

State of Alaska
 Department of Fish and Game
 Nomination for Waters
 Important to Anadromous Fish

AWC Volume SE SC SW W AR IN USGS Quad Anc B-7
 Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 247-50-10160-2020
 Name of Waterway Little Peter's Cr. USGS name X Local name _____
 Addition X Deletion _____ Correction _____ Backup Information _____

For Office Use

Nomination # <u>97 227</u>	<u>JOB</u>	<u>1/29/98</u>
Revision Year: _____	Regional Supervisor	Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____	<u>Ed Wain</u>	<u>1/23/98</u>
Both <u>X</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>4/3/98</u>
Revision Code: <u>A-2</u>	Drafted	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration	Anadromous
<u>King</u>	<u>Early August, 1996</u>	<u>X 3 samples</u>		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>

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 any other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

Comments: Observed by Dan Rutz early August
RIGHT NEXT TO NEW LAG CABIN, WHERE ROAD CROSSES CREEK.

ALASKA DEPT. OF
 FISH & GAME

JAN 14 1997

REGION II
 HABITAT RESTORATION
 DIVISION

Name of Observer (please print) _____
 Date: Aug 97 Signature: David Rutz
 Address: _____

This certifies that in my best professional judgement and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes per AS 16.05.870.

Signature of Area Biologist: _____

Weiss, Ed

From: Stratton, Barry
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 1997 11:47 AM
To: Weiss, Ed
Subject: RE: Kings? Thunderbird Creek and Peters Creek

Ed, I went thru the files in my office and only found one item of interest. A memo dated 9/30/87 by Kevin Delaney references Peters Creek and states "Peters Creek supports runs of chinook (25-100 fish)," I couldn't find any other references to the streams in question. Stop by if you want to make a copy.

From: Weiss, Ed
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 1997 8:11 AM
To: Hoffmann, Andrew; Stratton, Barry; Gilleland, Cevin; Bartlett, Larry D.; Rutz, David Steven
Subject: Kings? Thunderbird Creek and Peters Creek

As a result of several rumors and a nomination for King spawning in Little Peters Creek by Dave Rutz, I am looking for further documentation that there are King Salmon utilizing any of the following streams: Eklutna River, Thunderbird Creek, Little Peters Creek, or Peters Creek. I have heard several rumors from people about King salmon in some of these streams but have not yet received any nominations other than Daves for Little Peters Creek. Thunderbird Creek and Little Peters Creek are not listed in the AWC and Eklutna R. and Peters Ck. Are not specified for King salmon use. Yesterday an applicant inquired about installing a culvert in Little Peters Creek and at the time the information from Dave was unknown. If any of you have any first hand knowledge of King salmon presence in these streams or know of someone who does could you please forward that to me via email. Thank you.

Steve Albert
Habitat Division
Anchorage

September 30, 1987

Kevin Delaney *KD*
Sport Fish Division

Anchorage Area Streams
Ski Resort Development

The Anchorage area includes all drainages from Eklutna River on the north to Ingram Creek on the south. Although Sport Fish Division conducts fisheries projects in the area each year, the work is typically low budget and variable. Consequently we do not have a complete data base of salmon escapements by species by year for any of the area waters. What we do have however, is a list of species present, timing of critical life history events and estimates of their range of abundance in most streams. You have requested information on Indian and Peters creeks and Eklutna and Eagle rivers.

Indian Creek is a small clearwater stream draining the southwest side of the Chugach range into Turnagain Arm. Indian Creek is closed to chinook salmon fishing but open to fishing for other salmon and resident fish from August 15 through June 30. Indian Creek supports runs of chinook salmon (less than 50 fish), coho salmon (50-200 fish) and pink salmon (even year only, 200-1,000 fish). Greater numbers of salmon including some sockeye and chum salmon are present at the mouth of Indian Creek during the months of July and August but most of these fish are bound for other Turnagain Arm streams. Dolly Varden and a few rainbow trout are also found in Indian Creek. The lower mile of the stream supports a very minor sport fishery due both to the limited numbers of fish and the lack of public access to the stream.

Peters Creek is a semi-glacial stream draining the north side of Chugach State Park into Knik Arm. Peters Creek is closed to chinook salmon fishing but is open to fishing for other salmon year round below the Old Glenn Highway. The creek is open to fishing for resident fish year round. Peters Creek supports runs of chinook salmon (25-100 fish), coho salmon (50-500 fish) and pink salmon (even year only, 100-2,000 fish). Greater numbers of salmon including some sockeye and chum salmon are present at the mouth of Peters Creek during the months of July and August but most of these fish are bound for other Knik Arm tributaries, or the ADF&G Big Lake or the Cook Inlet Aquaculture hatcheries.

Eagle River is a semi-glacial stream draining the northwest side of the Chugach mountains. Presently, no fishing for chinook salmon is allowed in the drainage while fishing for other salmon is permitted only downstream of the Glenn Highway. Fishing for resident fish is permitted throughout

the year except in the portion of the South Fork downstream of the falls where fishing is permitted only from August 15 through May 31. Chinook salmon escapement in Eagle River varies from approximately 250 to 1,500 fish with most of the spawning generally taking place in the South Fork. Sockeye salmon are also relatively abundant (1,000-5,000 fish) with many of these fish utilizing the sloughs on the east side near the Park headquarters. Coho salmon escapement ranges from approximately 500 to 2,000 fish annually while pinks (even year only) can vary in abundance from 500 to possibly 10,000 fish. A portion of the coho and chum salmon in the intertidal area are bound for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture hatchery.

Since the construction of the Eklutna Dam, the primary water source for the Eklutna River as it crosses the Glenn Highway is from Thunderbird Creek. Most of the salmon observed at the mouth of this river are bound for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture hatchery.

Fishing effort in Eagle River since 1980 has ranged from an estimated 1,838 to 5,387 angler-days with the harvest split primarily between rainbow trout and Dolly Varden (Mills, 1981-1986; Alaska Statewide Sport Fish Harvest Studies). Mills estimated that fishing effort in the Anchorage area (from the Eklutna River south to Portage Creek) was less than 1,000 angler-days in 1985 for those systems not listed in the survey. This would include Peters Creek, Eklutna River, and Indian Creek. As all the streams are closed to fishing for chinook salmon, the limited harvest was divided between the four salmon species, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden.

As you can see, studies on these systems have been limited. Money was never allocated to afford us the opportunities to diligently pursue fisheries research on these streams. Some project possibilities would include a more complete monitoring of annual salmon escapements by species and the inventory of abundance and distribution of resident fish. Habitat improvement projects such as improving rearing areas and resident fish habitat to increase fish production and fishing opportunities in these systems would also be considered. The potential for enhancement of chinook and coho salmon through habitat improvements, hatchery assistance, or the use of on-site incubation systems also have good possibilities. Portions of these streams would also be good candidates for stocking of resident fish to improve sport fishing opportunities. Expansion of existing fisheries coupled with increased access and viewing opportunities would add much to fisheries in the Anchorage area.

cc: Kent Roth