



State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form  
Fish Distribution Database

JB

Region Southeast USGS Quad(s) Yakutat A-2  
 Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway 182-20-10100 -2001  
 Name of Waterway East Alsek River  USGS Name  Local Name  
 Addition  Deletion  Correction  Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination #	<u>06-513</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/19/06</u>
		ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision Year:	<u>2007</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/19/06</u>
Revision to:	Atlas _____ Catalog _____	ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	Date
	Both <u>X</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/09/06</u>
Revision Code:	<u>A-2</u>	FDD Project Biologist	Date
		<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/31/06</u>
		Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
coho salmon	07/20/2006		✓		✓
sockeye salmon	07/20/2006		✓		✓

**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:

This stream drains nearby wetlands. Aerial photos and the USGS map suggests that the stream discharges in the East Alsek River, although we did not verify this on-site. We trapped 13 coho and 5 sockeye salmon using a beach seine. Please refer to "Site 7" in the attached trip report for more information.  
 Coordinates (Lat\Long): Upper(59.1061\138.4196) Lower(59.1030\138.4195)

Add new stream 182-20-10100-2001 w/COR SR

Name of Observer (please print): Kate Kanouse  
 Signature: 205.166.26.233 (Web Nomination) Date: 10/02/2006  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: DNR/OHMP DNR/OHMP  
Juneau, AK 99811

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Revision 02/05  
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): \_\_\_\_\_



# MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Habitat Management and Permitting

TO: Jackie Timothy  
Juneau Area Manager

DATE: August 22, 2006

FILE NO:

THRU:

SUBJECT: Dry Bay ORV Trails  
Trip Report

FROM: Kate Kanouse  
Habitat Biologist

KK

TELEPHONE NO: 465-4290

## Background

The National Park Service (NPS) is publishing an Off-Road-Vehicle Environmental Assessment for the Dry Bay area in preparation for formally designating off road vehicle (ORV) trails and stream crossings. The ORV trails are used to access remote hunting and fishing sites and several lodges. Dry Bay resources are primarily used for sport fish and hunting purposes, although some historic commercial fishery operations remain. During July 19-22, I accompanied in the field Gordie Woods and George Weekley with Fish & Game, and the following staff with NPS: Glen Yankus, Chad Soiseth, Allison Banks, Bud Rice, Bill Eichenlaub, and Dry Bay Ranger Jim Capra.

## Methods

We trapped stream crossings identified by NPS that were likely to remain open for ORV use, stream crossings having unknown fate, and identified and trapped stream crossings where anadromous fish presence was unknown. Some streams identified in the *Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* (Catalog) were also trapped to update the upstream extent of fish use and species present. When sampling for juvenile fish presence, we used ¼" mesh minnow traps baited with salmon eggs and retrieved them after about two hours. We accessed each site by ATV or by foot. Site specific trapping data is summarized in the attached Table A.

## Doame River

### ***Site 1: Doame River wetland drainage (not cataloged)***

We located an un-cataloged, low-flow drainage about 600' west of the Doame River that flooded an abandoned ORV trail (see Photo 1). Several salmonids were observed swimming in the tire-track channel, we captured coho and stickleback in five traps. This ephemeral channel probably connects to the Doame River or neighboring streams during high flows or floods, and is created by channeling water from nearby wetlands. If the deeply incised abandoned ORV trail was not present, I doubt this channel would exist. New ORV trails that bypass the drainage are established on both sides of the channel and do not cross the drainage.



Photo 1. Doame River wetland drainage.



Photo 2. Lake southeast of the EAR.

### **East Alsek River (EAR)**

#### ***Site 2: EAR crossing (cataloged)***

East Alsek River (Stream No. 182-20-10100) is cataloged for the presence of coho, chum, king, pink and sockeye salmon and Dolly Varden. The EAR crossing is about 100' wide and 1-2' deep. The stream crossing banks are not armored for erosion protection, and the substrate in the river is small rock (averaging 2-4" diameter) with some organic debris and silt. Although ORV tracks through the bank vegetation are evident, the crossing is not marked and could be confusing to navigate for unfamiliar ORV users. We did not sample for fish. If the EAR crossing remains open, I recommend sculpting and hardening the stream entrance banks and clearly identifying the crossing. Because the stream crossing has stable natural rock, no hardening of the streambed would be necessary.

#### ***Site 3: Lake southeast of EAR crossing (not cataloged)***

About 300' southeast of the EAR crossing, we located an un-cataloged lake that drains adjacent wetlands and may provide overflow relief to the EAR during flood events (see Photo 2). Three traps set in the lake captured coho and sockeye salmon and stickleback. Aerial photographs suggest that the lake's two stream outlets drain directly to the EAR. The adjacent ORV trail probably does not impact this lake system, except if trail erosion runoff drains to the lake during wet conditions. I will nominate this lake and outlet stream for inclusion in the Catalog.

#### ***Site 4: Lake outlet crossing southwest of EAR crossing (not cataloged)***

Along the ORV trail about ¼ mile southwest from the EAR crossing, the trail crosses a 10' wide, un-cataloged lake and outlet drainage (see Photo 3). Aerial photographs indicate that the outlet drains directly to the EAR a few hundred feet downstream, although we did not verify this. Seven traps set in the lake and outlet captured coho and sockeye salmon and stickleback. Some bank undercutting near the narrow crossing entrances are evident, and small rock appears to have been placed in the streambed to strengthen the crossing. If this crossing remains open, it should be clearly marked and the banks sculpted for entry and hardened. Additional hardening of the streambed may also be beneficial. I will nominate this lake and outlet drainage for inclusion in the Catalog.

#### ***Site 5: Small pool in the ORV trail about 1 mile west of EAR (not cataloged)***

About 1 mile west of EAR along the trail, we observed several dead coho and stickleback in a small isolated pool in the trail (see Photo 4). A 2-minute seine tow of about ½ the pool captured coho and sockeye salmon and stickleback. Most of the fish appeared unhealthy, having large heads and skinny bodies, which is probably due to competition within the small pool. We could not identify a nearby

anadromous water body where the fish might have originated, and speculate that the pool would probably not exist if the trail was not deeply incised. The connection might be more obvious during higher flows and could warrant further investigation before making trail maintenance recommendations at this location.



Photo 3. Lake southwest of the EAR.



Photo 4. Small pool in the ORV trail.

**Site 6: Large shallow pond 150' north of the ORV trail, less than a mile west of EAR (not cataloged)**  
This shallow wetland pond is probably not impacted by the ORV trail because of its location, but we were interested if juvenile salmonids occupy the pond. Six traps set throughout the pond captured stickleback, and we did not observe any other species.

**Site 7: Lower EAR wetland drainage (not cataloged)**  
This drainage has experienced significant bank erosion from ORV crossings, from wave action undercutting the banks and a deeply incised track, causing the drainage to backwater along the perpendicular trail (see Photo 5). Two seine tows captured hundreds coho and sockeye salmon and stickleback. Due to the erosion situation and because the western portion of this loop trail provides access to the area, this crossing should be closed. I will nominate this drainage for inclusion in the Catalog.



Photo 5. Lower EAR wetland drainage (trail).

### **Dog Salmon Creek**

**Site 8: Upper Dog Salmon Creek crossing (cataloged)**

Stream No. 182-20-10500 (local name Dog Salmon Creek) is cataloged for spawning sockeye and chum salmon. Four traps set up and downstream of the crossing captured coho and sockeye salmon and stickleback. The banks and crossing appears to have been hardened previously using gravel from an unknown source. The stream is about 60' wide and 1-2' deep, has clearly identified crossing entrances with silt and organic debris accumulations adjacent to the crossing, and obvious adjacent bank undercutting (likely from the wave action associated with crossings). Due to frequent use, regular hardening maintenance of the crossing may be necessary. I will update the Catalog listing to include rearing coho.

**Site 9: Lower Dog Salmon Creek, main channel crossing (cataloged)**

This crossing does not appear to be frequently used. The overgrown vegetation and deeply incised trail probably make this trail inaccessible during wetter times of the year. The streambed substrate at the crossing site is gravel with sand and some organic debris, and the stream crossing banks have not been stabilized. Six traps set above and below the stream crossing captured coho and stickleback. Because a safer, more defined crossing is available upstream, this crossing should be closed.

**Site 10: Lower Dog Salmon Creek, western fork crossing (cataloged)**

This stream is cataloged as a distributary of Dog Salmon Creek. Streambed substrate consisted mostly of gravel and sand. A 60-second seine tow captured coho and sockeye salmon, stickleback, starry flounder and staghorn sculpin. ORV tire tracks are evident in the overgrown vegetation in the trail, and navigation across the stream is difficult because the banks are not stabilized. Because a safer, more defined crossing is available upstream, this crossing should also be closed.



Photo 6. Lower Dog Salmon Creek drainage.

**Site 11: Lower Dog Salmon Creek wetland drainage (catalog information unknown)**

Although we did not sample for fish, this drainage probably does not connect to Dog Salmon Creek (see Photo 6). Stickleback were observed several hundred feet up and downstream of the crossing. Primary streambed substrate is small rock. Because a safer, more defined crossing is available in the upper reach of Dog Salmon Creek, this crossing should also be closed.

**Site 12: Lower Dog Salmon Creek, western-most distributary (catalog information unknown)**

This 4' wide, 2-6" deep sandy stream has no defined channel. Two juvenile sockeye were hand-caught while swimming downstream. Because other salmonids were observed, we presume this small stream is a distributary of Dog Salmon Creek, although we did not verify this. Because of the fragile nature of this stream, and because a safer, more defined crossing is available in the upper reach of Dog Salmon Creek, this crossing should also be closed.



Photo 7. Dog Salmon Creek estuary.

**Site 13: Lower Dog Salmon Creek, estuarine crossing (cataloged)**

The estuarine crossing of Dog Salmon is heavily tidally influenced (see Photo 7), and only accessible during low tide and low flows. Evidence of any ORV crossing is washed away with each tidal cycle. Due to the limited access, ORV crossings probably only occur when few fish are present, thereby causing minimal impacts to salmonids. Stream substrate at the crossing consisted of sand with some natural gravel, and may cause temporary increased sedimentation during ORV crossings. Efforts to stabilize or clearly mark the crossing would probably be washed away in the next tide or flood. We did not sample for fish.

## **Alsek River**

### ***Site 14: East slough of Alsek River (cataloged)***

Two seine tows captured starry flounders and staghorn sculpin, no salmonids were observed. This backwatered slough is cataloged as part of Alsek River (see Photo 8). Stream crossing access is only available during low tides and low flows, as this reach is heavily tidally influenced. The substrate of this crossing site and of the greater tidal flats area is loose sand and silt. Thus, other than increased sedimentation, ORV crossings at this slough probably have few long-term impacts to fish. Efforts to stabilize or clearly mark the crossing site would probably be washed away during the next tide or flood.



Photo 8. East slough of Alsek River.

### ***Site 15: Isolated pools on abandoned trail adjacent to the Dry Bay tidal flats (not cataloged)***

We located several small pools flooding an abandoned trail, the largest pool was about knee-deep and 20' x 20' (see Photo 9). The pools probably result from lack of trail maintenance; trail access is now obtained along the tidal flats. Although we did not sample for fish, we did not observe any salmonids and doubt any connection to anadromous waters occurs. However, during high water the pools may connect to one another and flood the trail.



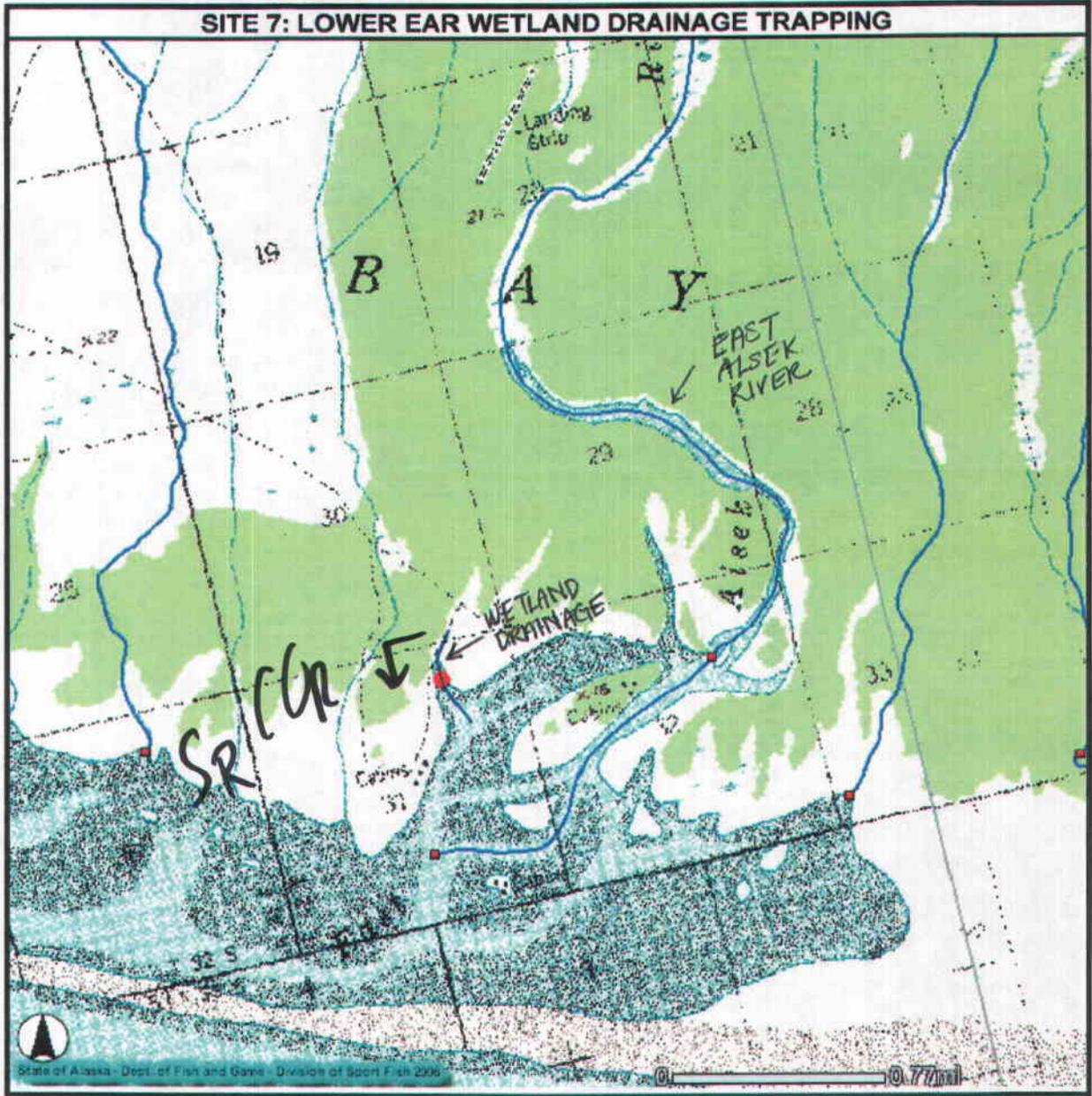
Photo 9. Isolated pools on abandoned trail.

TABLE A: DRY BAY AREA TRAPPING DATA JULY 19-22, 2006  
 PROJECT: DRY BAY NPS ORV TRAIL DESIGNATIONS  
 FIELD BIOLOGISTS: KATE KANOUSE (OHMP), CHAD SOISETH (NPS)

Trip Report Site No.	Trap No.	CATALOG NO.	TRIB OF TRIB CATALOG NO.	LOCATION OF TRAP	(DATUM: WGS 84)			SPECIES* COUNT NOTES
					LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DOWNSTREAM	
1	1	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	200' WEST OF DOAME RIVER	59.0897	138.3680	TSB	1 DOWNSTREAM
1	2	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	30' UPSTREAM OF TRAP 1	59.0897	138.3680	TSB	7
1	3	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	300' UPSTREAM OF TRAP 2	59.0903	138.3674	TSB	33
1	4	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	50' UPSTREAM OF TRAP 3	59.0903	138.3674	TSB	29
1	5	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	30' UPSTREAM OF TRAP 4	59.0901	138.3673	CO	2 DRAINAGE ENDS ABOUT 50' UPSTREAM
1	5	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	30' UPSTREAM OF TRAP 4	59.0901	138.3673	TSB	47
3	7	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG N SHORE	59.1037	138.3863	CO	4
3	7	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG N SHORE	59.1037	138.3863	TSB	1
3	8	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG S SHORE	59.1037	138.3863	CO	5
3	9	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG N SHORE	59.1037	138.3863	CO	7
3	9	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG N SHORE	59.1037	138.3863	S	1
4	10	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	51
4	11	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	S	1
4	11	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	51
4	12	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG E SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	CO	1
4	12	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG E SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	15
4	13	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG E SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	CO	1
4	13	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN POND ALONG E SHORE	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	8
4	14	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	CO	1
4	14	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	S	1
4	14	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	1
4	15	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	CO	2
4	15	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	S	1
4	15	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	54
4	16	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	IN LAKE OUTLET STREAM	59.1032	138.3989	TSB	154
5	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	SEINED ABOUT 1/2 THE POND	59.1082	138.4178	S	12 SEVERAL DEAD CO AND TSB WERE
5	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	SEINED ABOUT 1/2 THE POND	59.1082	138.4178	CO	50 OBSERVED, MANY OF THE CAPTURED FISH
5	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	UNKNOWN	SEINED ABOUT 1/2 THE POND	59.1082	138.4178	TSB	250 APPEARED UNHEALTHY
6	22	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	TSB	32
6	23	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	TSB	99
6	24	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	TSB	113
6	25	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	-	- NO FISH IN TRAP
6	26	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	TSB	3
6	27	NOT CATALOGED	NONE	IN POND ALONG W SHORE	59.1079	138.4138	TSB	1
7	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1043	138.4227	CO	13
7	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1043	138.4227	S	5
7	SEINED	NOT CATALOGED	182-20-10100	SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1043	138.4227	TSB	200
8	17	182-20-10500		20' DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	CO	2
8	18	182-20-10500		30' DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	CO	3

Trip Report Site No.	Trap No.	CATALOG NO.	TRIB OF TRIB CATALOG NO.	LOCATION OF TRAP	(DATUM: WGS 84)			SPECIES* COUNT NOTES
					LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		
8	18	182-20-10500		30' DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	S 1	
8	18	182-20-10500		30' DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	TSB 2	
8	19	182-20-10500		20' UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	CO 2	
8	19	182-20-10500		20' UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	S 1	
8	19	182-20-10500		20' UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	TSB 1	
8	20	182-20-10500		30' UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1409	138.4873	- NO FISH IN TRAP	
9	28	182-20-10500		UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 7	
9	29	182-20-10500		UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 5	
9	30	182-20-10500		UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 1	
9	30	182-20-10500		UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	TSB 1	
9	31	182-20-10500		DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 10	
9	31	182-20-10500		DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	TSB 1	
9	32	182-20-10500		DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 3	
9	32	182-20-10500		DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	TSB 1	
9	33	182-20-10500		DOWNSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4761	CO 48	
10	SEINED	182-20-10500		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1125	138.4850	CO 60	
10	SEINED	182-20-10500		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1125	138.4850	S 2	
10	SEINED	182-20-10500		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1125	138.4850	TSB 200	
10	SEINED	182-20-10500		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1125	138.4850	SF 6	
10	SEINED	182-20-10500		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1125	138.4850	SC 5	
12	-	182-20-10500		100' UPSTREAM OF CROSSING	59.1124	138.4859	S 2 HAND-CAPTURED	
14	SEINED	181-30-10100		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1379	138.5483	SF 2	
14	SEINED	181-30-10100		SEINED THE TRAIL CROSSING	59.1379	138.5483	SC 3	

\*Species codes: CO=coho salmon, S=sockeye salmon, TSB=threespine stickleback, SF=starry flounder, SC=staghorn sculpin



Add new stream 182-20-10100-2001  
w/ COR & SR  
Use line drawing for hydrography