

Summary of Coho Spawning Observations in Upper Pederson Hill Creek

Stream Name: Pederson Hill Creek (aka Casa Del Sol Creek (Bethers et al. 1995))

Anadromous Stream Catalog Number: 111-50-10490

Observation: Coho salmon (as determined by spawn timing, fish size and coloration) were observed spawning in an area of Pederson Hill Creek that is currently not documented as coho spawning habitat in the Anadromous Waters Catalog. The GPS location of this spawning activity is: Lat 58.37460, Long -134.62172

On 11/5/10 Brian Jones of the City Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Water Utility Department observed four coho actively spawning in the gravel immediately below the uppermost culvert on Pederson Hill Creek as indicated on the map below. Pictures 1 – 3 were taken by Mr. Jones and a colleague and show two of the four fish. A female coho on a freshly excavated redd can clearly be seen.

On 11/10/10 I (James Ray, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) observed a single female coho holding in a section of Pederson Hill Creek that is currently routed through the ditch line on the north side of Glacier Highway adjacent to the Emmanuel Baptist Church, as indicated on the map below (also see pictures 4&5). It is likely the fish observed on 11/10/10 was one of the four coho observed on 11/5/10 that had fallen back. Although none of the other fish were present, the redd was still clearly visible upstream.

From the map above it can be seen that Pederson Hill Creek has been routed into the ditch on the north side of Glacier Highway. The Creek is then routed under Glacier Highway into the ditch on the south side of the highway before it passes through a culvert under a private driveway then back into its 'natural' channel. Large amounts of sediment are directly transported into Pederson Hill Creek via the roadside ditch. It is surprising the coho made it to the location they did as the culverts are only designed for water conveyance in the ditch and do not appear adequate to pass adult fish. The uppermost culvert pipe is a blockage to adult fish passage; however, I was unable to determine if there is any additional spawning habitat upstream of this location, as the land is privately owned.

Coho spawning observations in upper Pederson Hill Creek

Four adult coho observed spawning 11/5/10.
See photos 1,2&3

One female coho observed holding 11/10/10.
See photos 4&5

Uppermost culvert

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Swampy Acres

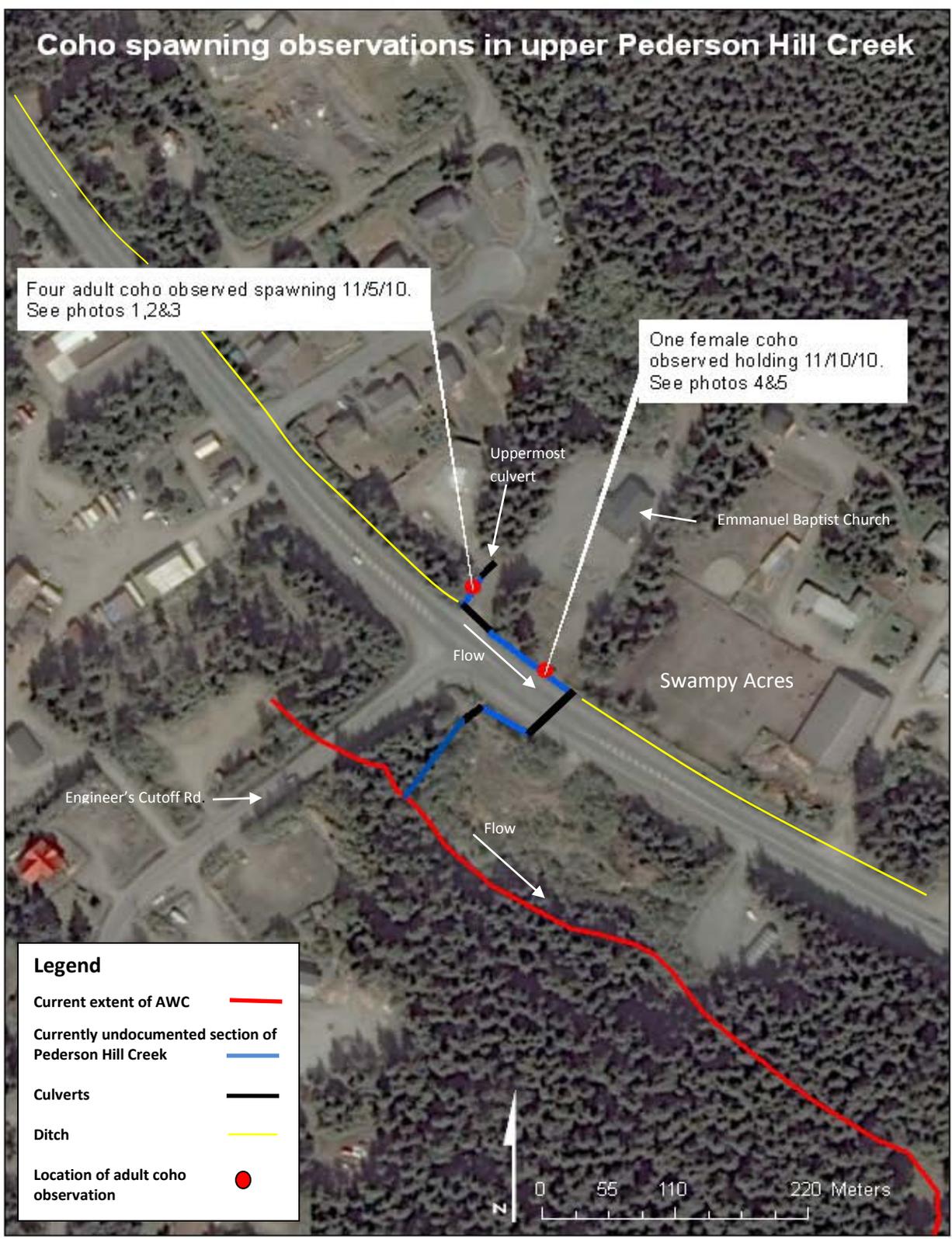
Engineer's Cutoff Rd.

Flow

Flow

Legend

- Current extent of AWC —
- Currently undocumented section of Pederson Hill Creek —
- Culverts —
- Ditch —
- Location of adult coho observation ●





Picture 1: Uppermost plastic pipe culvert on Pederson Hill Creek. Red circle highlights adult coho spawning in the gravel immediately downstream from pipe.



Picture 2: Red circles highlight a male and female coho spawning in the tail-out of the pool immediately below the uppermost pipe culvert. Female coho is situated on a freshly excavated redd.



Picture 3: Facing south showing stream reach between uppermost culvert on Pederson Hill Creek and Glacier Hwy.



Pictures 4&5: Female coho holding in section of Pederson Hill Creek routed through the ditch on north side of Glacier Hwy adjacent to Emmanuel Baptist Church