

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

JUN 23 1997

REGION II
HABITAT AND RESTORATION
DIVISION
USGS Quad Cordova C-5

AWC Volume SE SC SW W AR IN

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 221-10-10050

Name of Waterway Eccles Creek + 2 unnamed tributaries
USGS name same Local name Whiskey Cr. Eggbar Cr.

Addition X Deletion _____ Correction _____ Backup Information _____

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Nomination # | <u>98 001</u> | For Office Use | |
| Revision Year: | | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>12/8/97</u> |
| Revision to: | Atlas _____ Catalog _____ | Regional Supervisor | Date |
| | Both <u>X</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>11/19/97</u> |
| Revision Code: | <u>B-1, A-2</u> | AWC Project Biologist | Date |
| | | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>12/12/97</u> |
| | | Drafted | Date |

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

| Species | Date(s) Observed | Spawning | Rearing | Migration | Anadromous |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Cutthroat Trout | 5/11-13/97 | X | | | X |
| Cutthroat Trout | 6/18/97 | | X | | X |
| Coho Salmon | 6/18/97 | | X | | 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: See attached sheet

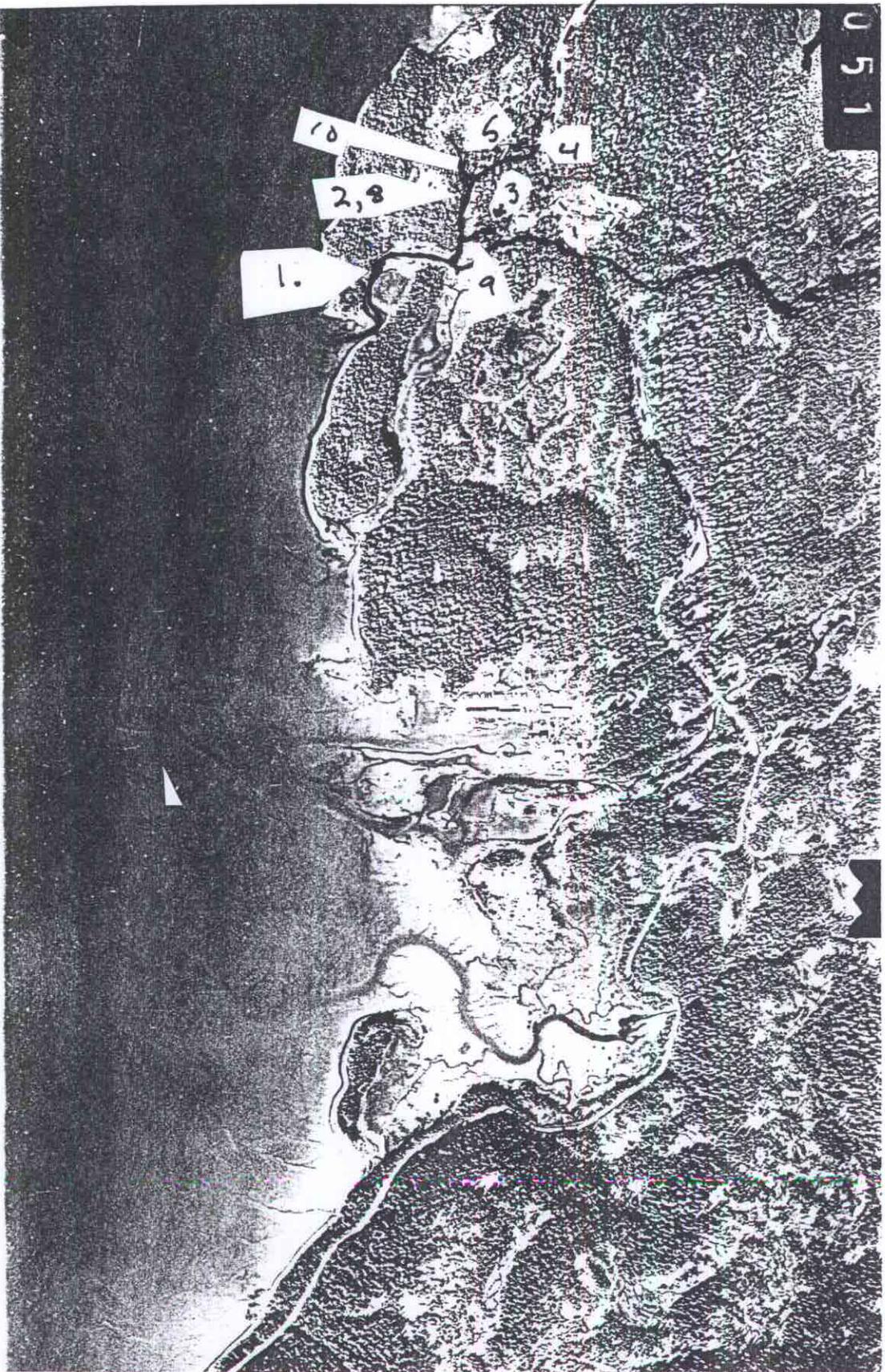
Name of Observer (please print) James K. (Ken) Hodges
Date: 6/18/97 Signature: [Signature]
Address: P.O. Box 280 (U.S. Forest Service)
Cordova, AK 99574 907-424-7661

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 Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes per AS 16.05.870.

Signature of Area Biologist: [Signature] 6-19-97
NOMFOR-1.XLS



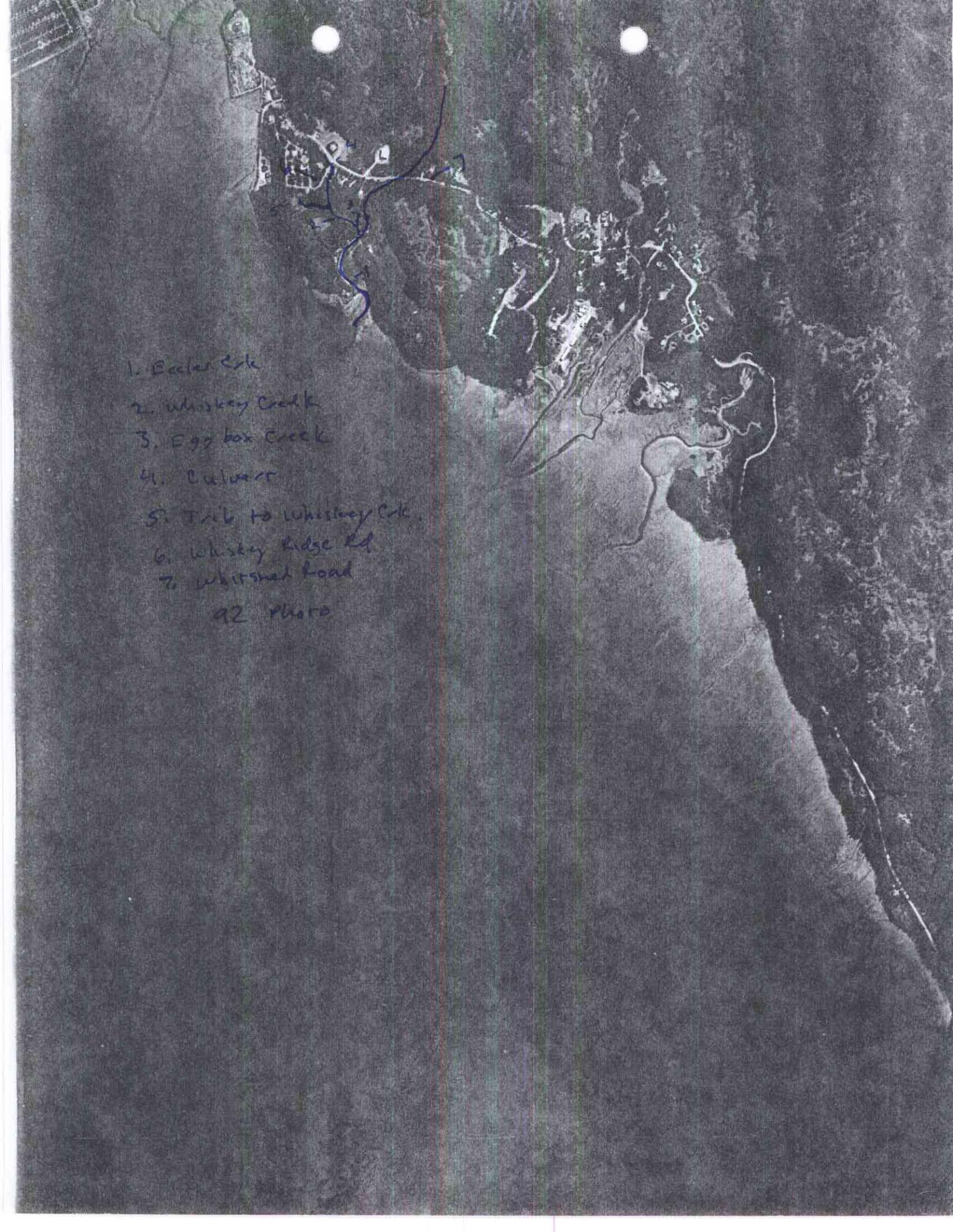
To Cordova
Whirshed Road

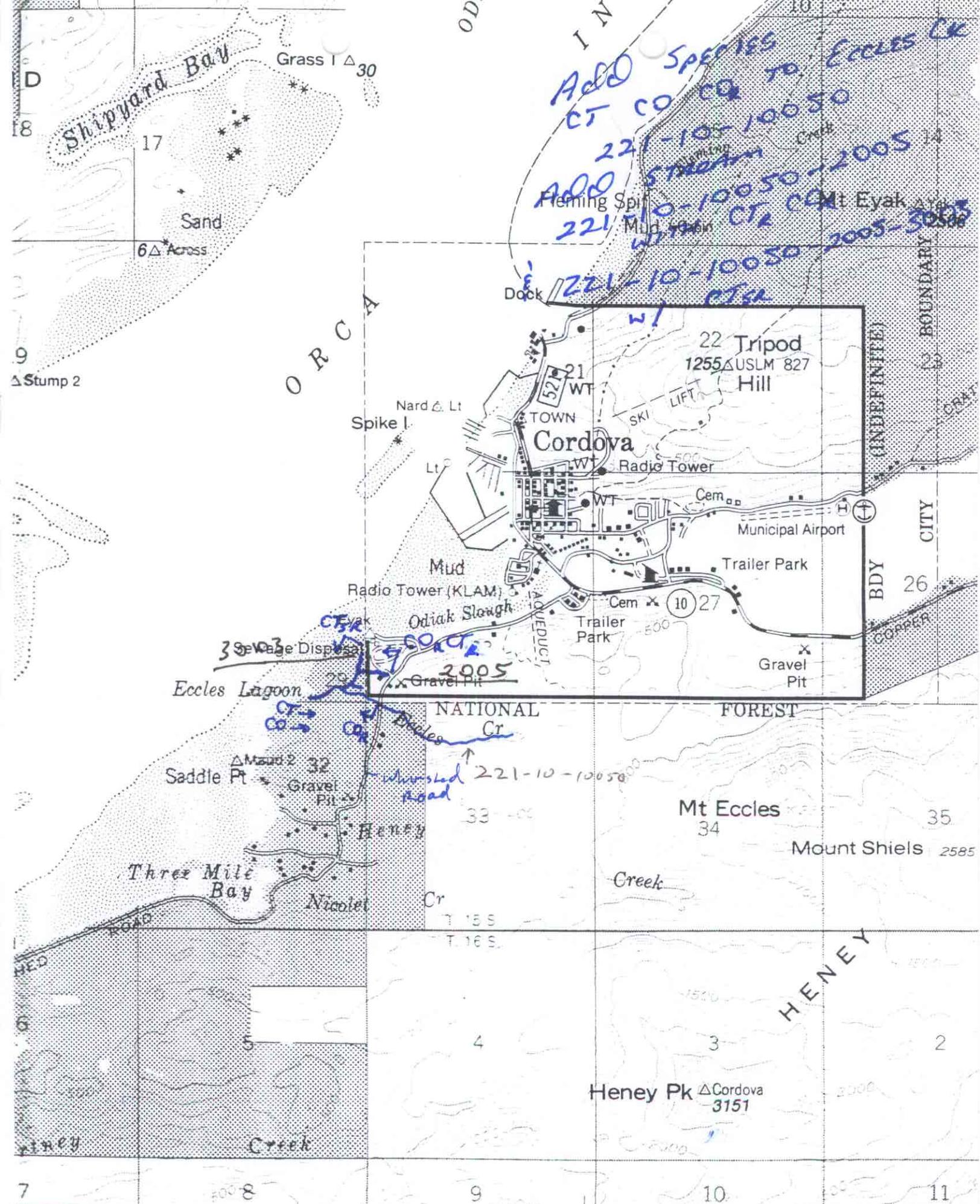


1. Eccles Creek
2. whiskey Creek
3. Eggsbox creek
4. Culvert -
End of whiskey
Creek
5. Trib to whiskey
Creek
8. Juvenile cutthroat
spotted
9. 3 juvenile
cutthroat observed
10. 2 spawning
adult cutthroat

Coho fry observed
in whiskey Creek
and Eccles Creek
upstream to culvert +
Whirshed Rd
respectively.

scale 4"/mile

- 
1. Beeler Crk
 2. Whiskey Creek
 3. Egg box Creek
 4. Culvert
 5. Trib to Whiskey Crk
 6. Whiskey Ridge Rd
 7. Whitshed Road
- 92 photo



ADD SPECIES
 CT CO CA TO ECCLES CR
 221-10-10050
 ADD STREAM
 WITH CT CA 2005
 221-10-10050
 2005-3050

3003
 2005
 2005

221-10-10050

HENEY

540 000 FEET

45'

CRYSTAL FALLS I.6

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cordova Ranger
District

P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK
99574

Reply to: 2610

Date: June 18, 1997

Alaska Dept. Fish and Game
Habitat Division
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518

Comments for the nomination of an addition to the Anadromous Catalog

Several local residents informed me that they have observed cutthroat trout in Eccles Creek (221-10-10050, Cordova C-5 quadrangle) and two tributaries known locally as Whiskey Creek and Eggbox Creek. They have also told me that coho salmon use these creeks and that chum salmon use Eccles Creek. At the present time, the Anadromous Catalog documents only the presence of pink salmon in Eccles Creek. These creeks run along a boardwalk trail which leads to the informants' houses. Thus, these people are able to observe the fish in the creeks on a daily basis. Michelle O'Leary has watched the fish for 20 years.

Anita Smyke stated that she saw two cutthroat trout 10-12" long in a small tributary to Whiskey Creek approximately 35 yards upstream from their junction. She is a former Forest Service biotech, having worked in Cordova and Seward. She has a degree in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in fisheries. Dana Smyke reported seeing these fish in the same spot digging a redd. He described the process accurately. The fish were at the site from 5/11-13, 1997. I observed the site several days after the fish had departed, and although the shape of the redd may have been altered by high flows, it did appear that the fish had spawned there. The creek is only about 2 feet wide and 4-6" deep, but this is similar to other areas where I have seen cutthroat trout spawn. Dana and Anita Smyke: P.O. Box 2022 Cordova 99574.

Michelle O'Leary reported seeing cutthroat trout in a pool at the junction of Whiskey Creek and Eccles Creek this year, and has frequently seen fish in these two creeks and Eggbox Creek over the past 20 years. She stated that she has seen 10-60 cutthroat trout gathered in pools in Eccles Creek. The fish she has seen are generally 8-10". Although these fish are rather small for anadromous cutthroat trout, the fact that there is little habitat available for larger fish in these creeks during the summer and that these fish are gathering in pools 100 yards from tidewater makes me believe they are anadromous. She has also reported seeing chum salmon in Eccles Creek and coho salmon in Whiskey Creek and Eccles Creek. Michelle O'Leary: P.O. Box 1052. Cordova 99574.

On 6/18/97 I observed 3 juvenile cutthroat trout in Eggbox Creek about 30 yards upstream from its junction with Whiskey Creek. Two fish were about 3" and one was about 4". I also saw one 3" juvenile cutthroat in Whiskey Creek about 150 yards upstream from the junction with Eccles Creek. I observed these fish for several minutes apiece, so I am positive of the identification. I observed

numerous coho salmon fry and 1+ juveniles in Eccles Creek upstream to Whitshed Road and in Whiskey Creek upstream to the culvert at Whiskey Ridge Road.

I feel that it is important to list these creeks as anadromous waters for cutthroat trout because of the number of adult fish Ms. O'Leary has reported seeing. The Forest Service has operated a weir on Mile 18 Creek (which has about 11 miles of good fish habitat) for five years and the number of adult cutthroat has ranged from about 40-100. We have also conducted spawning and redd surveys for three years in another nearby system and have never seen more than 30-40 fish and a dozen redds. Thus, since the populations in this area are generally small, the Eccles Creek watershed may be a relatively important cutthroat system.

James K. Hodges



Fisheries Biologist USFS