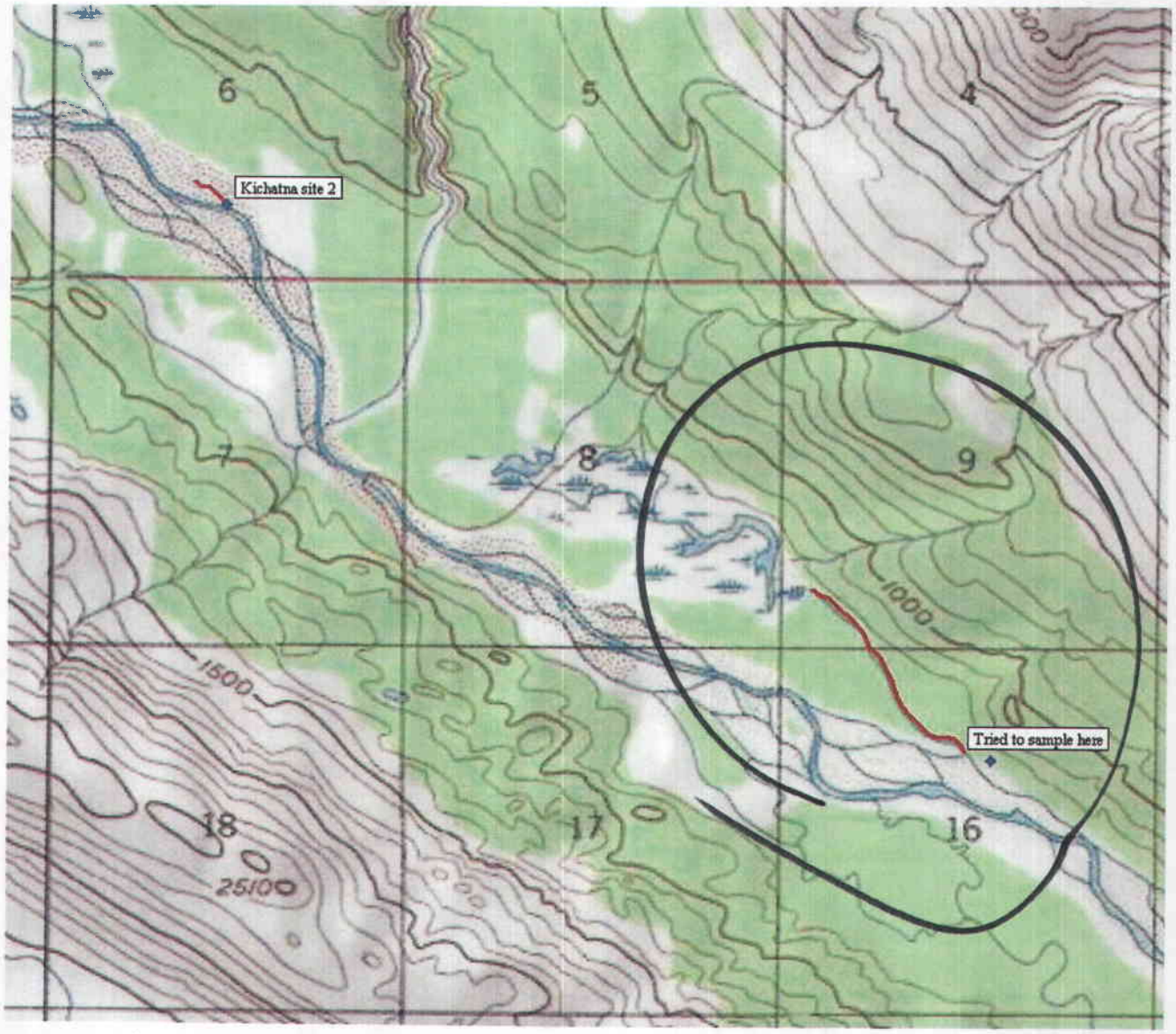


Figure 3 – Map of sampling site 2 and where we tried to sample, red lines indicate where sockeye were seen.

We arrived at Spink Creek about 18:45. There was a large group of sockeye and chum in a deep pool where the creek comes down from Spink Lake and intersects the eastern branch of Spink Creek (N62.75588, W150.21450) (Fig. 4). We sampled both sockeye and chum here until we kept getting the same individuals in our net. We didn't see sockeye down stream or upstream from the sampling site, however, there was a large group of sockeye at the mouth of Spink Creek on the Chulitna River. There were some sockeye spawning just below the pool but none in the pool were spawning. We caught a couple of sockeye in the pool that had just started to turn red. The creek to Spink Lake was too dry for sockeye to swim up so maybe they were waiting for more water before moving into the lake. I didn't see any sockeye in the lake on my scouting trip the week before. At 19:45 we decided to call it a day because we had to get back to Wasilla before became dark. We collected 30 sockeye and 23 chum samples at this creek.

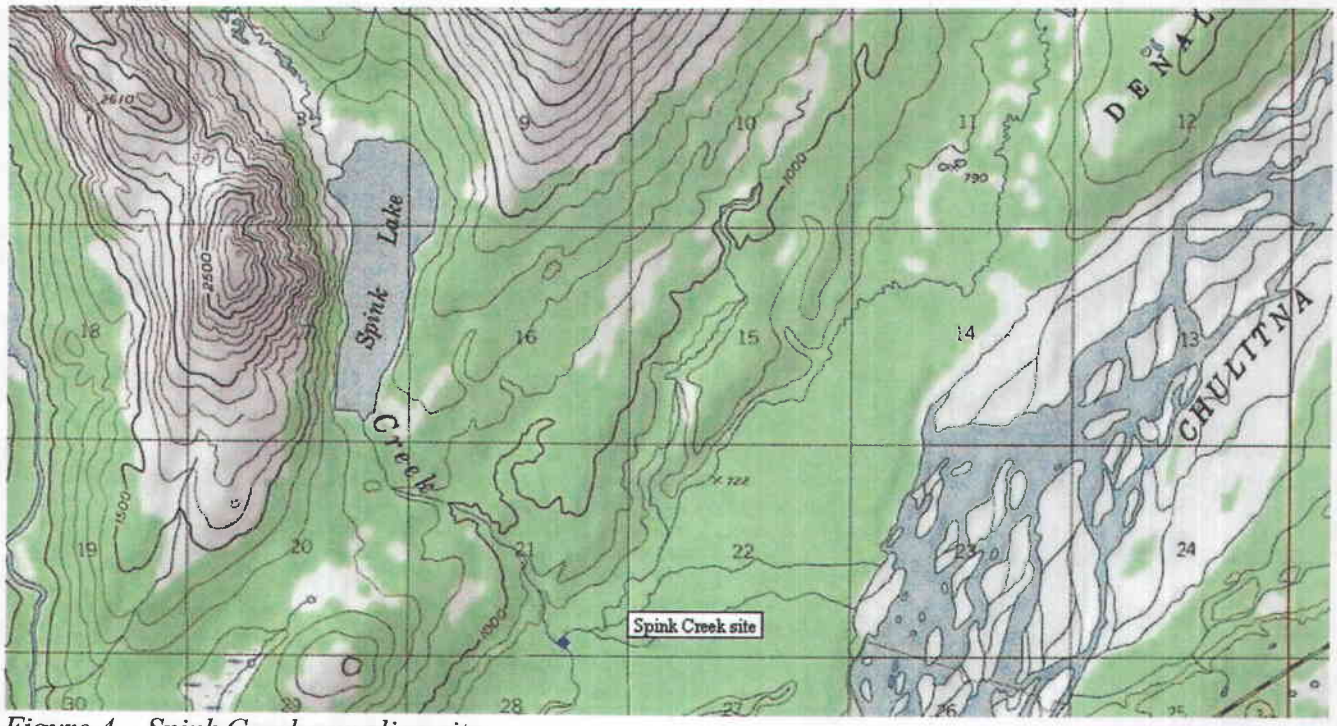


Figure 4 – Spink Creek sampling site.

We landed at the Talkeetna airport on the way back to get more fuel at Hudson Air. I met Jay Hudson who would be flying me out to Papa Bear Lake the next day. We were back at Pollux Aviation around 21:30.

Comments

It would be easy to go back and increase the sample size for the Kichatna River. We could have sampled sockeye at the place where we turned around, but we just didn't have the time or the nerve to hike through the alders with bear sign all around. If a crew had more time they could find a better way to get to where the sockeye are. If there is a need for a chum baseline collection on the Kichatna River it wouldn't be hard to get one. There were many chum in shallow sloughs that could be seen from the air.

We may have been a little early at Spink Creek. It looked like many of the sockeye where we sampled were fairly fresh. The group of sockeye at the mouth of Spink Creek might have been waiting for the water level to increase. I observed this in creeks on the Skwentna River where I saw fish in the mouth one week and a couple of weeks later the fish had moved up the river. There were chum salmon spread throughout Spink Creek, but the highest concentration was in the pool where we collected sockeye. It would be possible to get a larger chum collection from this creek if a sampling crew were to do little hiking.

Donkey Creek – I flew the lake and the creek down stream from the lake and saw no sockeye. There were some salmon at the mouth of the creek, but I could only see ripples in the water. The lake and the creek were very tannic and I couldn't see anything in the water.

Kichatna River - There were several clear tributaries that contained sockeye and they were seen within the main stem and in sloughs. There was a largest concentrations in clear tributaries were found near these coordinates: (N62.20862 W152.30940) (N62.17141 W152.22346)

Creek near Johnson Creek – The pilot said that he had seen sockeye here so I decided to check it out. There was a cluster of sockeye and other salmon at the mouth of the creek (N62.09891 W151.59219). I didn't see anything up stream from the mouth, but I only flew upstream a mile or two.

Skwentna River

Moose Creek – I found concentrations of sockeye in this creek in a beaver pond (N62.19401 W152.72951) and half a mile upstream from the pond in the main stem (N62.19628 W152.71505). The creek water was glacial, but sockeye could be seen in shallow sections of the creek.

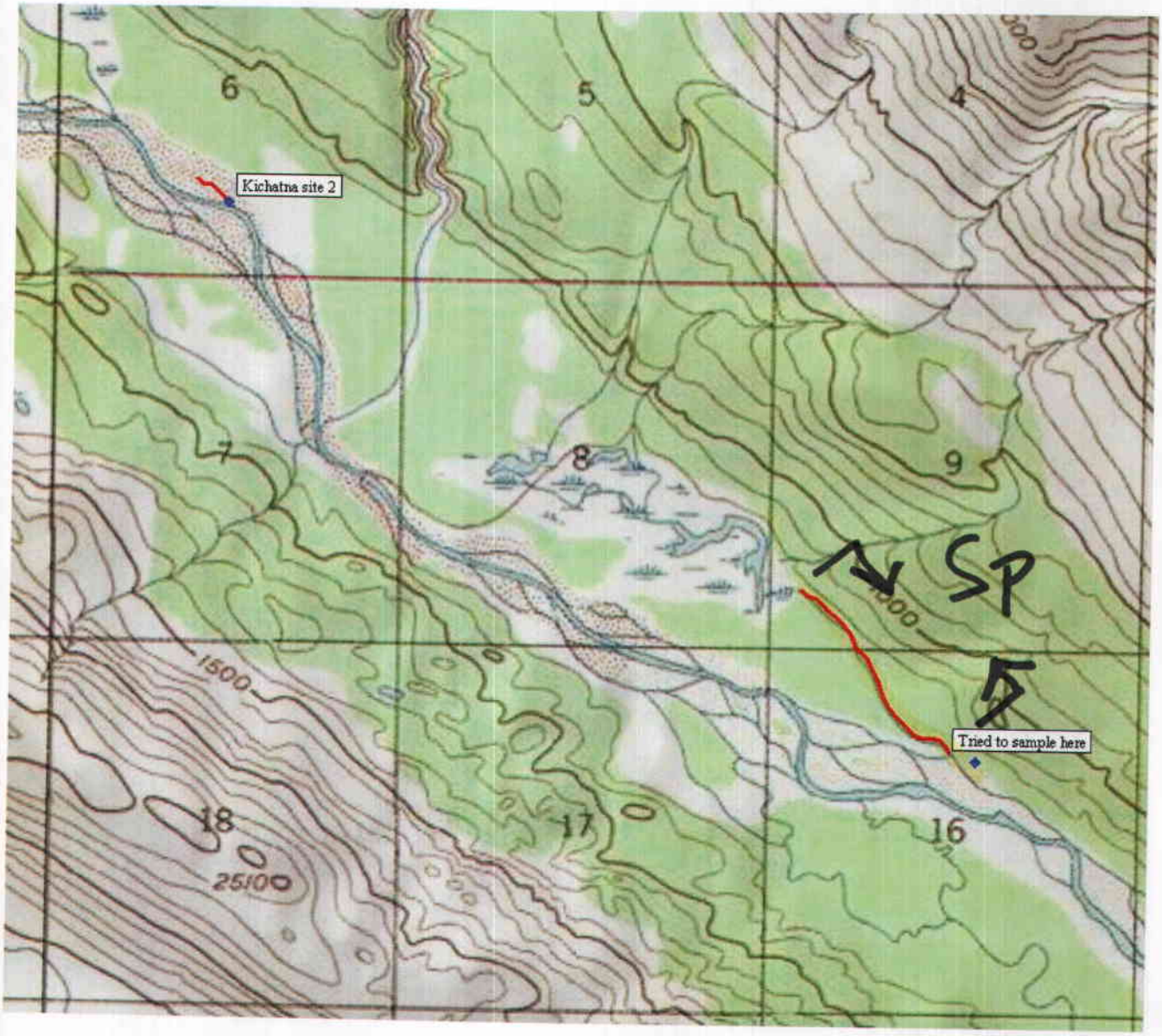
Hayes River – There was a clear stream flowing into the Hayes River (N61.92674 W151.88385) that had sockeye in the mouth.

Eightmile Creek – I flew this river on the way back to Anchorage and saw a few sockeye spaced far apart. Light conditions were poor and the water was dark with weeds blocking my view.

Comments

Papa Bear Lake can be accessed by a light float plane and Birch Creek can be accessed by automobile. The easiest way to access the rest of the sites where I found sockeye is by helicopter. Moose Creek off the Happy River can be accessed by a small float plane at Moose Creek Lake at the end of the creek. However, the sockeye were located about 2.5 miles downstream from the lake and it wouldn't be an easy hike.

There were chum salmon at Spink Creek and the Kichatna River mixed with the sockeye. There didn't appear to be enough chum at either location for a full collection.



Add new waterbody
247-41-10200-2053-3229-4102
w/ sockeye salmon presence