State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish

Nomination Form
Anadromous Waters Catalog

Region: Southwest

USGS Quad(s): Afognak A-2

Anadromous Waters Catalog Number of Waterway: 251-82-10050-2039- 3050-0010

Name of Waterway: Unnamed Lake Upper Portage River

☐ USGS Name ☑ Local Name

☑ Addition ☐ Deletion ☐ Correction ☐ Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # 140239		Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision Year: 2015		Habitat Operations Manager	Date
Revision to: Atlas ____ Catalog ____ Both ✓		AWC Project Biologist	Date 7/2/14
Revision Code: F-1		Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
Coho Salmon (4)	6/16/2014		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 lake added per nom # 14-068

During an joint AKSSF stream survey, I used a baited minnow trap to sample an unnamed lake that flows to an unnamed lake upstream of stream No. 251-82-10050-2039 (Figure 1, Ident 104 and 105). See the June 14-16, 2014 trip report.

Ref nom #
14-064
14-065
14-066
14-067
14-069

Name of Observer (please print): Will Frost, Habitat Biologist

Signature:

Date: 6/30/2014

Agency: ADF&G, Division of Habitat

Address: 333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME
JUL 1 2014

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 Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: _____

Name of Area Biologist (please print):

Revision 05/08

Figure 1

ADF&G

Meters

0 37.5 75 150 225 300

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat

TO: Michael Daigneault
Central Region
Regional Supervisor

DATE: July 1, 2014

PHONE NO: 267-2813

FROM: Will Frost WF
Habitat Biologist

SUBJECT: AKSSF AWC Survey: Afognak Island
June 2014

On June 14 through 16, 2014, I joined Jacob Cunha, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on Afognak Island for the purpose of sampling waters in the area of proposed harvest activities to document the presence of anadromous fish. The information gathered will be used to submit official nominations for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog and its companion Atlas. Inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog will conserve salmon habitat by providing the 66-foot riparian retention area protection required under the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA). A water body listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog is also afforded additional protection under State law at AS 16.05.871. The weather conditions were clear and warm becoming rain.

On the morning of June 14, Mr. Cunha and I flew with Maritime Helicopters of Kodiak to Thorsheim River (Stream No. 251-30-10020) on Afognak Island. The stream is on land managed by Uyak Natives Inc. (Uyak). We used a helicopter to access the river because the nearest road to the river is about 12 kilometers away over uneven and steep terrain (Figure 1). We landed in the lower river and walked to an unnamed tributary that flows into the Thorsheim River estuary. We used an electrofisher to sample 670 meters of the stream (Figure 2). We captured 35 Dolly Varden (50-85 mm fork length (FL)). We observed salmon bones on the streambanks. The unnamed stream will be surveyed for adult fish in the fall of 2014.

We walked up Thorsheim River about 900 meters to an unnamed tributary that was about 9 meters wide with a moderate gradient (Figure 3). We sampled the lower reach and captured 2 juvenile steelhead trout (80 and 100 mm FL) (Figure 4). We continued sampling upstream and captured 7 Dolly Varden (55-150 mm FL) (Figure 5). We ended our survey at a 4 meter high barrier (Figure 6). The unnamed tributary will be nominated to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

We returned to Thorshiem River and sampled an unnamed tributary on the opposite side of the river. We sampled 80 meters of the unnamed tributary ending our survey at a 1 meter high barrier. We captured 3 Dolly Varden (35-50 mm FL).

We sampled Thorshiem River at the outlet of the previously sampled unnamed stream and captured 2 juvenile sockeye salmon (95 mm FL) and 5 juvenile steelhead trout. No length measurements were taken for the steelhead trout. The juvenile sockeye salmon and juvenile steelhead trout will be nominated for update to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

We walked down the Thorsheim River and sampled 76 meters of an unnamed tributary that was less than 1.5 meters wide. We captured 7 Dolly Varden (40-55 mm FL). A tributary was observed flowing into the sampled steam. Because of time constraint, the tributary was not sampled.

We walked down the Thorsheim River and sampled an additional stream that flows into the estuary. We sampled 308 meters of the stream and captured 2 young-of-year pink salmon (40 and 45 mm FL) (Figure 7). An additional 10 Dolly Varden were captured. No length measurements were taken for the Dolly Varden. A tributary was observed flowing into the sampled stream. Because of time constraint, the tributary was not sampled. The unnamed stream will be nominated to the Anadromous Waters Catalog. While returning to Kodiak in the helicopter we identified two additional streams on Uyak land that will be sampled in the fall of 2014.

On the morning of June 15, Mr. Cunha and I flew to Afognak Island. We drove the 900 Road to Stream No. 252-32-10010-2021. The stream flows through Unit O-58 on land managed by Koncor. We walked up the lower reach to determine if tributaries to Stream No. 252-32-10010-2021 are located in the unit. No tributaries were found. We sampled the lower reach of the stream and captured 4 juvenile coho salmon (45-60 mm FL). We walked about 1,300 meters to the headwater lake (Figure 8). We observed about 10 juvenile coho salmon in the lake. While walking back to the car, we used a Garmin GPS to map the correct location of the stream. The correct location of the stream will be nominated for update to the Anadromous Waters Catalog. The presence of juvenile coho salmon in the headwater lake will be nominated to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

On the morning of June 16, Mr. Cunha and I drove the 1100 Road near mile post 7.5. We walked to an unnamed lake that flows into Stream No. 251-82-10050-2039. The stream is located on land managed by Afognak Native Corp. We set two baited minnow traps in the lake. The traps soaked about 4 hours. The traps captured 4 juvenile coho salmon (70-130 mm FL) (Figure 9). The unnamed lake will be nominated to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

We walked to the upper extent of the specified reach for Portage Creek (Stream No. 251-82-10050). We set two baited minnow traps in an unnamed lake that flows into Portage Creek. At the inlet end of the lake we located a beaver dam that was about 6 meters high. We set two minnow traps in the lake above the beaver dam. The traps soaked about two hours. The traps located in the lake that flows to Portage Creek captured two Dolly Varden (90 mm FL) and 10 stickleback. We observed 5 juvenile coho salmon below the lake outlet. The traps located above the beaver dam captured 30 stickleback. The lake above the beaver dam was sampled during the May 2014 sampling effort. Stickleback and Dolly Varden were captured during the May effort. The juvenile coho salmon in Portage Creek will be nominated for update to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

The ADF&G is currently planning on returning to Afognak for a sampling effort in July 2014.

Figure 1. Access to Thorsheim River. View above Thorshiem Lake looking downstream.

Figure 2. Mr. Cunha sampling unnamed stream in lower Thorsheim estuary.

Figure 3. Unnamed tributary to Thorshiem River.

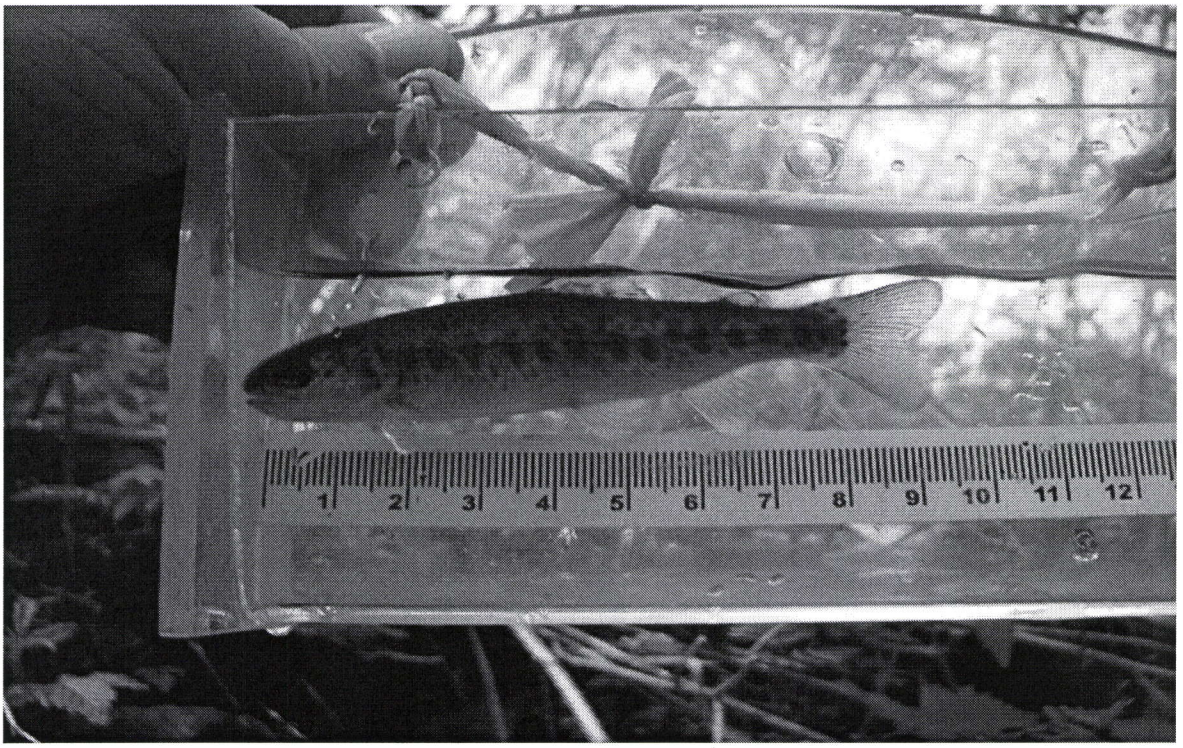

Figure 4. Steelhead trout captured in unnamed tributary to Thorshiem River.

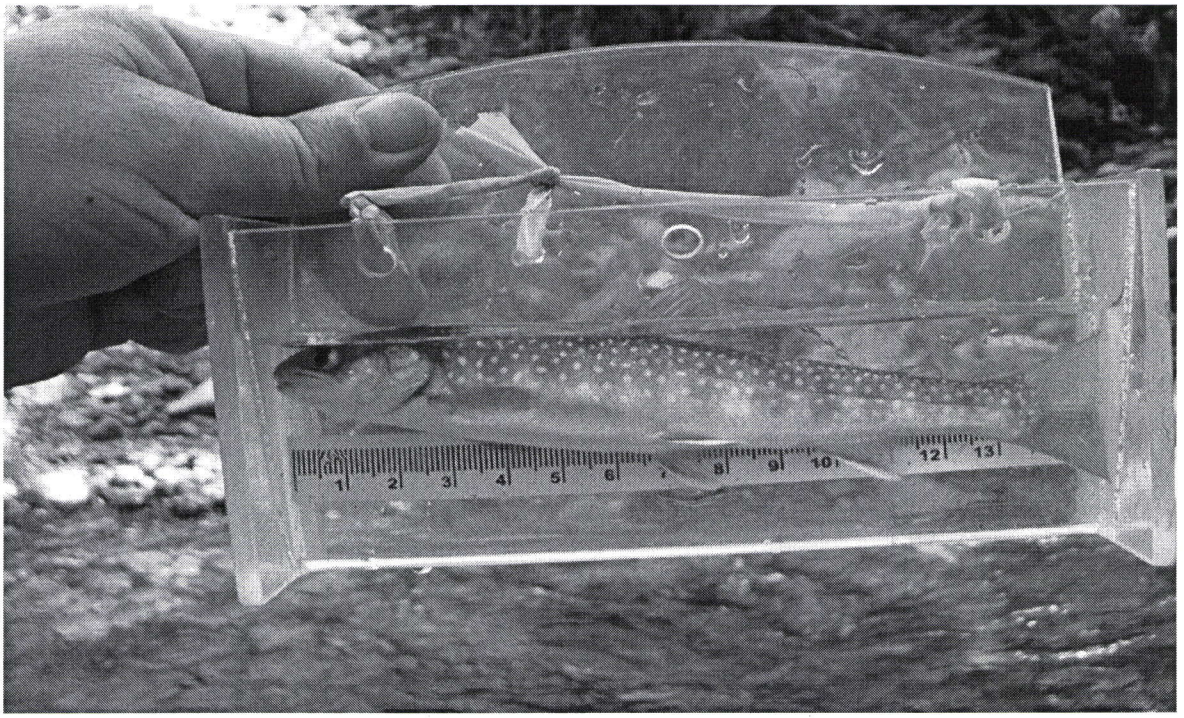

Figure 5. Dolly Varden captured in unnamed tributary to Thorshiem River.

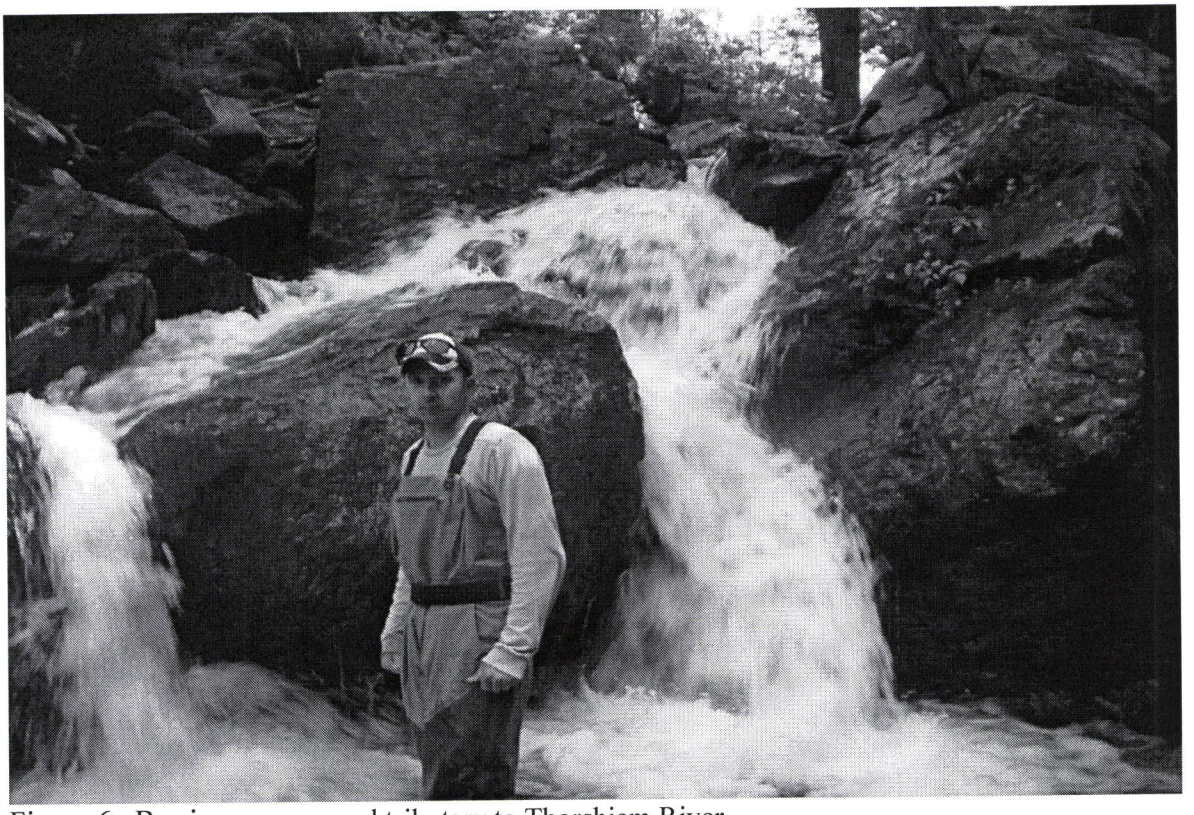

Figure 6. Barrier on unnamed tributary to Thorshiem River.

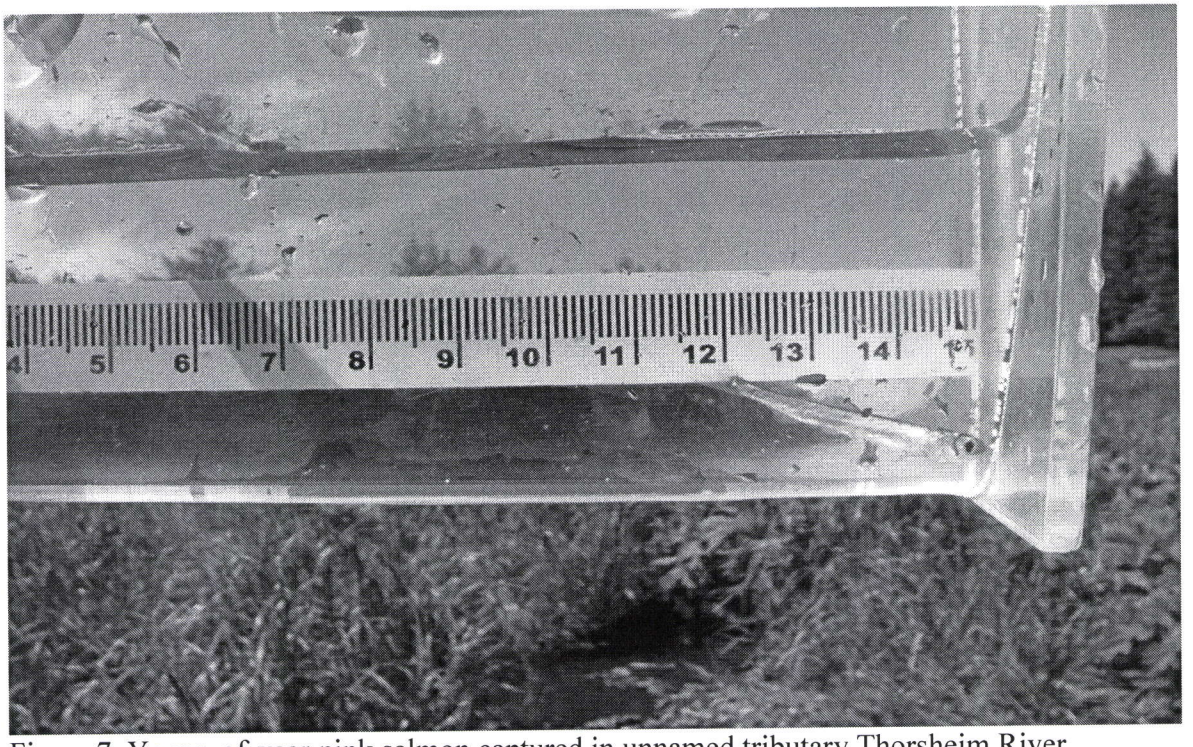

Figure 7. Young-of-year pink salmon captured in unnamed tributary Thorsheim River.

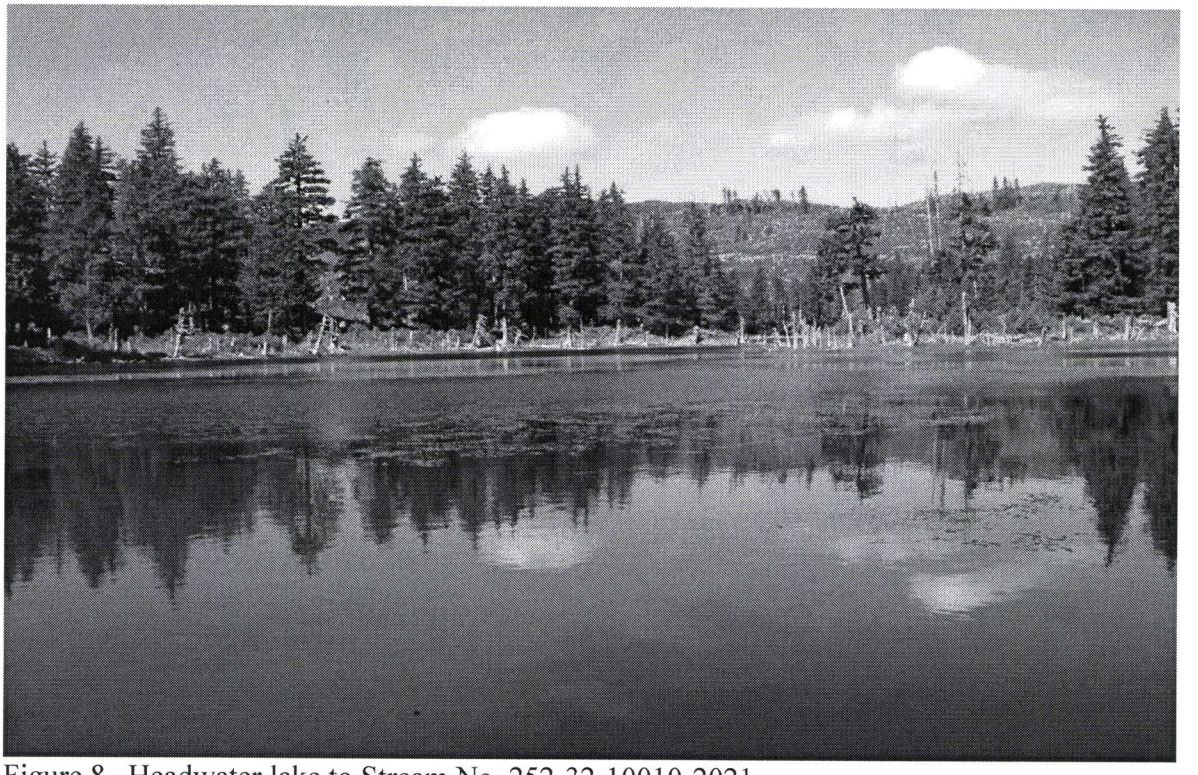

Figure 8. Headwater lake to Stream No. 252-32-10010-2021.

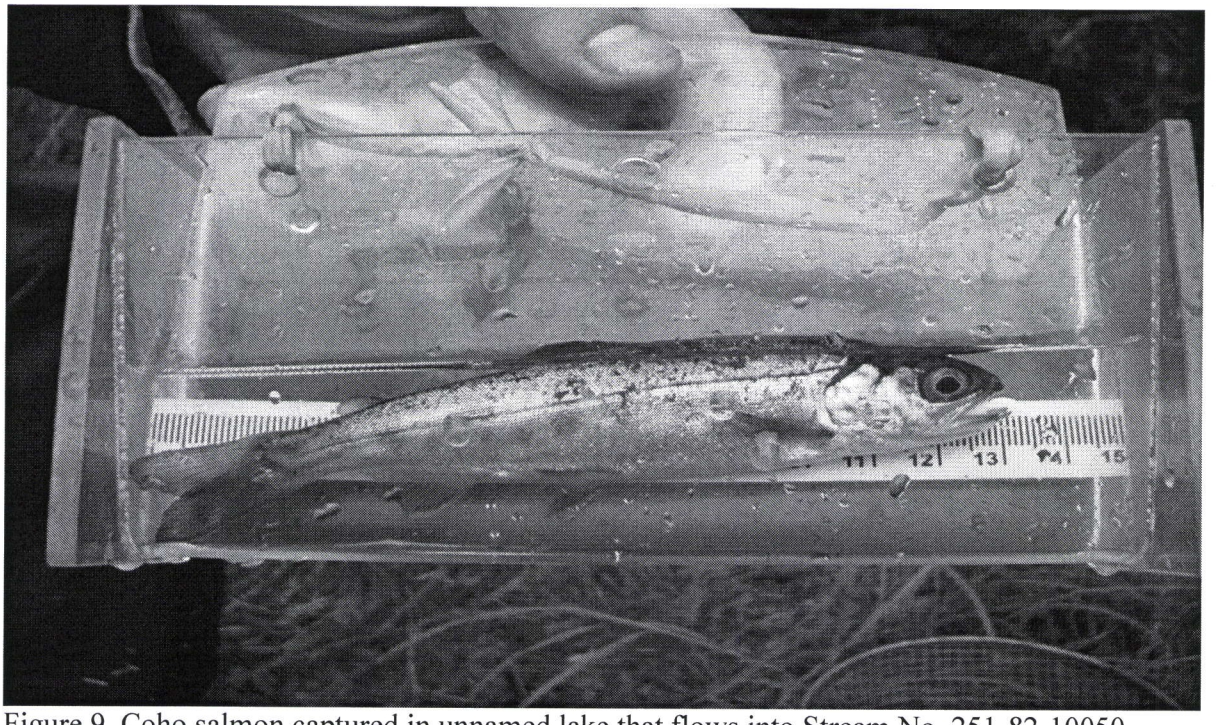

Figure 9. Coho salmon captured in unnamed lake that flows into Stream No. 251-82-10050-2039.

cc: S. Schrof, ADF&G
N. Svoboda, ADF&G
D. Tracy, ADF&G
A. Ott, ADF&G
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