

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Habitat

TO: Jackie Timothy  
Southeast Regional Supervisor

DATE: June 29, 2012

FILE NO: 2638

THRU: Jackie Timothy

SUBJECT: Vanderbilt Creek Tributaries  
Trip Report

FROM: Benjamin Brewster  
Habitat Biologist I

BB

PHONE NO: 465-6160

---

On October 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012, and June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, Habitat Biologists Johnny Zutz, Matthew Kern, and I visited tributary streams of Vanderbilt Creek (Stream No. 111-40-10125) as part of a continued investigation into anadromous fish presence. We documented a drainage ditch across from Western Auto Marine and a private pond owned by Jim and Patty Baumgartner. The Baumgartners pond is located just north of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Figure 1). We tracked the stream with a Garmin GPS and captured salmonids with baited minnow traps and a Smith-Root electrofisher. We soaked all minnow traps for a minimum of 24 hours.

### **Observations**

On October 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 we tracked and trapped the main inlet to the pond. The inlet stream goes subterranean upstream about 100 feet from the pond creating a barrier to fish migration (Figure 2). We tracked and trapped a drainage ditch which collects runoff from behind the church and drains into the pond (Figure 3). The outlet of the pond is located at the entrance of church parking lot and the back left corner of the Dragon Inn. The Pond drains through a 36' crushed culvert and meets a small tributary creek which originates uphill of the Dragon Inn (Figure 4). The creek immediately passes through another 36' culvert and drains into Vanderbilt Creek (Figure 5). We set traps in the pond, at outlet of the pond, and behind the Dragon Inn. We tracked and trapped the drainage ditch (Figure 6). We were not able to set traps right next to the road due to low flow, but continued up stream and set traps where it veers right into a residential neighborhood (Figure 7).

### **Trap Locations**

Main pond inlet  
Church drainage ditch  
Pond(Figure 8, 9)  
Pond outlet  
DOT Drainage ditch

### **Results**

2 CO (40-60mm), 2 CT, 2 DV  
1 CO (60mm), 1 DV  
26 CO (60-120mm), 1 DV  
2 CO (80-120mm), 3 DV, 1 SC  
2 ST

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 we returned to the drainage ditch for a follow up investigation. Water levels in the ditch were higher allowing us to set traps along the roadside. We captured a total of 68 stickleback in six traps. The ditch was clogged with vegetation and the water was stagnant.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 we returned to the drainage ditch behind the church for a follow up investigation for AWC cataloging purposes. We electrofished the ditch and captured a total of 15 Dolly Varden char. We also noticed young of the year coho trying to enter the outlet of the crushed culvert to the pond (Figure 10).

### Recommendations

The pond provides excellent rearing and overwintering habitat for coho salmon and Dolly Varden char. The presence of larger individuals indicates that this pond is used for more than a year. We recommend that the pond, inlet, and outlet be added to the Anadromous Water Catalog and will submit a nomination. The culvert under the entrance to church must be replaced. We will cc: ADOT&PF so they are aware of a mitigation opportunity. We will cc: the CBJ and ask that they investigate land ownership and the responsibility of the landowner to maintain fish passage.

We will continue to investigate the drainage ditch behind the church as anadromous fish habitat, as there is no barrier that would prevent fish use. The small creek behind the Dragon Inn adjacent to the church contains a small amount of spawning habitat, as you claim you documented. The ADOT&PF ditch that extends along the roadside and into the residential area does not provide fish habitat. See Figure 11 for an area map.



Figure 1. Baumgartner Pond



Figure 2. Pond inlet above subterranean section



Figure 3. Drainage ditch behind church



Figure 4. Pond outlet and crushed culvert



Figure 5. Culvert draining into Vanderbilt Creek



Figure 6. DOT drainage ditch



Figure 7. Drainage ditch in residential area



Figure 8. Coho from Baumgartner Pond



Figure 9. Dolly Varden char from pond



Figure 10. Coho from the pond outlet

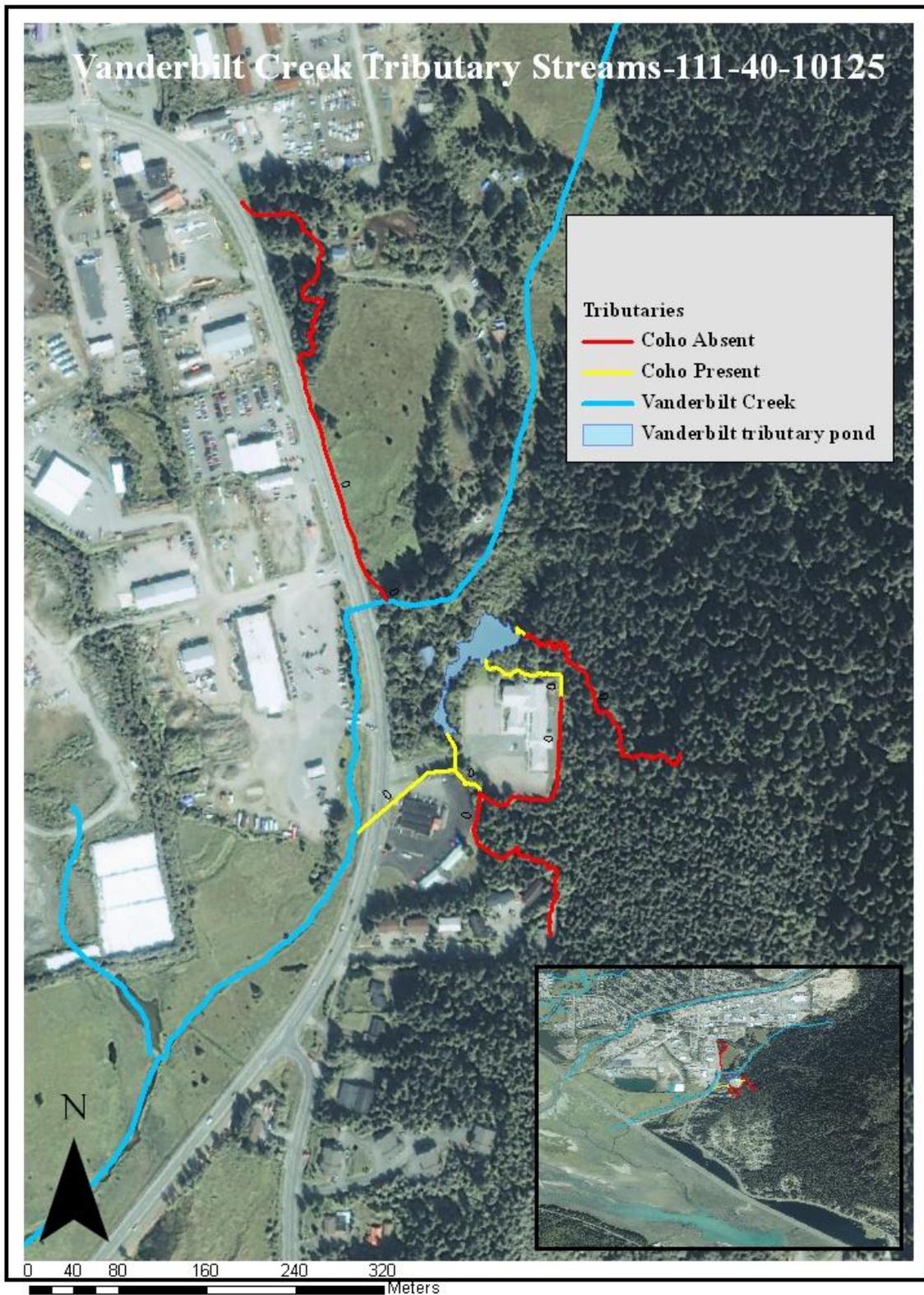


Figure 11. Area map of tributary streams

Email cc:

Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks  
Juneau Area Habitat Biologists  
Brian Glynn, ADF&G SF, Juneau  
Kevin Monagle, ADF&G CF, Juneau  
Ryan Scott, ADF&G WC, Juneau  
Mary Goode, NMFS, Juneau  
Steve Brockman, USFWS, Juneau  
Victor Ross, USACE, Juneau  
Jane Gendron, ADOT&PF, Juneau  
Teri Camery, CBJ, Juneau  
Heather Marlow, CBJ, Juneau  
Roger Ramsey, Ramsey Appraisal Resource, Juneau