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

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

OCT 13 1992

REGION II
HABITAT DIVISION

AWC Volume (SE) SC SW W AR IN USGS Quad CRAIG B-2

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 102-60-10480-0010-(NEEDS EXTENSION)

Name of Waterway VIRGINIA CREEK . USGS name ~~X~~ Local name X

Addition X Deletion ___ Correction ___ Backup Information ___
(EXTENSION)

For Office Use

Nomination # 93 043

Revision Year: ___

Revision to: Atlas ___ Catalog ___
Both X

Revision Code: A-1

Regional Supervisor — Date 10-9-92

Ed Weiss — 12/15/92

J. Stone — Drafted — Date 1/4/93

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration	Anadromous
COHO	8/18/92	X	X		X

Provide any clarifying information, including number of fish observed, location of fish survey data, etc. Attach a copy of the fish survey data, if available. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and upper points of each species, specific stream reaches identified for spawning or rearing, locations of barriers, such as falls.

Comments:

CURRENTLY CATALOGED TO AND INCLUDING VIRGINIA LAKE. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF REARING COHO FRY OBSERVED AS WELL AS TRAPPED AT TWO LOCATIONS UPSTREAM OF LAKE. UPSTREAM REACH IS APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET WIDE WITH A GRADIENT OF 2-3%. SUBSTRATE IS PREDOMINANTLY GRAVELS AND EXHIBITS EXCEPTIONAL SPAWNING & HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS. WALKED UPSTREAM CONTINUED TO SEE FISH, NO BARRIERS & GOOD HABITAT. DISCONTINUED SURVEY AT BEND (MARK ON MAP) EWD 12/9/92

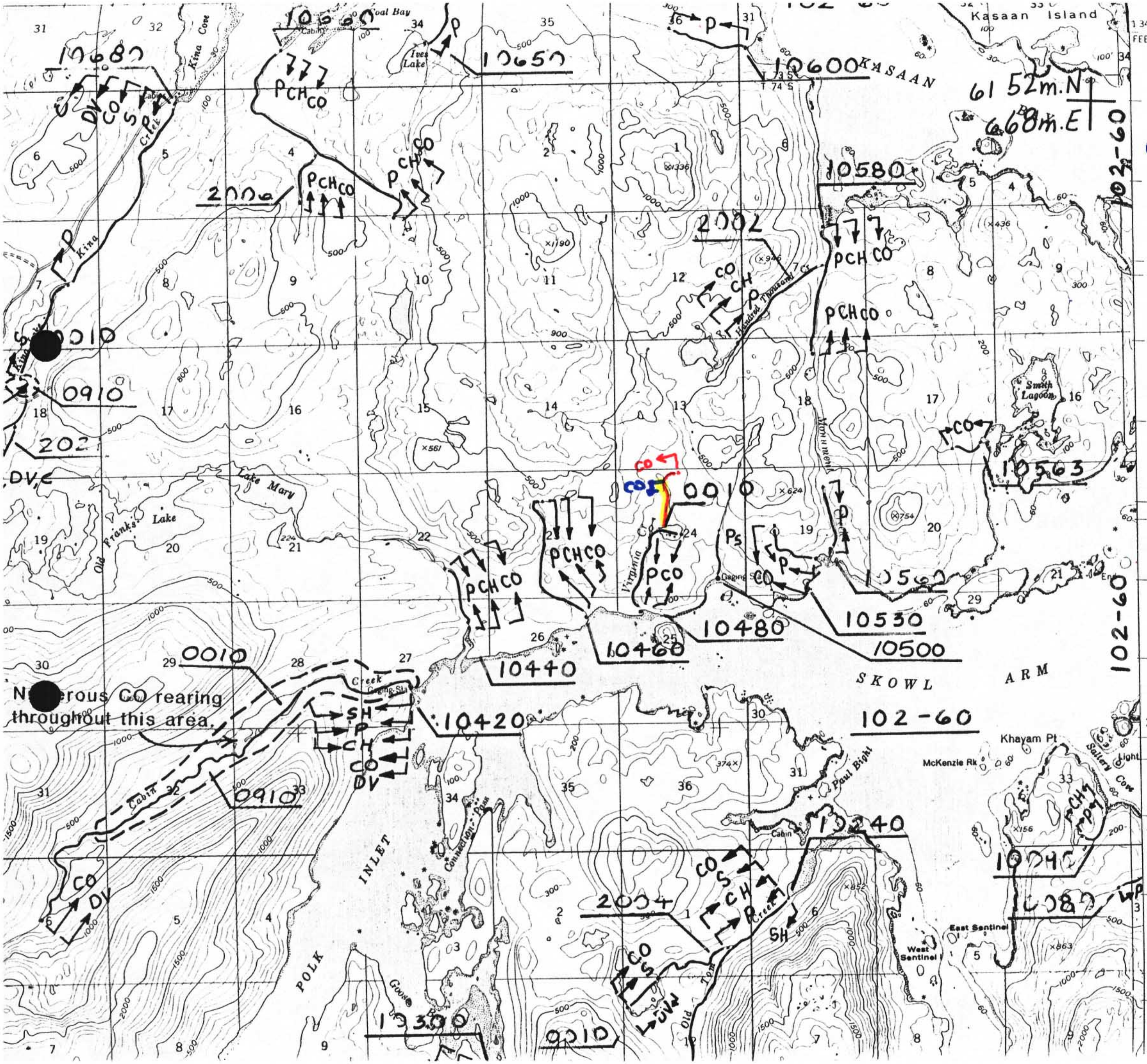
Name of Observer (please print) KEVIN J. HANLEY, HABITAT BIOLOGIST

Date: 9/25/92 Signature: Kevin J. Hanley

Address: ADF&G, HABITAT DIVISION
2030 SEA LEVEL DRIVE, SUITE 205
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

Signature of Area Biologist: Jack Gustafson

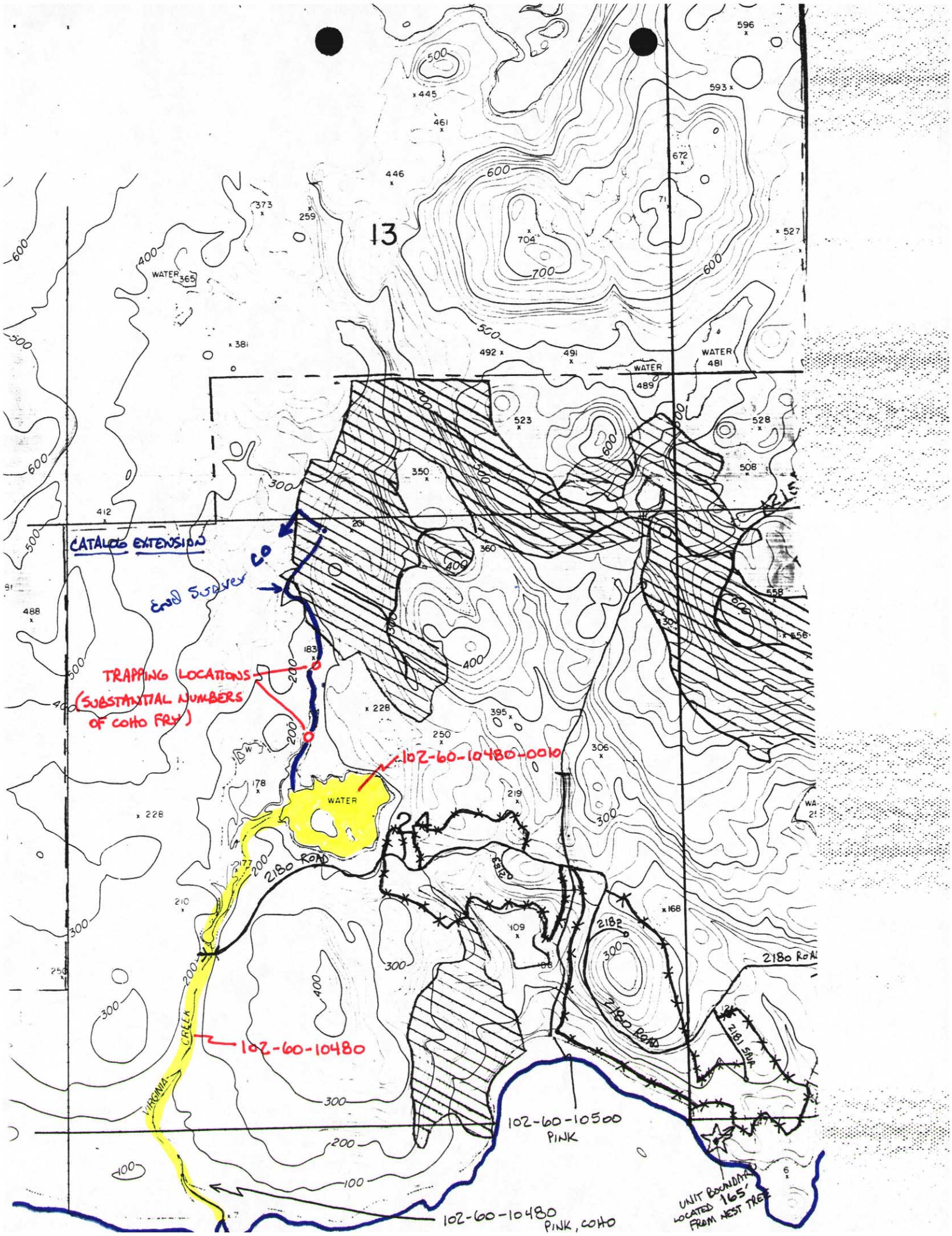
Rev. 12/91


Kasaan Island
KASAAN
1 340 000 FEET
6152m.N
668m.E
Coal Bay
Ives Lake
Kina Cove
Kina Creek
10680
10650
10600
10580
2002
2004
0010
0910
2020
PCHCO
Lake Mary
Old Franks Lake
Hundred Thousand
Monument
Smith Lagoon
Virginia
Gaging Sta
10563
10560
10530
10500
10480
10460
10440
10420
erous CO rearing
throughout this area.
SKOWL ARM
102-60
Khayam Pt
McKenzie Rk
Paul Bight
Sallery Cove
POLK INLET
Connell Pass
Cabin Creek
Old Tom Creek
East Sentinel
West Sentinel I
13240
13300
10040
10080
T. 74 S.
T. 75 S.
25'
Light

CRAIG B-2

EXTEND CATALOGING IN VIRGINIA CREEK

EXTEND ~~ADD~~ STREAM 102-60-10480 w/ CO


CATALOG EXTENSION
END SURVEY
TRAPPING LOCATIONS
(SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF COHO FRY)
102-60-10480-0010
WATER
2180 ROAD
102-60-10480
CREEK
VIRGINIA
102-60-10500
PINK
102-60-10480
PINK, COHO
UNIT BOUNDARY
LOCATED 165'
FROM NEST TREE
13
24
WATER
WATER
WATER

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

-SEE PAGE 3 -

TO: Al Peterson
Forest Practices Forester
Department of Natural Resources
Ketchikan

DATE: August 20, 1992

FILE NO: SE-92-008; SE-88-001

PHONE: 225-2027

FROM: Kevin J. Hanley KJH
Habitat Biologist
Habitat Division
Ketchikan

SUBJECT: Forest Practices Inspection - Lyman Anchorage Helicopter; Smith Cove

On August 14 and 18, 1992, you, Al Rockwood, Clarence Clark, and I conducted detailed examinations of several streams within ITT Rayonier's Lyman Anchorage Helicopter and Smith Cove tracts for the purpose of determining their water body classifications and associated riparian protection needs. The results of these examinations are as follows:

Lyman Anchorage Helicopter

The first stream examined occurs within the southeast portion of Unit LAH92-17. For a distance of approximately 1250 feet upstream from its saltwater outlet, it is a moderate width (15-30') type A water body characterized by a gradient that averages between 3 to 5 percent, a substrate that is composed of predominantly gravel and cobbles, and stream banks that are controlled primarily by vegetation. A total of four baited minnow traps were set at successive upstream locations throughout this uniform low gradient reach. All yielded numerous coho fry as well as substantial numbers of Dolly Varden char. The upstream limit of anadromous habitat was identified and marked with blue/white "Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone" ribbon tied across the stream. Above this location, the gradient increases and continues to average between 8 to 10 percent for approximately 300 feet where the stream flows through a steep, constricted predominantly bedrock notch with a boulder/bedrock substrate. Upstream of this reach, the gradient decreases to less than 8 percent with the north and south banks alternately controlled by bedrock and vegetation. The substrate likewise alternates between bedrock and boulders and cobbles and gravel. Two baited minnow traps were set within this reach with only one yielding a single Dolly Varden char. For classification purposes, this upper low gradient reach can only be identified as an unclassifiable water body as it fails to meet the stream gradient criterion for type C water bodies. As selective helicopter logging is proposed for Unit LAH92-17, we would like to request that all merchantable timber be directionally felled away from this upper nonanadromous portion of the

stream to maintain water quality for both resident fish habitat and downstream anadromous habitat. We closed out our examination of this stream by marking the seaward extent of the 66-foot riparian buffer with double blue/white ribbons tied on the north and south sides of the estuarine portion of the stream.

The second stream examined occurs within the northeast portion of Unit LAH92-17. It is a small, 8 to 10 foot wide, low gradient, apparently nonanadromous stream with a substrate composed primarily of cobbles with some gravel and a few short reaches of bedrock. Channel morphology is alternately controlled by bedrock and vegetated stream banks. Much of the stream flows through a non-merchantable forested muskeg with only the lower 300 to 400 feet occurring within a stand of commercially valuable timber. A total of three baited minnow traps were set at successive upstream locations with only the lowermost trap yielding a single Dolly Varden char. Although trapping failed to document the use of this stream by anadromous fish, its lower reaches may provide spawning habitat for pink salmon. As such, we would encourage ITT Rayonier to closely examine the stream immediately prior to harvesting to determine if adult salmon or their remains are present. Evidence of such will require the retention of a 66-foot riparian buffer. If no such evidence is found, we would still request that timber be directionally felled away from the stream to protect resident fish habitat.

Smith Cove

Prior to inventorying the muskeg wetlands on the east side of Virginia Lake to determine the presence of type A water bodies and their proximity to Unit 7, we examined the recently installed rail car bridge over Virginia Creek (stream #102-60-10480) on the 2180 Road. It appears that at least two instream equipment crossings occurred during its installation, one of which resulted in substantial soil scarification and exposure of the west bank. In its current state, this disturbed area is a source of erosion into and sedimentation of Virginia Creek. Condition 4 of the fish habitat permit that was issued for this installation states that "Bank disturbances and road embankments shall be stabilized to prevent erosion into the stream". To comply with this requirement and avoid a violation of AS 16.05.870, this area must be grass seeded immediately. By copy of this memorandum, we are requiring that this work be completed by August 28, 1992.

Following our inspection of the bridge installation, we examined the eastern shoreline of Virginia Lake and its associated muskeg wetland to determine the presence of type A offshoot rearing channels and tributaries within or adjacent to Unit 7. Although a few channels were identified in the area adjacent to the northeast side of the lake, none were

located in the proximity of Unit 7. Upstream of the lake, Virginia Creek continues to be a low gradient, moderate width type A waterbody with exceptional spawning gravels throughout. Numerous coho fry were observed as well as trapped within the reach examined. Much of this upper reach borders a previously clearcut unit with apparently no additional units planned for the future.

The balance of this inspection entailed examinations of culvert placements and ditchline work on the 2180 Road. These aspects were discussed in the ADNR inspection report that was completed prior to our departure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc: R. Reed, ADF&G, Juneau
J. Gustafson, ADF&G, Ketchikan
B. Hogarty, ADEC, Ketchikan
A. Rockwood, ITT Rayonier, Inc., Ketchikan
C. Clark, ITT Rayonier, Inc., Ketchikan
K. Thomas, R.M.H. Aero Logging, Ketchikan
L. Thompson, Kavilco, Inc., Kasaan