State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Anadromous Waters Catalog

Region: Southeastern

USGS Quad(s): Skagway B-1

Anadromous Waters Catalog Number of Waterway: 115-34-10230 -2006

Name of Waterway: Taiya River ☑ USGS Name ☐ Local Name

☑ Addition ☐ Deletion ☐ Correction ☐ Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination #: 12-591

Revision Year: 2013

Revision to: Atlas ____ Both X

Revision Code: ~~A2d~~, B2

	Fisheries Scientist	Date
	Habitat Operations Manager	Date
	AWC Project Biologist	10/22/12 Date
	Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
sockeye salmon	09/27/2012		✓		

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: species ID questioned

Ten (10)juvenile sockeye salmon (approx. 60 mm fork length)were captured with an aquarium net in a off-channel pool between Dyea Road and the Taiya River near Taiya Inlet. The pool is connected to the river and appears to flood at certain tide levels. Juvenile coho salmon were also present in the pool.

Coordinates (Lat,Long): Upper(59.4991,-135.3458) Lower(59.4991,-135.3458)

Add new stream 115-34-10230-2006 w/ sockeye salmon Rearing
Add sockeye Salmon present to 115-34-10230

Name of Observer (please print): John Hudson

Signature: 146.63.61.200 (Web Nomination) Date: 09/27/2012

Agency:

Address: Juneau Fish and Wildlife Field Office Juneau Fish

Juneau, AK 99801

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: _____ Revision 02/08

Name of Area Biologist (please print):

Sr
Sp
Add new stream 115-34-10230-2006
< 660 ft w/sockeye salmon rearing
add sockeye salmon present to
115-34-10230
CHp,COp,Kp,Pp,Sp,DVp,OUp

Johnson, J D (DFG)

SKAGWAY B-1
12-591

From: Timothy, Jackie L (DFG)
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:58 PM
To: Johnson, J D (DFG); Daigneault, Michael J (DFG)
Cc: Ott, Alvin G (DFG); John Hudson; Steve_Brockmann@fws.gov
Subject: FW: Dyea Road comments
Attachments: Taiya River Sockeye Nomination

Categories: Red Category

Hi J and Mike –

John Hudson submitted a nomination for sockeye salmon in the Taiya River. I've spoken with John and we agree the nomination should be held for now as additional investigation is warranted. We'll check the critters under the microscope next year.

Thanks. . .Jackie

From: Timothy, Jackie L (DFG)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 11:00 AM
To: 'Steve_Brockmann@fws.gov'
Cc: 'Brody, Matthew T POA'
Subject: RE: Dyea Road comments

Hi Steve –

I'd like to ask a question about sockeye identification since the Taiya River is not cataloged for sockeye.

Habitat biologists from this office have trapped the Taiya River on many occasions finding mostly coho fry with other salmonids, but never sockeye. We've not see adult sockeye in the Taiya during foot surveys. The Taiya Inlet Watershed council did not document sockeye in the Taiya River or any of its tributaries during the 2007 stream condition assessments for Skagway.

The life history of the sockeye juveniles from the nearest systems, the Chilkat and Chilkoot, is well documented. They outmigrate from the Chilkat at 30% 1 check and 70% 2 check, and average about 90 mm fork length and 5 gram weight, clearly too big to be misidentified as sockeye fry. They outmigrate from the Chilkoot mostly 1 check, and occasionally 2 check and average of 75mm fork length and one gram weight. Even if the smaller Chilkoot animals were in the area when your biologists were on site at Hackett Hill, they would have visually presented as sockeye smolts amongst recently hatched coho fry rather than "…sockeye salmon fry".

Did your biologists only visually identify the juvenile salmonids or did they capture and ID? If they captured the animals and verified they were sockeye salmon, that documentation should be provided to J Johnson for inclusion in the AWC.

If only visual identification, and given that after the cold winter we were finding chum alevins in the gravel in the area into July, and after the agency meeting June 28, does it make sense that they could they have mistaken juvenile outmigrating chum salmon juveniles for rearing sockeye salmon fry?

Regardless of this confusion, we agree your recommendations will protect salmonids in the area.

Thanks. . .Jackie

From: Steve_Brockmann@fws.gov [mailto:Steve_Brockmann@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Matthew.T.Brody@usace.army.mil
Cc: James_Ray@fws.gov; Timothy, Jackie L (DFG)
Subject: Dyea Road comments

Matt,

These comments are in regard to POA-2012-743, Taiya Inlet. James Ray of my staff has previously provided comments to John Barnett of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT) regarding this project, particularly with reference to fish habitat quality. In addition, James was able to visit the site in 2011 with Fish and Wildlife Service biologist John Hudson to investigate fish habitat use in the Hackett Hill area. Also, John Hudson participated in an agency meeting at the site on June 28, 2012. Please accept this email as the Juneau Fish and Wildlife Field Office (JFWFO) comments on the current General Permit Agency Coordination notice for this project.

We appreciate ADOT's consideration of our previous comments, regarding the importance of fish habitat in the Hackett Hill area, when developing their compensatory mitigation proposal for this project. JFWFO considers the mitigation currently proposed to be appropriate for unavoidable impacts caused by the project.

With regard to further minimizing impacts in the Hackett Hill area of the project, we have two recommendations:

Large numbers of juvenile fish (often several hundred coho and sockeye salmon fry) have been consistently sampled in isolated pools within the Hackett Hill area at low tide throughout the spring and summer. Currently, there is no protocol outlined in the ADOT construction plan to avoid killing these fish when the isolated pools are filled. We recommend ADOT determine if fish are present in pools immediately prior to filling and remove and relocate fish if necessary. This action will significantly reduce direct impacts to salmonids.

ADOT has proposed that work within Taiya River side channel (Hackett Hill area) not be subject to timing windows under the premise that work will only occur during low tide under predominately dewatered conditions. JFWFO agrees that if work only occurs under low tide predominately dewatered conditions fish should not be present (other than the fish in isolated pools discussed above), and therefore, timing

windows may not be necessary. However, we note that water flow through the side channel can be significant even at low tide at certain times of the year (See pictures in the August 31 2012 ADF&G Trip report by Matthew Kern. Also see attached picture (Photograph 1) taken at agency site visit 06/28/2012). Although we are not suggesting ADOT is proposing to work under the type of flow conditions represented in the above referenced pictures, JFWFO does not consider this level of flow 'predominately dewatered'. We recognize that ADOT likely wants to work in the side channel earlier in the spring to avoid higher flow conditions, which is why they are proposing no in-water work timing windows in this area. However, JFWFO would appreciate additional clarification of the term 'predominately dewatered' as it pertains to how a contractor will determine when conditions are suitable to work. As part of this clarification ADOT should provide an approximate time frame during which the work will likely be conducted in the side channel.

Summary of Recommendations:

Determine if fish are present in pools in the side channel immediately prior to filling and remove/relocate fish if necessary.

Provide clarification on the flow conditions during which work will take place in the Hackett Hill Side Channel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. Please contact James Ray (in the cc list above) if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Steve Brockmann
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