

CABIN CREEK, SKOWL ARM

With Carl Rosier, Asa Wright and Ron Hyder, Sheridan examined Cabin Creek Skowl Arm as a potential improvement site on June 20, 1963. The fall was four to five feet high with rapids below and above. The stream at this point splits around a bedrock outcrop, one side of which is completely full of logs. This in itself makes it difficult for salmon to ascend. If the log jam were removed it might be possible for salmon to go up this one side. We recommend removal of this log jam as a habitat improvement project. As stated, this might enable salmon to go up the side of the falls, or, at least, it would expose this side of the falls for examination to determine the feasibility of a ladder. This first falls does not appear to be impassable. However, it should be checked when fish are in the stream. Powder should modify this falls.

The second falls, about half way between tide water and the lake, is 10 to 15 feet high. It appears to be difficult and/or impassable to pinks and chums. One steelhead was reported by Bruce Roettgering at the lake outlet. We also found the bones of what we thought was a steelhead killed by some kind of a predator within the past week above the falls. Therefore, there is evidence that steelhead do get above both falls. If steelhead ascend both falls, it is probable that coho do also. There is a good bedrock outcrop on the left of the falls for anchoring a steep pass. This would take six sections at least. However, an examination of the stream above the second falls to the lake showed there was only about 15,000 to 30,000 sq. ft. of spawning area suitable for chum or coho and not too good for pink salmon.

We do not recommend the laddering or modification of either of these falls with pink or chum in mind. However, the lake should form a good rearing area for cohos, and if later on we observe that cohos are having difficulty with either falls, then this perhaps would be a good improvement project from the standpoint of the cohos. The lake, containing less than 100 acres, cannot be considered as a worthwhile sockeye salmon project.

Recommendations

1. Find out if coho salmon go above the falls, and if they do, whether or not they have difficulty ascending the falls.
2. If coho salmon use the lake system and have difficulty ascending the falls, make a benefit cost analysis for laddering the falls. If the B/C is favorable, design and construct fishways.

Allen

SALMON HABITAT RECOGNIZANCE OF
MOUNTED AND CATCH CRUISES
KUSAAM DISTRICT

On June 19, 1963 Olson and I examined lower falls in Mybese Creek, Hollis. Both of these falls should be blown and perhaps a section or two of steep-pass put in. Observations in the past indicated that on a series of low high tides and low stream flow, both pink and chum salmon have extreme difficulty in negotiating these falls and have been found dead in numbers while attempting to do so. We know the spawning area is available, upstream Mybese Creek. HSR has stream data on this system.

With Carl Rosier, Ann Wright and Ron Myer, examined Cabin Creek Skowl Area as a potential improvement site on June 20. The falls was four to five feet high with rapids below and above. The stream at this point splits around a bedrock outcrop one side of which is completely full of logs from a log jam. This in itself makes it difficult for salmon to ascend. If the log jam were removed it might be possible for salmon to go up this one side. We recommend removal of this log jam as a habitat improvement project. As stated, this might enable salmon to go up the side of the falls or at least it would expose this side of the falls for examination to determine the feasibility of a ladder. This first falls does not appear to be impassable. However, it should be checked when fish are in the stream. Fowler should modify this falls.

The second falls, about half way between tide water and the lake, is 10 to 15 feet high. It appears to be difficult and/or impassable to pinks and chum. One steelhead was reported by Bruce Roettgering at the lake outlet. We also found the bones of what we thought was a steelhead killed by some kind of a predator within the past week above the falls. Therefore, there is evidence that steelhead do get above both falls. If steelhead ascend both falls, it is probable that coho do also. There is a good bedrock outcrop on the left of the falls for anchoring a steep-pass. This would take six sections at least. However, an examination of the stream above the second falls to the lake showed there was only about 15,000 to 30,000 sq. ft. of spawning area suitable for chum or coho, and not too good for pink salmon.

We do not recommend the laddering or modification of either of these falls with pink or chum in mind. However, the lake should form a good rearing area for cohos and if later on we observe that cohos are having difficulty with either falls, then this perhaps could be a good improvement project from the standpoint of the cohos.

W. L. Sheridan
Fishery Biologist

Cabin Creek, Seward Bay (Ketchikan District) - In this stream, Slajer and Kalk were acquainted with the possibilities of habitat improvement, so the Forest can initiate action. These possibilities were:

1. A controlled flow diversion spawning channel off the side of the stream.
2. A flood plain spawning channel (the channel would be between the 6-16 foot tide level; hence, the state may have to pay for that portion on state owned tidelands).
3. Gravel cleaning of the extensive intertidal and upstream spawning areas.
4. Removal of small island and re-channelling of stream at the 15-17 foot tide level and removal of log jams between high tide and the falls with periodic maintenance.

Recommendations

1. Execute a topographic survey (this fall if possible, if not, next spring), and from this design a controlled flow diversion channel off the side of the stream as outlined in (1) above.
2. Explore the possibility (with ADF&G) of a flood plain channel in the intertidal zone. Alaska Department of Fish and Game would probably have to supply the major part of the cost of construction.
3. With the concurrence of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, engage in removal of selected log jams in the area between high tide and the fall (3/4 mile). A representative of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Forest Service fishery biologist, and a representative of the District Ranger would flag those log jams and portion of log jams to be removed. This project can be planned for and executed whether this fall or next spring.
4. After completion of the log jam removal project, explore the possibility of removing the grassy island at the 15-17 foot tide level and re-channelling of stream to create more spawning area.

LAKE AND STREAM INVENTORY FORM

Name: Cabin Creek Catalog no.: 102-60-42
 USGS map: Craig-PJ-27 Former no(s): 169(K), WR 142E
 Latitude: 55° 25' 19" Drainage area: _____
 Longitude: 132° 28' 36" No. lakes in system: 1 lake, 2 ponds
 Location description: West end of Skowl Arm, ~ 3.8 miles west of Old Kaslo Mt. Mansuet

SIZE AND ELEVATION OF LAKES IN SYSTEM:

Lake Identification	1st dam, No stream connection	2 Ponds	1st Lake					
Size (acres)		4	50					
Elevation (feet)	1900-2000		100-200					

LENGTH AND GRADIENTS OF STREAMS IN SYSTEM:

Stream Identification	ITZ to Lake	Lake to End						
Length (miles)	0.8	4.75						
Gradient (ft/mile)	190	370						

SPECIES OF FISH PRESENT: pink, Chum, Coho, Sockeye, Dolly Varden

SPAWNING DATA:

Species	pink	Chum		
Escapement	see A.S.C.	B-2-IV p. 65		
Timing	Sept. - early October			

PROMINENT PHYSICAL FEATURES OF STREAM: Lower falls, 6' probably block to chum and pink; probable block-10'-at stream fork; large (20') cascade and falls above forks, probable barrier

LAND USE OF AREA: Area possibly was logged, Gaging station 200 ft. upstream from ITZ