

To:	Bob Piorkowski (ADF&G): robert.piorkowski@alaska.gov	Date:	August 5, 2008
From:	Erin Cunningham (HDR): erin.cunningham@hdrinc.com	Project:	Akutan Airport D/B Services 85689
Subject:	Study Plan/FRP Application Submittal for fisheries work on Akun Island		

Project Background and Purpose

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), are proposing to construct an airport on Akun Island to service the village of Akutan. HDR is developing the airport plans for ADOT&PF. The proposed airport would be located on Akun Island, which is approximately 7 miles east of the present-day village of Akutan. The primary purpose of the fisheries work is to identify fish habitat within the project area.

Fisheries-related field work was conducted in 2005 and 2006, under Fish Resource Permit (FRP) numbers SF2005-104 and SF2006-170, respectively, to identify fish distributions in the project area. Seven fish species were identified during the surveys, including sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), pink (*O. gorbuscha*), and coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), Dolly Varden char (*Salvalineus malma*), Sculpin, three-spine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), and a left-eyed starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*). Fish data and an anadromous fish stream nomination form for the 2005 data were filed with ADF&G, as per fish resource permit requirements. The ADF&G Anadromous Fish Catalog has been updated to include those anadromous water bodies on Akun Island included in the 2005 study (http://gis.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/AWC_IMS/viewer.htm, as viewed on 5 August 2008). No other waterbodies on Akun Island are listed as anadromous.

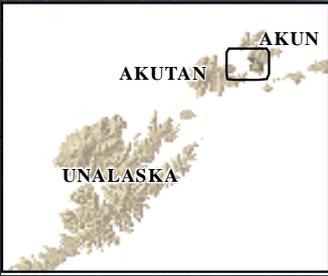
Based on design and engineering needs related to access, the study area has been expanded to the northern end of Surf Bay and east to Trident Bay (Figure 1). Based on a preliminary review of available imagery, multiple stream drainages and waterbodies not previously surveyed for fish presence are located in this vicinity. The purpose of the 2008 field work is to characterize waterbodies and identify fish and fish habitat within the expanded project area.

Field Methods

A combination of minnow trap, backpack electrofishing (Smith-Root Model LR-24), beach seine, visual, and rod and reel surveys will be used to identify fish species present. Minnow traps will be baited with commercially processed salmon eggs that have been disinfected. Minnow trap set times will vary, depending on capture success, and may be set overnight. Set and check times will be recorded for each trap. In small, shallow stream reaches unsuitable for minnow traps, electrofishing will be the primary sampling method. Fish captured in this study will be identified, counted, and measured to fork or total length (depending on species), before being returned live to the stream. Visual observations of fish during foot travel will also be recorded. Global positioning system (GPS) locations will be recorded and photographs will be taken at each sample location.

Stream channel characteristics, including habitat features of known or probable spawning areas, such as channel type (i.e., Rosgen), length, width, depth, substrate composition, gradient, and flow, may be recorded for each sampling site. Additionally, water quality field parameters including temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and salinity may be recorded to provide basic environmental conditions in the study area.

A FRP will be obtained prior to conducting sampling activities. Fish capture data and stream nomination forms will be submitted to ADF&G in accordance with the permit.



LEGEND

- 2008 Expanded Study Area
- 2005-2006 Study Area

Akun Island

Akutan Island

DATE: August 2008
DATA SOURCE: USGS, ADOT&PF, HDR

MAP NOTES:
5

FILE: 2\07072 DOT&PF\9940
Akutan AMP Pn (RCS)\0609
Akutan Airport Design\Build Services\mxd

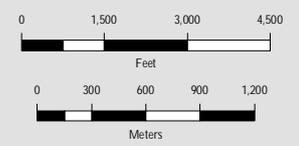


FIGURE
1