

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Habitat

TO: Jackie Timothy  
Southeast Regional Supervisor

THRU: Kate Kanouse  
Habitat Biologist IV

FROM: Ben Brewster *BB*  
Habitat Biologist I

DATE: June 25, 2013

FILE NO:

SUBJECT: Fowler Creek Survey

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On June 10-11, 2013, Habitat Biologists Greg Albrecht, Johnny Zutz, and I, along with Dennis Reed of the USFS, traveled to the Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island near Juneau. The purpose of the trip was to investigate fish use and extent in Fowler Creek (Stream No. 111-41-10180, CHp, COp, Pp), Unnamed Creek (Stream No. 111-41-10180-2007, COp, Pp), and their tributaries (Figure 1). We used a combination of minnow traps baited with iodized salmon row and a Smith-Root LR-24 backpack electrofisher.

### Fowler Creek

We captured 19 coho salmon (CO), 2 Dolly Varden char (DV), 2 cutthroat trout (CT), 1 rainbow trout (RT), 1 sculpin (SC), 1 threespine stickleback, and 1 lamprey (LP) ammocete (Photo 1) in Fowler Creek. We also captured 13 CO, 18 DV, 9 CT, 28 ST, 1 SC, and 1 non-anadromous western brook lamprey in four uncataloged tributaries to Fowler Creek.

Tributaries 1 and 2 are below the confluence of Fowler Creek and Unnamed Creek. We documented 2 coho (80-95mm) in Tributary 1 approximately 0.8 miles upstream of the mouth and we did not observe any barriers to migration (Photo 2). In Tributary 2, we captured 2 coho approximately 1 mile upstream from the mouth. The gradient began to increase upstream of where we captured coho for approximately 1 mile, and only DV and CT were captured.

In Tributary 3, we captured 1 western brook lamprey (125-135mm) approximately 0.25 mile upstream of the mouth and did not observe any barriers to fish migration (Photo 3). We also observed seven western brook lamprey (125-135mm) excavating redds in a calm side channel on Fowler Creek (Photo 4). Fowler Creek begins to increase in gradient near the current cataloged extent. See table 1 for a complete list of fish captures and locations.



Photo 1. Lamprey ammocete



Photo 2. Tributary 1.



Photo 3. Western brook lamprey captured in a Fowler Creek tributary.



Photo 4. Western brook lamprey excavating redds in Fowler Creek.

We observed two beaver dam complexes that drain to Fowler Creek (Figure 1). We set 9 minnow traps in the “lower” beaver dam complex and 16 traps in the “upper” beaver dam complex. Both dams are about 4-5 feet tall (Photos 3-4). We captured seven coho (90-115mm) in the “upper” beaver dam complex. The furthest upstream coho we captured were approximately 0.4 mile downstream of where the complex crosses the A road (Photo 5). We observed several smaller beaver dams in the complex, which floods about a mile of wetlands, and did not observe any other potential barriers to fish migration. We also captured roughskin newts (Photo 6). In the “lower” beaver dam complex, we captured 28 threespine stickleback.



Photo 5. “Upper” beaver dam at the confluence of Fowler Creek.



Photo 6. “Lower” beaver dam complex.



Photo 7. Coho smolt captured in the upper beaver dam complex.



Photo 8. A roughskin newt captured in the “upper” beaver dam complex.

### Unnamed Creek

We tracked Unnamed Creek approximately 1.25 miles below the current AWC catalog extent and captured 5 CO (80-95mm). We electrofished one minor tributary approximately 500 ft long and did not catch any fish.

### Recommendations

I will update the anadromous waters catalog to include the new tributaries documented with coho salmon, and recommend further investigation of anadromous fish use and extent in Unnamed Creek, the new tributaries to Fowler Creek, and the “lower” beaver dam. A trip report from October 2012 documented cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char upstream of where the “upper” beaver dam complex crosses the A road (Teal 2012).

### Literature Cited

Teal, T. 2012. Memo: 2012 GCM Oct Fowler Creek Survey TR; dated 10/16/2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, Douglas, AK.

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Figure 1. Fowler Creek and Unnamed Creek map

Table 1. Fish captured in Fowler Creek and tributaries July 6/10-6/11, 2013.

Waypoint	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Site Description	Results
47	58.15722	134.704412	Near Mouth of Fowler Creek	2 CO (~35mm)
50	58.156627	134.708594	Above Confluence of Unnamed Creek	1 CO (~60mm)
51-53	58.158668	134.713885	At the base of lower beaver dam	2 CO (~35mm), 1 ST(~65mm)
54	58.15515	134.718129	Above lower beaver dam	1 CO (~25mm), 1 LP(~45mm)
55	58.153451	134.723188	Below upper beaver dam	1 CO (~25mm) 1 SC (~45mm)
56-60	58.153329	134.729341	Inlet from upper beaver dam	7 CO (~25-65mm)
61-65	58.147279	134.726671	All points above upper beaver dam in Fowler Creek	5 CO (~25-70mm) 2 DV (~55mm) 1 CT (~125mm)
66	58.153182	134.740154	Upper beaver dam complex .4 miles downstream of A road	2 CO (~115mm) 3 DV (~115mm) 1 CT (~110mm)
69	58.151957	134.737992	Upper beaver dam	4 DV (~140mm)
70	58.151477	134.736511	Upper beaver dam complex	2 rough-skinned newts 5 CO (~100-110mm)
71-77	58.15324	134.792733	Upper beaver dam near Fowler Creek	8 DV (~125mm) 5 CT (~125mm)
80	58.146757	134.725469	Tributary 3	1 CT (~65mm) 1 SC
81	58.146287	134.725277	Tributary 3	2 LP (~125mm)
260	58.145851	134.7284527	Fowler mainstem	7 LP (~125mm)
83	58.1454	134.728647	Near AWC extent	1 RT (~80mm)
230	58.148208	134.69299	Tributary 1 near mouth	2 CO
231	58.155293	134.698844	Tributary 1	2 CT
232	58.15315	134.698625	Tributary 1	2 CO
233-236	58.149102	134.691477	Tributary 1, gradient increases	3 DV
244-247	58.1456	134.695291	Tributary 2, gradient slowly increases	Lots of DV/CT
248	58.151829	134.700382	Tributary 2	2 CO

\*Coho (CO), Dolly Varden char (DV), cutthroat trout (CT), rainbow trout (RT), lamprey (LP), Sculpin (SC), threespine stickleback (ST).