

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT NO.: F-10-33

GRANT TITLE: Sport Fish Investigations in Alaska

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

STUDY NO. AND TITLE: R-3-14 Stock assessment of Minto Flats northern pike

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

Minto Flats and the lower Chatanika River support the largest fishery for northern pike in Alaska. The Minto Lakes Study area serves as an index area for the entire Minto Flats Complex. The current study design utilizing mark-recapture techniques has proven to be satisfactory for management. Since the last abundance estimate in 2008, exploitation rates have exceeded trigger points for more restrictive management and updated information on population size is needed to address potential management implications for this fishery. This is designed as a three-event mark-recapture study (March, June, and August sampling) over two fiscal years (FY18 and FY19) and the completion of this study will be in FY19.

The objective for stock assessment of northern pike in Minto Flats for this reporting period is to:

1. Capture, tag and measure a minimum of 800 northern pike greater than 450 mm.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

Objective 1 :

In March 2018, 1,793 northern pike were captured, measured, and tagged in the Chatanika River. In June 2018, 833 northern pike were captured, measured, and tagged in the Minto Lakes Study Area. Of those fish, 43 were recaptured fish that were originally tagged in March. The final sampling event is scheduled for August 2018 and data analysis will occur in FY19.

EQUIPMENT:

Two outboard motors were purchased for this project for a useful life of 10 years for each motor. Each motor will be used on future radiotelemetry pike work throughout Region III, and especially Minto Flats.

FINAL REPORT STATUS:

This Performance Report serves as the report for this reporting period.

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DATE: September 1, 2018