



**State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Sport Fish Division**

**Nomination Form  
Fish Distribution Database**

Region Western USGS Quad(s) Sleetmute C-4, C-3, B-3

Anadromous Waters Catalog of Waterway 335-20-16600-2830

Name of Waterway Holitna River  USGS Name  Local Name  
 Addition  Deletion  Correction  Backup Information

**For Office Use**

Nomination # <u>09-746</u>	_____	_____
Revision Year: <u>2010</u>	Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____	_____	_____
Both _____	Habitat Operations Mgr.	Date <u>4 Jun 09</u>
Revision Code: <u>F-1</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date
	AWC Project Biologist	_____
	_____	_____
	Cartographer	Date

**OBSERVATION INFORMATION**

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
Inconnu	Between 6/11/2008 and 10/8/2008			62 to 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

**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:** supports presence of sheefish in 335-20-16600-2830  
 I am so surprised that there were no prior nominations for inconnu in the Holitna River because this is THE major feeding area for this species. During 2008 we needed to deploy 110 radio transmitters and had some difficulty capturing and tagging sheefish in other drainages, but not here. For a couple of tagging mortalities, stomachs were full of outmigrating salmon smolt. Between 6/11/2008 and 6/16/2008 we deployed 62 radio transmitters in inconnu in the lower Holitna River. During the 7/22/2008, 9/25/2008, and 10/8/2008 aerial tracking flights we recorded these radio-tagged sheefish travelling to upriver spawning areas, travelling to the mouths of other drainages such as the Stony, George, and Tatlawiksuk rivers, or staying within the Holitna River for the duration of the summer. The inconnu were located near the mouth of the Holitna River at 61.6822, -157.1728 and travelled upriver as far as 61.4612, -157.0226.

Name of Observer (please print): Lisa Stuby  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: ADF&G - Fairbanks  
 Address: 1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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



**State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Sport Fish Division**

**Nomination Form  
Fish Distribution Database**

Region Western USGS Quad(s) Sleetmute C-4, C-3, B-3

Anadromous Waters Catalog of Waterway 335-20-16600-2830

Name of Waterway Holitna River  USGS Name  Local Name  
 Addition  Deletion  Correction  Backup Information

**For Office Use**

Nomination # _____	_____	_____
Revision Year: _____	Fisheries Scientist	Date _____
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____	Habitat Operations Mgr.	Date _____
Both _____	AWC Project Biologist	Date _____
Revision Code: _____	Cartographer	Date _____

**OBSERVATION INFORMATION**

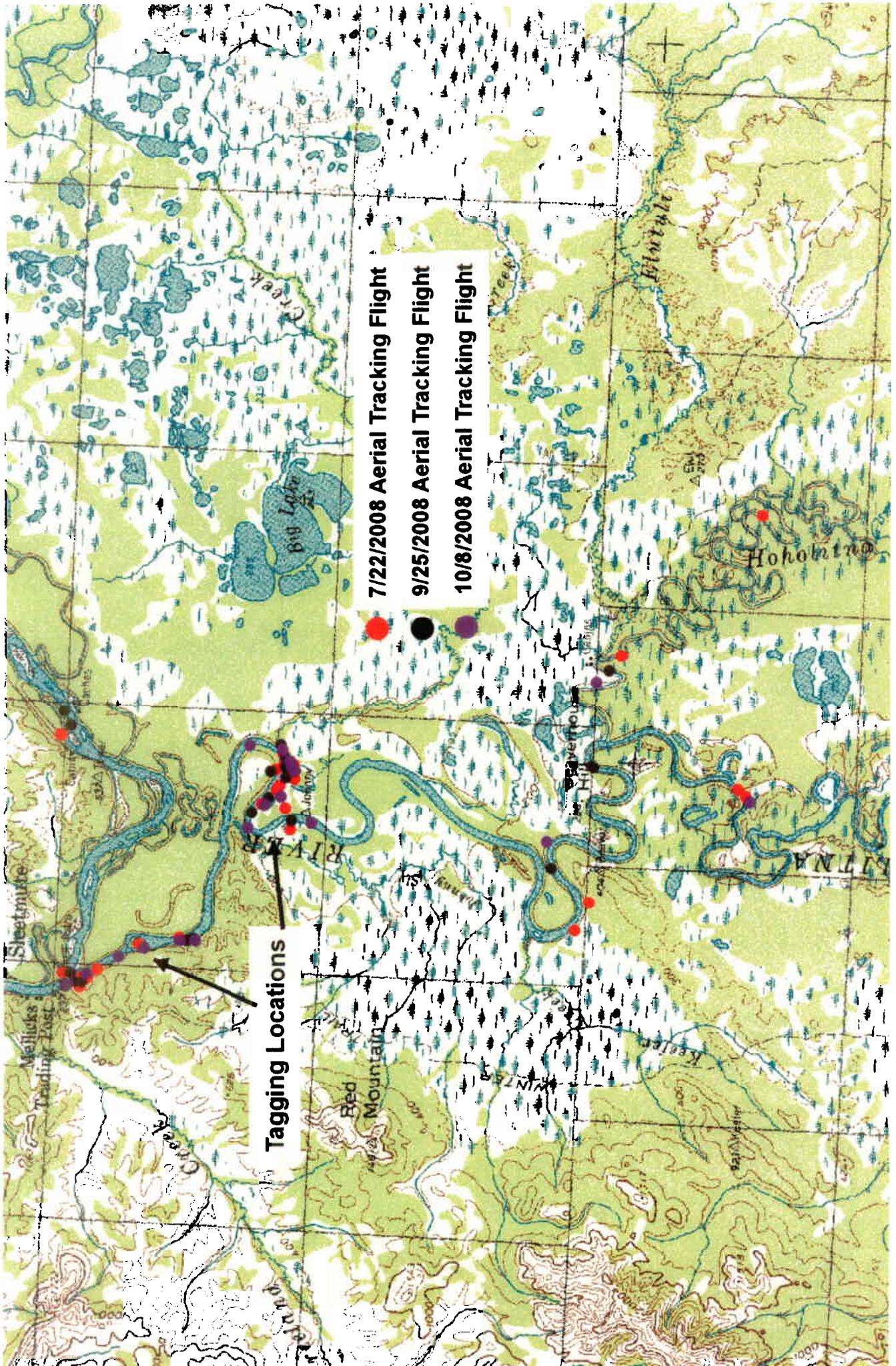
Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
Inconnu	Between 6/11/2008 and 10/8/2008			62 to 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

**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:**  
 I am so surprised that there were no prior nominations for inconnu in the Holitna River because this is THE major feeding area for this species. During 2008 we needed to deploy 110 radio transmitters and had some difficulty capturing and tagging sheefish in other drainages, but not here. For a couple of tagging mortalities, stomachs were full of outmigrating salmon smolt. Between 6/11/2008 and 6/16/2008 we deployed 62 radio transmitters in inconnu in the lower Holitna River. During the 7/22/2008, 9/25/2008, and 10/8/2008 aerial tracking flights we recorded these radio-tagged sheefish travelling to upriver spawning areas, travelling to the mouths of other drainages such as the Stony, George, and Tatlawiksuk rivers, or staying within the Holitna River for the duration of the summer. The inconnu were located near the mouth of the Holitna River at 61.6822, -157.1728 and travelled upriver as far as 61.4612, -157.0226.

Name of Observer (please print): Lisa Stuby  
 Signature: *Lisa Stuby* Date: 14 May '09  
 Agency: ADF&G - Fairbanks  
 Address: 1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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 Andaromous Waters Catalog.  
 Signature of Area Biologist: *[Signature]* Date: 14 MAY '09  
 Revision 02/08



Tagging Locations

7/22/2008 Aerial Tracking Flight

9/25/2008 Aerial Tracking Flight

10/8/2008 Aerial Tracking Flight

**Johnson, J D (DFG)**

**From:** Stuby, Lisa A (DFG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009 12:15 PM  
**To:** Johnson, J D (DFG)  
**Subject:** RE: Kuskokwim River sheefish nominations for AWC  
**Attachments:** 2008 George River sheefish.xls; 2008 George River sheefish.jpg; 2008 Holitna River sheefish.xls; 2008 Hoholitna River sheefish.xls; 2008 Holitna&Hoholitna sheefish.jpg; 2008 Stony River sheefish.jpg; 2008 Stony River sheefish.xls

Hi J,

Here are some more Kuskokwim River sheefish nominations, primarily summer feeding areas at the mouth of major tributaries. In a little while I'll finally send out the nomination forms for Big River and Middle Fork spawning locations; good to finally to see sheefish away from a river mouth. Sheefish definitely have a very different life history than salmon. They can live for 20 to 30 years and typically spend the winter months in the Kuskokwim Bay and travel to tributary mouths to spend the summer feeding, especially the Holitna River. This study will continue on for hopefully three more summers including the present. So far, some sheefish spend the summers travelling around, others are homebodies who travel to their summer "residences" (like one fish captured at Nixon Fork during August 2007) and remain for the duration. Those in spawning condition will travel over a two-month period to upriver spawning locations. Some of the spawning sheefish arrive early and travel back and forth to other drainages and others arrive before the broadcast event (whitefish are broadcast spawners) during late September/early October. During mid-October/early November most sheefish start migrating downriver back to the Kuskokwim Bay to overwinter. The Kuskokwim River Drainage is their home. As I mentioned in my last e-mail, I'll update where necessary and at the conclusion of the project will update all of these with 5 years of radiotelemetry data to give additional credence to what I have submitted representing the 2007 and 2008 study so far. Again, let me know if the attachments look good and that I've done everything I should have and I will copy off the nomination forms, sign, and have John Chythlook sign and return them to you.

**Lisa Stuby** <||>|||<

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 1300 College Road  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
 (907) 459-7202  
 (907) 459-7347 (fax)

**From:** Johnson, J D (DFG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 11:02 AM  
**To:** Stuby, Lisa A (DFG)  
**Subject:** RE: Kuskokwim River sheefish nominations for AWC

Lisa

Got anything for Goodnews River?

It is listed in AWC but was suppose to be taken out a while ago, but we cab stop that action if ya have any data I'll look over your stuff today and let ya know if I need anything else

I'll accept noms any old time

**From:** Stuby, Lisa A (DFG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 10:38 AM  
**To:** Johnson, J D (DFG)  
**Cc:** Buckwalter, Joseph D (DFG)

5/13/2009

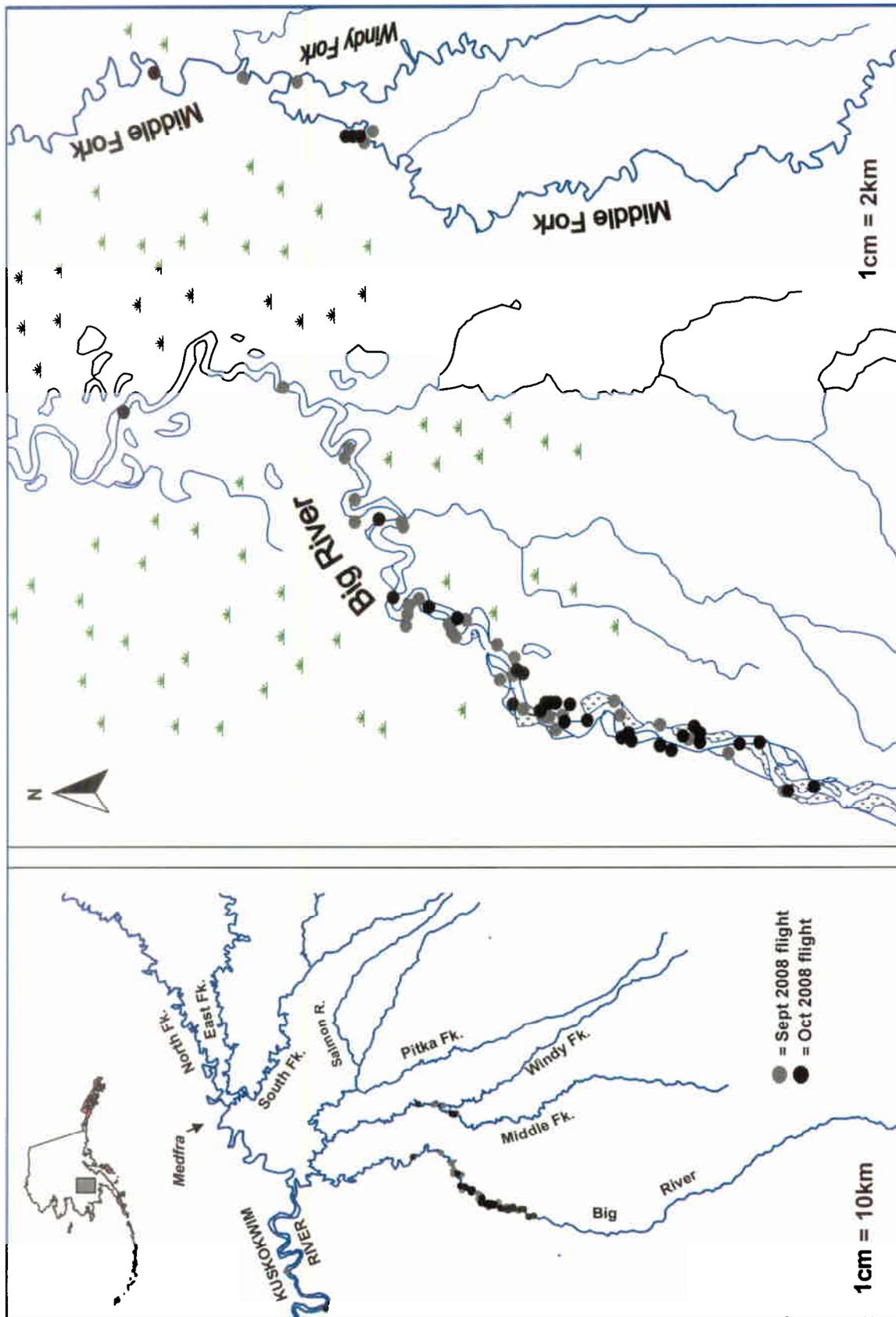
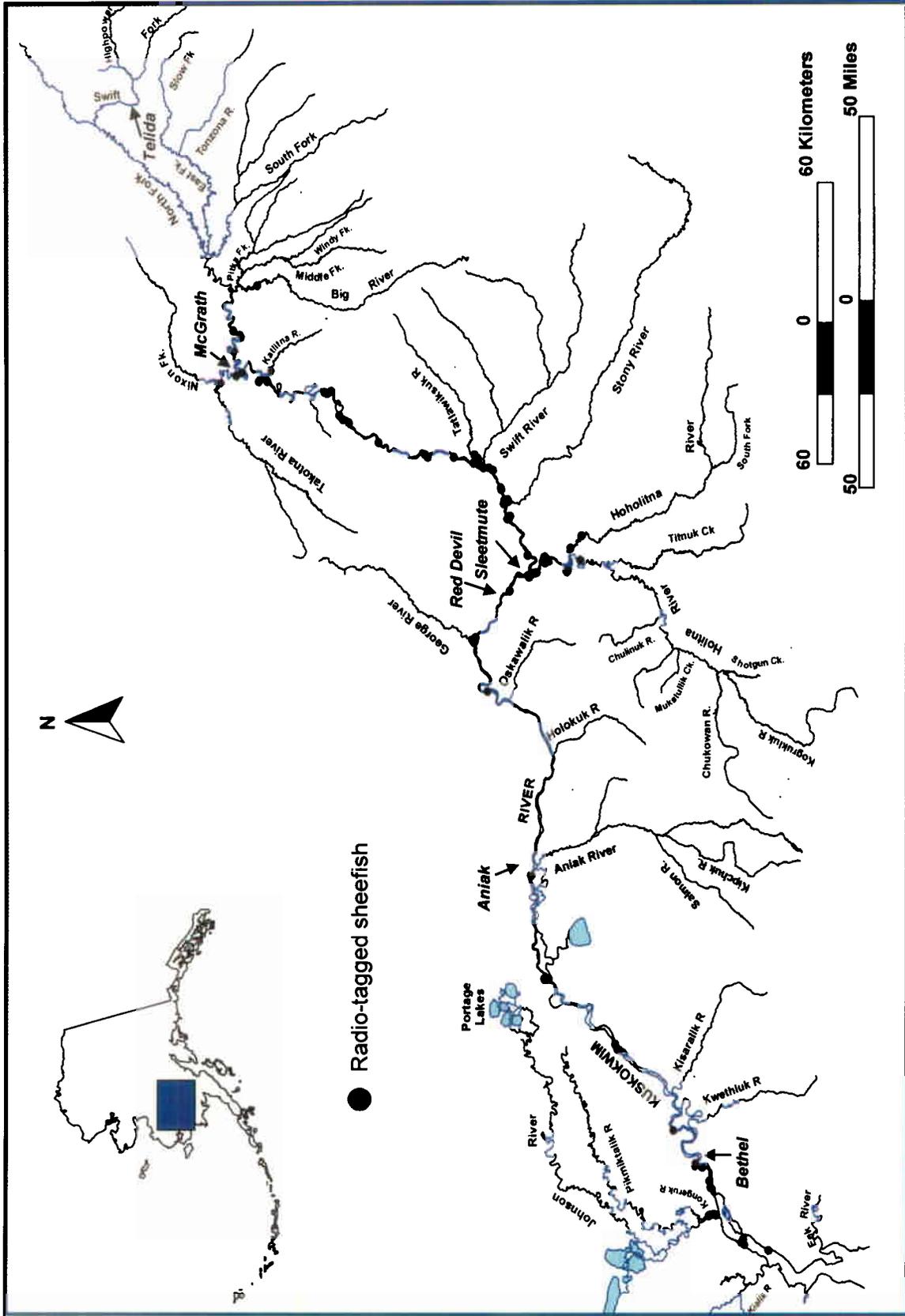
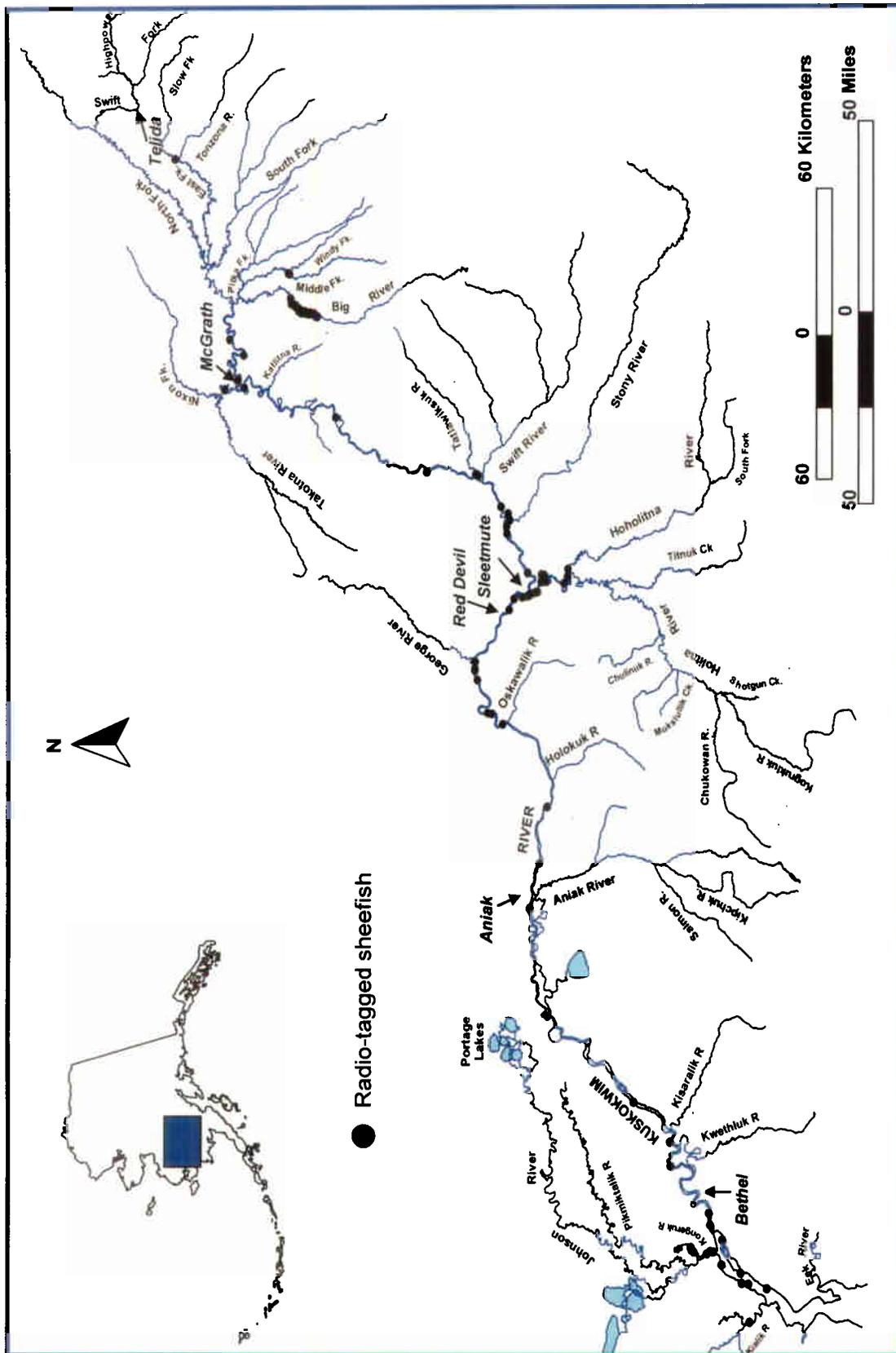


Figure 2.—Purported spawning areas on the Big River and Middle Fork of the Kuskokwim River where sheefish were located during September and October tracking flights. The map on the right illustrates the spawning areas in 5X more detail.



Appendix A1.—Map showing the locations of sheefish that were captured and radio-tagged in the Kuskokwim River during 2007 and 2008 and located during the July 2008 aerial survey.



Appendix A2.—Map showing the uppermost locations of sheefish that were captured and radio-tagged in the Kuskokwim River during 2007 and 2008 during the September and October 2008 aerial surveys