Aquatic Biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2014
Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System
Permit No. AK-0038652 (Modification #1)

by Alvin G. Ott and William A. Morris

North Fork Red Dog Creek Fyke Net, June 12, 2014
Photograph by William A. Morris

March 2015

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Aquatic Biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2014
Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System
Permit No. AK-0038652 (Modification #1)

Technical Report No. 15-01

By

Alvin G. Ott and William A. Morris

Anthony R. DeGange
Director
Division of Habitat
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in reports by the Divisions of Habitat, Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

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| alternate hypothesis   | Hₐ                   |                      |
| base of natural log    | e                    |                      |
| catch per unit effort  | CPUE                 |                      |
| coefficient of variation | CV             |                      |
| common test statistics | (F, t, χ², etc.)     |                      |
| confidence interval    | CI                   |                      |
| correlation coefficient| (multiple)           | R                    |
| (simple)               | r                    |                      |
| covariance             | cov                  |                      |
| degree (angular)       | °                    |                      |
| degrees of freedom     | df                   |                      |
| expected value         | E                    |                      |
| greater than           | >                    |                      |
| greater than or equal  | ≥                    |                      |
| harvest per unit effort| HPUE                 |                      |
| less than              | <                    |                      |
| less than or equal     | ≤                    |                      |
| logarithm (natural)    | ln                   |                      |
| logarithm (base 10)    | log                  |                      |
| logarithm (specify base)| log₂, etc.     |                      |
| minute (angular)       | °                    |                      |
| not significant        | NS                   |                      |
| null hypothesis        | H₀                   |                      |
| percent                | %                    |                      |
| probability            | P                    |                      |
| probability of a type I error | α                |                      |
| (rejection of the null hypothesis when true) |            |                      |
| probability of a type II error | β                |                      |
| (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false) |            |                      |
| second (angular)       | °                    |                      |
| standard deviation     | SD                   |                      |
| standard error         | SE                   |                      |
| variance               |                      |                      |
| population             | Var                  |                      |
| sample                 |                      |                      |
# Table of Contents

Table of Contents ................................................................................................................. i
List of Tables ...................................................................................................................... ii
List of Figures ..................................................................................................................... iii
Acknowledgements ............................................................................................................ vi
Executive Summary .......................................................................................................... vii
Introduction ..........................................................................................................................1
Structure of Report ...............................................................................................................5
Location of Sample Sites .....................................................................................................5
Description of Streams .........................................................................................................7
Methods ..................................................................................................................................8
Results and Discussion .......................................................................................................9
  Water Quality .................................................................................................................. 9
  Periphyton Standing Crop ............................................................................................. 21
Aquatic Invertebrates ......................................................................................................... 25
Metals Concentrations in Juvenile Arctic Grayling and Dolly Varden ........................ 31
Metals Concentrations in Adult Dolly Varden ............................................................. 40
Dolly Varden, Overwintering ....................................................................................... 44
Chum Salmon, Spawning ............................................................................................. 47
Dolly Varden, Juveniles ................................................................................................. 49
Arctic Grayling, Red Dog Creek Drainage ................................................................ 55
Arctic Grayling, Bons Pond .......................................................................................... 63
Slimy Sculpin ................................................................................................................... 70
Literature Cited ..................................................................................................................72
Appendix 1. Summary of Mine Development and Operations................................. 77
Appendix 2. Periphyton Standing Crop ................................................................. 99
Appendix 3. Aquatic Invertebrate Drift Samples ......................................................101
Appendix 4. Juvenile Arctic Grayling from Bons Creek, Whole Body Metal ..........110
Appendix 5. Juvenile Dolly Varden from Anxiety Ridge, Buddy .........................111
Appendix 6. Dolly Varden Metals Data, Wulik River 2014 ..................................112
Appendix 7. Dolly Varden Aerial Surveys ...............................................................114
Appendix 8. Dolly Varden and Chum Salmon Survey Areas ................................115
Appendix 9. Juvenile Dolly Varden Sampling Sites ...............................................116
Appendix 10. Juvenile Dolly Varden Catches ..........................................................117
Appendix 11. Arctic Grayling, Mainstem Red Dog Creek ....................................118
Appendix 12. Arctic Grayling Fry, North Fork Red Dog Creek .........................122
List of Tables

1. Location of APDES Sample Sites and Factors Measured. ................................................... 1
2. Location of Sample Sites and Factors Measured................................................................. 3
3. Location of sample sites for Red Dog aquatic biomonitoring study. ................................. 4
4. Estimated number of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River. .................................................... 46
5. Number of chum salmon adults in Ikalukrok Creek......................................................... 48
6. Location of juvenile Dolly Varden sample sites ............................................................... 49
7. Summary of Arctic grayling spawning in Mainstem Red Dog Creek ...................... 58
List of Figures

1. Location of the Red Dog Mine in northwestern Alaska ................................................ 2
2. Location of sample sites (some have a Station #) in the Ikalukrok ........................................ 6
3. Downstream end of mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek ........................................ 9
4. Clean water bypass system at the Red Dog Mine ....................................................... 10
5. Median, maximum, and minimum Pb concentrations at Station 151/10 ...................... 11
6. Median, maximum, and minimum Zn concentrations at Station 151/10 ...................... 11
7. Median Pb concentrations in 2014 from upstream (Station 145) ................................ 12
8. Median, maximum, and minimum Al concentrations at Station 151/10 ...................... 13
9. Median, maximum, and minimum Se concentrations at Station 151/10 .................... 14
10. Median, maximum, and minimum Ni concentrations at Station 151/10 .................. 14
11. Median, maximum, and minimum pH values at Station 151/10 .................................. 15
12. Median, maximum, and minimum TDS concentrations at Station 151/10 ................... 16
13. Median Cd concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD) .................................. 17
14. Median Pb concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD) .................................. 18
15. Median Zn concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD) .................................. 19
16. Median Se concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD) .................................. 20
17. Average concentration of chlorophyll-a (+ 1SD) .................................................. 21
18. Average concentration of chlorophyll-a ................................................................. 22
19. Average chlorophyll-a concentrations versus Zn in Ikalukrok Creek ....................... 23
20. Average chlorophyll-a concentrations versus Cd in Ikalukrok Creek ..................... 23
21. Ikalukrok Creek at the Cub Creek seep about 10 km upstream ................................ 24
22. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (+ 1SD) in all sample sites in late July .............. 25
23. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (+ 1SD) in North Fork Red Dog Creek ........... 26
24. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (+ 1SD) in Mainstem Red Dog Creek ........... 26
25. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (+ 1SD) in Buddy Creek ............................... 26
26. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in the aquatic invertebrate sample sites .................... 27
27. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in North Fork Red Dog Creek .................................. 28
28. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in Mainstem Red Dog Creek .................................. 28
29. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in Buddy Creek ..................................................... 28
30. EPT density in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks ....................... 29
31. Aquatic invertebrate taxa richness in North Fork Red Dog ....................................... 30
32. Average Cd concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling ............................... 32
33. Average Pb concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling ............................... 32
34. Average Se concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling ............................... 33
35. Average Zn concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling ............................... 33
36. Average Hg concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling ............................... 34
37. Median Cd whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 35
38. Median Pb whole body concentrations and median Cd water quality data ............... 35
39. Median whole body Cd concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 35
40. Median Pb whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 36
List of Figures (continued)

41. Median whole body Pb concentrations and median Pb water quality data ................. 36
42. Median Se whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 37
43. Median whole body Se concentrations and median Se water quality data ............... 37
44. Median Zn whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 38
45. Median whole body Zn concentrations and median Zn water quality data ............... 38
46. Median Hg whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden ............................ 39
47. Average Cd concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 41
48. Average Cu concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 41
49. Average Pb concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 42
50. Average Se concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 42
51. Average Zn concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 42
52. Average Hg concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden ............................. 43
53. Aerial survey estimate of the number of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River .............. 44
54. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in the Red Dog Mine sample reaches ................... 50
55. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in Anxiety Ridge Creek ........................................ 51
56. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in Buddy Creek ..................................................... 51
57. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek ....................... 52
58. Length frequency distribution of Dolly Varden in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage .... 53
59. Length frequency distribution of Dolly Varden in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage .... 53
60. Dolly Varden caught in fyke nets fished in North Fork Red Dog Creek ................... 54
61. Looking downstream at the fyke net in North Fork Red Dog Creek, June 2014 ........ 56
62. CPUE (fish/day) in North Fork Red Dog Creek in June 2014 .................................. 57
63. Peak daily water temperatures in North Fork Red Dog Creek ............................... 57
64. Length frequency distribution of Arctic grayling in June 2014 ............................... 59
65. Average CPUE (fish/day) of immature Arctic grayling in North Fork ....................... 59
66. Average CPUE (fish/day) of mature Arctic grayling in North Fork ......................... 60
67. Percent of marked fish caught in North Fork Red Dog Creek ............................... 61
68. Average, maximum, and minimum annual growth of Arctic grayling .................... 61
69. The estimated Arctic grayling population (95% CI) in North Fork .......................... 62
70. Outlet of Bons Pond .................................................................................................. 63
71. Looking upstream at drift nets in Bons Creek upstream of Bons Pond in 2014 .......... 65
72. Number of Arctic grayling fry caught in drift nets .................................................. 65
73. CPUE for all Arctic grayling in Bons Creek ......................................................... 66
74. CPUE for Arctic grayling < 200 mm in Bons Creek ............................................. 66
75. Length frequency distribution of Arctic grayling in Bons Pond ............................... 67
76. Average annual growth (± 1SD) of Arctic grayling < 250 mm ............................... 68
78. Estimated Arctic grayling population (95% CI) in Bons Pond ............................... 69
79. CPUE of slimy sculpin caught in Mainstem Red Dog Creek ................................. 70
80. CPUE of slimy sculpin caught in Ikalukrok Creek at Station 7 .............................. 71
Acknowledgements

We thank Teck for their financial and logistical support for the 2014 aquatic biomonitoring work. We specifically acknowledge the assistance provided by Mr. Jeff Clark, Mr. Wayne Hall, Mr. Chris Eckert, Mr. Andy Willman, Mr. Joseph Diehl III, Mr. Dennis Sheldon, Mr. Chris Menefee, Ms. Karen Conitz, and Mr. Robert Napier.

Ms. Laura Jacobs and Mr. Brad Wendling with the Division of Habitat, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Mr. Brendan Scanlon with Sport Fish Division (ADF&G) provided assistance with laboratory work. Mr. Fred DeCicco (Fisheries Services and Supplies) conducted the fall Dolly Varden (Salvelinus malma) and chum salmon (Oncorhynchus keta) aerial surveys and collected the fall sample of adult Dolly Varden from the Wulik River. Ms. Laura Jacobs and Mr. Todd Nichols (ADF&G) participated in 2014 field sampling events.

Dr. Phyllis Weber Scannell (Scannell Technical Services) updated our long-term water quality data base with 2014 data. Ms. Nora Foster (NRF Taxonomic Services) was responsible for sorting and identification of aquatic invertebrates. Mr. Parker Bradley (ADF&G), Ms. Heather Scannell (ADF&G), and Mr. Robert Napier provided constructive review of our report.
Executive Summary

- Median metals concentrations (Pb, Zn, Al, Cd) in Mainstem Red Dog Creek are consistently lower when compared with pre-mining data. The pH and total dissolved solids (TDS) in Mainstem Red Dog Creek are higher than pre-mining. Median concentrations of Cd, Pb, and Zn are consistently higher in Mainstem Red Dog Creek as compared with Buddy and North Fork Red Dog creeks and Bons Pond. Teck continued to maintain the clean water bypass system. Median Pb concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, which had increased from 2011 to 2013, decreased in 2014.

- Algal biomass, as estimated by chlorophyll-a concentration, is determined each year at Red Dog. Chlorophyll-a concentrations in 2014 were highest in Buddy Creek below the falls and lowest in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek. Average chlorophyll-a concentrations were higher in Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks as compared with Middle Fork Red Dog Creek. Periphyton standing crop tracks closely with elevated Zn and Cd in Ikalukrok Creek at Station 9. The major source of Cd and Zn at Station 9 is the Creek natural seep.

- Aquatic invertebrate densities are used as an index of stream productivity and health. In 2014, aquatic invertebrate density was low at all sites except for the two Buddy Creek sites. All sites, except for Buddy Creek above the road and Ikalukrok Creek upstream of Red Dog Creek, contained a higher percentage of Chironomidae than EPT (Ephemoptera Plecoptera Tricoptera). The percent Chironomidae in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog Creeks has increased since 2007. Taxa richness was highest in 2014 and was the lowest in 2010. Taxa richness is similar in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and Buddy creeks.

- Juvenile Arctic grayling have been analyzed for selected whole body metals in 2004, 2007, 2010, and 2014. Cadmium concentrations in Arctic grayling have not changed. Mean Pb and Se concentrations were highest in 2014. Selenium concentrations in 2014 are significantly higher than the other three sample periods. Zinc concentrations were variable among sample events. All of the Hg concentrations are either at or very near the detection limit (.02 or .04 mg/kg).

- Median whole body concentrations of Cd, Pb, and Zn are consistently higher in Mainstem Red Dog Creek than in Buddy and Anxiety Ridge creeks. Cadmium and Zn water quality data track with whole body concentrations, but Pb does not. Median whole body Se concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden generally are lowest in fish from Anxiety Ridge Creek, but Hg concentrations are highest. Each of our sample sites seems to have its own unique relationship with whole body concentrations of Cd, Pb, Se, Zn, and Hg.

- Kidney, liver, ovary, testes, and muscle from adult Dolly Varden captured in the Wulik River during spring and fall 2014 were sampled for Cd, Cu, Pb, Se, Zn, and Hg. None of the analytes measured appear to concentrate in muscle. Various metals do concentrate in specific tissues: Cd in kidney, Cu in liver, Se in kidney and ovary, Zn in ovary, and Hg in kidney.
Executive Summary (concluded)

● The number of overwintering Dolly Varden is estimated each fall in the Wulik River. The number of fish overwintering in the Wulik River has exhibited a decreasing trend since 2006 reaching a low of 21,084 in 2012, but in 2011 and 2014 over 63,000 fish were estimated. Aerial surveys prior to mine development found that over 90% of overwintering Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were located below the mouth of Ikalukrok Creek. Surveys post mining demonstrate the same distribution. Adult Dolly Varden were radio-tagged in fall 2014 and will be monitored during the spring 2015 outmigration.

● Annual aerial surveys assess the distribution of chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek. Aerial counts of adult chum salmon after mine development in 1990 and 1991 were much lower than those reported in baseline studies. Post-mining, the highest estimated number of chum salmon was 4,185 in 2006. In fall 2014, the estimated chum salmon return to Ikalukrok Creek was at least 2,406 fish. Returns of chum salmon to Ikalukrok Creek have been strong the last nine years.

● Juvenile Dolly Varden sampling was conducted in late summer 2014. A few resident Dolly Varden (n = 4) were collected with fyke nets in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring. Total number of juvenile Dolly Varden captured in late July was low (65), with the highest catches occurring in Evaingiknuk, Buddy, and lower Mainstem Red Dog creeks. Catches of juvenile Dolly Varden in lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek have been relatively consistent from 1997 to 2014.

● The Arctic grayling spawning migration into North Fork Red Dog Creek was monitored in spring 2014. On June 12, 2014, four spent females were captured. It appears that spawning was substantially complete in Mainstem Red Dog Creek by June 11. Spawning success in North Fork Red Dog Creek was low, but fry were present along stream margins in late July. Recruitment of immature fish to North Fork Red Dog Creek has been strong since 2007.

● The population of Arctic grayling (> 200 mm) in Bons Pond in 2012 was an estimated 715 fish. The population estimates show a continuous decrease in starting in 2005 (population was 6,189 in 2004). Sampling in 2012 and 2014 however, consisted of high numbers of juvenile fish (< 200 mm) suggesting that the population is likely to increase. Arctic grayling spawning was observed in Bons Creek and in the outlet channel from Bons Pond in spring 2014.

● Pre-mining slimy sculpin (Cottus cognatus) abundance is unknown. Baseline reports indicated that this species was numerous in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage, but uncommon in the Red Dog Creek drainage. Post-mining, slimy sculpin commonly are captured in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, but highest catches consistently occur in Ikalukrok Creek downstream of the mouth of Dudd Creek.
Introduction

The Red Dog zinc (Zn) and lead (Pb) deposit is located in northwestern Alaska, about 130 km north of Kotzebue and 75 km inland from the Chukchi Sea coast (Figure 1). Mine operations, facilities, surrounding vegetation, and wildlife are described in Weber Scannell and Ott (1998). A chronology of development and operations at the Red Dog Mine is presented in Appendix 1. Aquatic resources in the Wulik River drainage are described in Weber Scannell et al. 2000.

Aquatic biomonitoring has occurred annually since 1995 and has included periphyton, aquatic invertebrate, and fish sampling, including tissue and whole body metals analyses for Dolly Varden (Salvelinus malma) and spawning season monitoring for Arctic grayling (Thymallus arcticus). The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit No. AK-0038652 (APDES Permit) to Teck Alaska Incorporated (Teck) to allow discharge of up to 2.418 billion gallons of treated effluent per year became effective March 1, 2010. The APDES Permit required a bioassessment program that included periphyton, aquatic invertebrates, and fish in selected streams near the Red Dog Mine (Table 1). The bioassessment program became fully effective and enforceable on March 31, 2010.

Table 1. Location of APDES Sample Sites and Factors Measured.

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<tr>
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<td>Fish Presence and Use</td>
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On December 2, 2009, the ADEC issued Waste Management Permit No. 0132-BA002 for the Red Dog Mine that included a condition that Teck adhere to the requirements of the monitoring plan submitted by Teck in May 2009. In April 2010 to satisfy conditions in the EPA and ADEC permits, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) submitted Technical Report #10-04 titled “Methods for Aquatic Life Monitoring to Satisfy Requirements of 2010 NPDES Permit, Red Dog Mine Site (Revision #1)”. Teck’s May 2009 monitoring plan includes sample sites, sampling frequency, and parameters for all aquatic sites, including those required by the APDES Permit (Tables 2 and 3).
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<th>APDES/ADEC</th>
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<td>Ikalukrok Creek upstream of confluence with Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 160</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Lower Ikalukrok Creek</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
</tr>
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<td>Station 20</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Middle Fork Red Dog Creek upstream on confluence with</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 10</td>
<td>APDES/ADEC</td>
<td>Mouth of Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Dolly Varden metals in tissue (Zn, Pb, Se, Hg, and Cd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 12</td>
<td>APDES/ADEC</td>
<td>North Fork Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td>Fish presence and use</td>
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<td>Juvenile Dolly Varden metals in tissue (Zn, Pb, Se, Hg, and Cd)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddy Creek</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Below falls, about 1.5 km downstream of Haul Road</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<td>Fish presence and use</td>
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<td>Juvenile Dolly Varden metals in tissue (Zn, Pb, Se, Hg, and Cd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy 221</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Buddy Creek, above road</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bons 220</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Bons Creek, below pond</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bons Above Pond</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Above pond</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Periphyton (as chlorophyll-a concentrations)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Aquatic invertebrates (monitored for taxonomic richness, abundance, and density)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Anxiety Ridge Creek</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>below DMTS road</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Juvenile Dolly Varden metals in tissue (Zn, Pb, Se, Hg, and Cd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewingikinuk Creek</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>East of DMTS road</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Fish presence and use</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Juvenile Arctic grayling metals in tissue (Zn, Pb, Se, Hg, and Cd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bons Reservoir</td>
<td>ADEC</td>
<td>Above reservoir spillway</td>
<td>1/year</td>
<td>Arctic grayling population estimate</td>
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Table 3. Location of sample sites for Red Dog aquatic biomonitoring study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Type</th>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
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<td>Station 221</td>
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<td>Invert Sites</td>
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<td>Station 160 (upstream)</td>
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<td>Invert Sites</td>
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<td>Station 9 (upstream)</td>
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<td>Invert Sites</td>
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<td>North Fork Red Dog Creek</td>
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<td>-162.8852</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Evaingiknuk Creek ds Trap</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Evaingiknuk Creek us Trap</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Station 10 us Trap</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
<td>Mainstem Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>Station 151 ds Trap</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>Trap Sites</td>
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<td>68.0835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trap Sites</td>
<td>North Fork Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>Station 12 us Trap</td>
<td>-162.8774</td>
<td>68.0839</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ds – represents the location of the most downstream minnow trap
us - represents the location of the most upstream minnow trap
The reinstated limits for total dissolved solids became effective on April 1, 2013, in the APDES Permit. Modification #1 of the APDES Permit which authorizes a mixing zone for selenium (Mixing Zone 2) and adjusts Outfall 001 effluent limits for selenium, came into effect on May 8, 2014.

Teck’s monitoring plan is incorporated by reference into the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Reclamation Plan Approval (F20099958) dated December 2, 2009. On March 10, 2010, the U.S. Department of Army issued permit POA-1984-12-M45 to Teck which authorized development of the Aqqaluk Pit. Active mining in the Aqqaluk Pit occurred during 2012. In addition to mine drainage, certain waste rock from Aqqaluk and treated water were placed in the mined out main pit. Our report presents data collected during summer 2014 and where applicable, we compare these data with previous years.

**Structure of Report**

Water quality, periphyton standing crop, and aquatic invertebrate data are presented in the first three sections of our report. Metals concentration data for juvenile Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling collected from small streams and Bons Pond, and adult Dolly Varden collected from the Wulik River are then presented. Aerial survey estimates of overwintering Dolly Varden in the Wulik River and chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) spawners in Ikalukrok Creek are covered next. Finally, biological monitoring data for Dolly Varden juveniles, Arctic grayling, and slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) are presented.

**Location of Sample Sites**

Biomonitoring is conducted in streams adjacent to and downstream from the Red Dog Mine as required under the APDES Permit No. AK-0038652 (Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 2 and 3), and by condition in the ADEC Waste Management Permit, and the ADNR Reclamation Plan Approval. Monitoring sites are located in the Red Dog Creek drainage, Ikalukrok Creek, Bons and Buddy Creek drainage, Anxiety Ridge Creek, and Evaingiknuik Creek.
Figure 2. Location of sample sites (some have a Station #) in the Ikalukrok and Evaingiknuk Creek (a tributary of the Noatak River) drainages.
Description of Streams

All streams in the study area are in the Wulik River drainage, except for Evaingiknuk Creek, which is in the Noatak River drainage. Station numbers correspond either to those used by Dames and Moore (1983) during baseline work or to the current water quality program being conducted by Teck. Water quality and fish data collected during baseline studies (1979 to 1982) represent pre-mining conditions. Comparisons of existing conditions relative to baseline data should take into account that we have many years of data during mining and only a short time frame of baseline data.
Methods

All methods used for the Red Dog Mine aquatic biomonitoring study are described by ADF&G (2010) in Technical Report No. 10-04 titled “Methods for Aquatic Life Monitoring to Satisfy Requirements of 2010 NPDES Permit, Red Dog Mine Site (Revision #1).”

The method detection limit (MDL) in 2000 for copper (Cu), lead (Pb), and selenium (Se) was 50, 20, and 50 µg/L, respectively, for a portion of the samples early in the ice-free season. MDL’s were changed part way through summer 2000 for Cu, Pb, and Se to 1, 2, and 1 µg/L respectively. Because of the high MDLs used in early 2000, water quality data for these samples are not presented. Water quality data presented in our report are for “total recoverable.” All water quality data are provided by Teck. The number of water quality samples taken each year varies with the permit condition requirements, but for most analytes, samples are collected twice each month with a sample size of 9 to 13 per year per site. Baseline water quality pre-mining presented in the report were collected from 1979 to 1982.

The abundance of Arctic grayling was estimated using Chapman’s modification of the Lincoln-Petersen two-sample mark-recapture model (Chapman 1951),

\[ \hat{N}_c = \left\{ \frac{(n_1 + 1)(n_2 + 1)}{(m_2 + 1)} \right\} - 1, \]

where \( \hat{N}_c \) = estimated population, \( n_1 \) = fish marked in first capture event, \( n_2 \) = fish captured during recapture event, and \( m_2 \) = fish captured during recapture event that were marked in the capture event. Variance was calculated as (Seber 1982):

\[ \text{var}(\hat{N}_c) = \frac{(n_1 + 1)(n_2 + 1)(n_1 - m_2)(n_2 - m_2)}{(m_2 + 1)^2 (m_2 + 2)}. \]

95% C.I. for the population estimate was calculated as

\[ 95\% \text{C.I.} = N_c \pm (1.960)\sqrt{\text{var}(\hat{N}_c)}. \]
Results and Discussion

Water Quality

Water quality data collected in Mainstem Red Dog Creek prior to 2010 are from Station 10, located near the mouth of the creek. Data from 2010 to 2014 were collected at Station 151 located about 2 km upstream from Station 10. Station 151 is at the downstream end of the mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek (Figure 3). There are no defined drainages entering Mainstem Red Dog Creek between these two water quality stations. Station 151 replaced Station 10 effective spring 2010. Mainstem Red Dog Creek is directly affected by the mine wastewater effluent and by water from the clean water bypass. North Fork Red Dog Creek is a reference site with no direct effects from the mine. We continue to evaluate water quality data collected in Mainstem Red Dog Creek as part of the ongoing aquatic biomonitoring program.

Figure 3. Downstream end of mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek in late July 2013 (Station 151).
Teck continued to maintain the mine’s clean water bypass system which picks up non-mining impacted water from Sulfur, Shelly, Connie, Rachel, and Upper Middle Fork Red Dog creeks (Figure 4). This water is moved through the mine pit area, including by the currently active Aqqaluk pit, to its original channel via a combination of culverts and lined open ditch. These bypass conveyance structures serve to isolate the clean water from contact with areas disturbed by mining activities.

Figure 4. Clean water bypass system at the Red Dog Mine. The Red Dog Creek Diversion structure (delineated by labels in the photograph and shown in red) picks up non-mining impacted waters from upstream tributaries and moves them between the Aqqaluk pit and the main pit back to the original Middle Fork Red Dog Creek streambed (flow is from right to left). Figure provided by Teck with modifications made by ADF&G.
Pb and Zn concentrations at Station 151/10, downstream of the clean water bypass system, indicate that both of these elements are lower now than pre-mining, with the exception of several maximum Pb concentrations (Figures 5 and 6). Median lead concentrations, which had increased from 2011 to 2013, decreased to 4.5 µg/L 2014. Median zinc concentration in 2014 was 460 µg/L as compared with a baseline median concentration of 3,700 µg/L.

Figure 5. Median, maximum, and minimum Pb concentrations at Station 151/10 (selected median values shown).

Figure 6. Median, maximum, and minimum Zn concentrations at Station 151/10 (selected median values shown).
In 2014, the major sources of Pb were Middle Fork Red Dog Creek (Station 145) upstream of the clean water bypass and Sulfur and Rachel Creeks (tributaries to the clean water bypass). Sulfur Creek had the highest median Pb concentration, but this drainage is small compared to the other tributaries to the clean water bypass (Figure 7). Sulfur Creek may eventually be incorporated into the Aqqaluk Pit. Overall, the median Pb concentrations in 2014 were lower than those reported in 2013 (Ott and Morris 2014). The median Pb concentration in Sulfur Creek was 362 µg/L in 2013 and 122.4 µg/L in 2014.

![Figure 7. Median Pb concentrations in 2014 from upstream (Station 145) of the clean water bypass, including tributaries to the clean water bypass (Connie, Rachel, Shelly, and Sulfur), and Station 140 (above the Outfall 001), Outfall 001, and North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog Creeks.](image)

Median Al concentrations at Station 10/151 continue to be lower than pre-mining (Figure 8). Cd concentrations are lower than pre-mining conditions (Figure 9). The median Cd concentration in 1983 was 28 µg/L and in summer 2014 it was 3.2 µg/L. In most years (1999 to 2014), the maximum Cd concentration is lower than the 1983 median value.
Pre-mining data for Se are not available. Median Se concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek remained similar from 2001 to 2007, but then increased reaching a high of 2.75 µg/L in 2011 (Figure 10). In 2012, discharge of treated water was stopped on June 8 and was not resumed the entire open water season due to elevated Se. Treated water was discharged to the main pit for the remainder of the 2012 open water period. Discharge was discontinued to allow Teck time to work on ways to reduce the Se in the treated water discharge and to obtain a mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Discharge resumed in 2013 and by summer 2014, the median Se concentration in Mainstem Red Dog Creek was 1.7 µg/L.
Pre-mining data for Ni are not available. Median Ni concentrations at Station 151/10 were highest in 2006 and 2007 (Figure 11). Higher median Ni concentrations were observed first in 2006. The primary source of Ni to the clean water bypass system has been Rachael Creek (Ott and Morris 2010). Median Ni concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek were 10.1 µg/L in 2014.
The pH at Station 151/10 is higher than pre-mining (Figure 12). The pH is slightly more basic and has only dropped below 6 once, in 2011. The 1990 data set is during mining, but prior to construction of the clean water bypass system. The clean water bypass system was built and operational prior to spring breakup in 1991.

![Figure 12. Median, maximum, and minimum pH values at Station 151/10 (selected median values shown).](image)

Total dissolved solids (TDS) in Mainstem Red Dog Creek are higher than pre-mining (Figure 13). TDS is directly related to high concentrations in the treated wastewater discharge at Outfall 001. Calcium hydroxide Ca(OH)$_2$ is added to precipitate and collect metals from the tailing water as metal hydroxides prior to discharge. Sulfates released in this process along with the Ca result in the elevated TDS concentrations. TDS concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek in summer 2014 exceeded the 1,500 mg/L standard applied at Station 151 one time – on May 5, 2014. A second grab sample was taken later that same day and the TDS concentration was 1,084 mg/L. The TDS exceedance was attributed to cooling air temperatures which contributed to near freezing conditions in the stream and the formation of ice/slush around the in-situ probe. The presence of ice/slush around the probe may have interfered with its performance and resulted in transmission of incorrect TDS data to water treatment plant personnel. To prevent such incidents from happening in the future, a standard operating procedure will
be developed and implemented to ensure that the conductance probe is regularly checked and, as necessary, cleared of accumulated ice/slush during early and late season operations when episodic freezing conditions can occur.

![TDS, Mainstem Red Dog Creek (Station 151/10)](image)

**Figure 13.** Median, maximum, and minimum TDS concentrations at Station 151/10 (selected median values shown).

Cadmium, Pb, Zn, and Se concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek (Station 151/10) were compared with those found in North Fork Red Dog Creek, Buddy Creek (below the confluence of Bons and Buddy creeks), and Bons Pond (Figures 14 to 17). Sites in North Fork Red Dog and Buddy creeks and Bons Pond were selected because they are reference sites with no direct effects from the mine process or discharge. Mainstem Red Dog Creek is directly downstream of the mine clean water bypass and wastewater effluent discharge at Outfall 001. Buddy Creek and Bons Pond are reference sites, but with the potential to be affected by the road, airport, waste rock dump, and they are down gradient from the tailing backdam. Cadmium, Pb, Se, and Zn were selected for comparison because these elements are analyzed for whole body concentrations in juvenile Arctic grayling from Bons Pond and Dolly Varden from Mainstem Red Dog, Anxiety Ridge, and Buddy creeks.
Cadmium, Pb, and Zn median concentrations are highest in Mainstem Red Dog Creek. (Note: Two graphs are presented for Cd, Pb, and Zn so the differences in North Fork Red Dog and Buddy creeks and Bons Pond can be seen). In the three reference sites, Cd and Zn concentrations are stable over the sampling period from 2001 to 2014. Pb concentrations demonstrate more variability, but still are consistently lower in North Fork Red Dog and Buddy creeks and Bons Pond.

Figure 14. Median Cd concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD), North Fork Red Dog (NFRD), and Buddy Creeks and Bons Pond (2001 to 2014). Two graphs are presented, the bottom graph does not include Mainstem Red Dog Creek.
Figure 15. Median Pb concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD), North Fork Red Dog (NFRD), and Buddy Creeks and Bons Pond (2001 to 2014). Two graphs are presented, the bottom graph does not include Mainstem Red Dog Creek.
Figure 16. Median Zn concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD), North Fork Red Dog (NFRD), and Buddy Creeks and Bons Pond (2001 to 2014). Two graphs are presented, the bottom graph does not include Mainstem Red Dog Creek.
Differences in Se among these sites are not substantial (Figure 17). Most of the Se concentrations range from 1 µg/L (the detection limit) to 3.0 µg/L.

Figure 17. Median Se concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog (MSRD), North Fork Red Dog (NFRD), and Buddy Creeks and Bons Pond (2001 to 2014).
Periphyton Standing Crop

Periphyton attached microalgae biomass samples are collected each year (2014 data, Appendix 2). Under the new program initiated in 2010, sampling occurred at nine sites (Table 2). In 2014, samples were collected at all sites. Periphyton samples are processed in the laboratory and standing crop determined as mg/m² chlorophyll-a.

Chlorophyll-a concentrations in 2014 were highest in Buddy Creek (12.3 mg/m²) below the falls and lowest in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek (0.3 mg/m²) (Figure 18). Periphyton standing crops also were high in Bons Creek (10.1 mg/m²) below Bons Pond.

![Chlorophyll-a, 2014](image)

**Figure 18. Average concentration of chlorophyll-a (+ 1SD).**

Average chlorophyll-a concentrations in Middle Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and North Fork Red Dog creeks (below falls) are presented in Figure 19. Generally, average chlorophyll-a concentrations are higher in Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks as compared with Middle Fork Red Dog Creek. Low chlorophyll-a concentrations in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek probably are directly related to higher metals concentrations in the creek.
Periphyton standing crop tracks closely with elevated Zn and Cd in Ikalukrok Creek at Station 9 which is just upstream of the mouth of Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Water quality at this site is not affected by water from the Red Dog Mine facility, but is affected by natural mineral seeps located upstream and along Ikalukrok Creek (Ott and Morris, 2007). Chlorophyll-a concentrations are higher when the Zn and Cd concentrations are lower (Figures 20 and 21). The variability seen from 2002 to 2014 may be natural as both Cd and Zn concentrations remained low and consistent during this time frame. The major source of Zn and Cd to Ikalukrok Creek is the Cub Creek seep (Figure 22).
Figure 20. Average chlorophyll-a concentrations versus Zn in Ikalukrok Creek (red line is chlorophyll and blue line is zinc).

Figure 21. Average chlorophyll-a concentrations versus Cd in Ikalukrok Creek (red line is chlorophyll and blue line is cadmium).
Figure 22. Ikalukrok Creek at the Cub Creek seep about 10 km upstream of the mouth of Mainstem Red Dog Creek – note iron staining in and along the edge of Cub Creek. Photograph by W. Morris, ADF&G, spring 2012.
Aquatic Invertebrates

Aquatic invertebrate samples are collected annually using drift nets (Appendix 3). In 2014, nine sites were sampled July 27 to 31. Flows were high with water covering stream side grasses, sedges, and equisetum.

In 2014, densities were low at all sites except for the two Buddy Creek sites. The density of aquatic invertebrates was highest (14.9/m³) in Buddy Creek upstream of the road and was lowest (1.3/m³) in Ikalukrok Creek at Station 160 (Figure 23) (Appendix 3).

![Aquatic Invertebrate Density, 2014](image)

Figure 23. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (+ 1SD) in all sample sites in late July 2014. Selected average values shown.

Average aquatic invertebrate densities vary among sample years. Densities in North Fork Red Dog Creek generally are higher than in Mainstem Red Dog Creek (Figures 24 and 25). In most years, the highest densities are found in Buddy Creek upstream of the Haul Road (Figure 26). There appears to be an increase in aquatic invertebrate densities from 2006 to 2010 in North Fork Red Dog Creek and a decrease from 2011 to 2014. We have noted fairly substantial physical changes (channel changes and increased turbidity) in North Fork Red Dog Creek in recent years.
Figure 24. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (± 1SD) in North Fork Red Dog Creek. Selected average values shown.

Figure 25. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (± 1SD) in Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Selected average values shown.

Figure 26. Average aquatic invertebrate densities (± 1SD) in Buddy Creek. Selected average values shown. *The average density in 2012 was 164.5/m³.
The percent Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (EPT) and the percent Chironomidae for sample sites in 2014 are presented in Figure 27. All sites, except for Buddy Creek above the road and Ikalukrok Creek upstream of Red Dog Creek, contained a higher percentage of Chironomidae in 2014. Trichoptera are not common in our samples and are not a substantial contributor to EPT. Generally, the aquatic systems in the Red Dog Mine area are dominated by Chironomidae which is one of the primary food items of the fish species (e.g. Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden) using these creeks.

![Aquatic Invertebrates 2014](image)

**Figure 27. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in the aquatic invertebrate sample sites in late July 2014.**

The percent EPT in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks was low in 2001 and from 2008 to 2011 (Figures 28 and 29). The percent EPT in Mainstem Red Dog Creek has been higher than North Fork Red Dog Creek since 2009. Buddy Creek in certain years (2004, 2011, 2012, and 2014) had a much higher percentage of EPT than either North Fork Red Dog or Mainstem Red Dog creeks (Figure 30). In most years since 2007, the percent Chironomidae in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog Creeks has been higher than the percent EPT. Increased percent Chironomidae in the Red Dog Creek drainage may be related to increased sediment input due to auifeis, channel changes, and sediment input from tundra habitats.
Figure 28. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in North Fork Red Dog Creek.

Figure 29. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in Mainstem Red Dog Creek.

Figure 30. Percent EPT and Chironomidae in Buddy Creek.
The actual density of EPT (average number of organisms per m$^3$ of water) in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and Buddy creeks is variable (Figure 31). Generally, EPT densities are lowest in Mainstem Red Dog Creek and highest in Buddy Creek. The variability in the density of EPT in Buddy Creek is the highest, ranging from 0.58 to 134.7 organisms per m$^3$.

![EPT Density Chart]

Figure 31. EPT density in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks from 1999 to 2014 and Buddy Creek from 2004 to 2014. *The density in 2012 was 134.7.

We compared taxa richness for the three sample sites in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and Buddy creeks (Figure 32). Taxa richness was highest in 2014 and was the lowest in 2010. Overall taxa richness is similar in North Fork Red Dog (1999-2014), Mainstem Red Dog (1999-2014), and Buddy creeks (2004-2014).
Figure 32. Aquatic invertebrate taxa richness in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and Buddy creeks.
Metals Concentrations in Juvenile Arctic Grayling and Dolly Varden

We sample juvenile Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden to determine whole body concentrations of selected metals. The purpose of this effort is: (1) to determine if differences exist in metals concentrations in fish among the sample sites that can be linked with background water quality; and (2) to track change over time.

Juvenile Arctic grayling were selected for long-term monitoring after we had successfully established a self-sustaining population in Bons Pond. Arctic grayling captured in Bons Pond have been in the pond system, including tributaries for their entire life. Arctic grayling that leave Bons Pond must go over a waterfall that prohibits upstream/return movement of fish. Therefore, these Arctic grayling serve as an indicator of change over time in Bons Pond. We selected juvenile Arctic grayling that were between 140 and 220 mm long to minimize variability due to age. In 2010, we refined the sample effort to include only Arctic grayling between 150 and 200 mm long. Our preferred sample size for Arctic grayling is 15 each year, recognizing that in some years we do not achieve this goal. Fish samples were collected during the spring sample event when fish are moving from Bons Pond into Bons Creek.

Juvenile Dolly Varden were selected as a target species because of their wide distribution in the Red Dog area streams, their residence in freshwater for two to four years before smolting, and their rearing in the selected sample sites only during the ice-free season. Juvenile Dolly Varden are collected opportunistically from Mainstem Red Dog, Anxiety Ridge, and Buddy creeks during the minnow trap sample event each fall. Ott and Morris (2004) found no relationship between fish length and whole body concentrations of selected metals for pre-smolt sized Dolly Varden. To minimize age-related variability, we targeted juvenile Dolly Varden from 90 to 140 mm (likely 2 and 3 year old fish), and collected all samples in August after fish have likely spent most of the summer in the sample reach. Fish larger than 140 mm were excluded because they could be resident fish and may be much older than the fish from 90 to 140 mm long. Our preferred sample size for juvenile Dolly Varden is 15 each year.
In spring 2014, we collected 15 Arctic grayling from Bons Creek just upstream of Bons Pond (Appendix 4). The average length of these fish was 173±5 mm (1SD). Cadmium concentrations in Bons Pond juvenile Arctic grayling have not significantly changed since 2004 as there are no significant differences among sample years (Figure 33).

**Figure 33.** Average Cd concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling collected in the Bons Pond drainage (dry weight).

The average Pb concentration in juvenile Arctic grayling from Bons Pond generally were similar among sample events, except for 2014 which had a higher average Pb concentration than in 2007 (KW Stat = 10.62, p = 0.01).

**Figure 34.** Average Pb concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling collected in the Bons Pond drainage (dry weight). Different lower case letters represent averages that are statistically different.
The average Se concentration for whole body Arctic grayling was highest in spring 2014 (Figure 35). Selenium concentrations in 2014 are significantly higher than the other three samples from 2004, 2007, and 2010 (KW Stat = 23.59, p = 0.001).

Figure 35. Average Se concentrations (± 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling collected in the Bons Pond drainage (dry weight). Different lower case letters represent averages that are statistically different.

The average Zn concentration in Arctic grayling in Bons Pond has varied from a high of 97 mg/kg to a low of 68 mg/kg (Figure 36). The averages of the fish in 2007 and 2010 are significantly higher than the fish in the 2004 and 2014 sample (KW Stat = 42.38, p < 0.001).

Figure 36. Average Zn concentrations (± 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling collected in the Bons Pond drainage (dry weight). Different lower case letters represent averages that are statistically different.
Average Hg concentrations in juvenile Arctic grayling varied from 0.02 mg/kg (the detection limit) to 0.05 mg/kg (Figure 37). Average Hg concentrations from the 2007 and 2010 sample are not statistically different. Fish from the 2004 and 2014 samples had average Hg concentrations that were below the detection limit of 0.02 mg/kg and are statistically different than the 2007 and 2010 samples (KW Stat = 48.37, p = 0.001).

![Figure 37](image)

**Figure 37.** Average Hg concentrations (+ 1SD) in juvenile Arctic grayling collected in the Bons Pond drainage. Different lower case letters represent averages that are statistically different.

In the fall of 2014, we collected juvenile Dolly Varden for whole body metals analysis from Mainstem Red Dog (n=15), Buddy (n=15), and Anxiety Ridge creeks (n=7) (Appendix 5). Since water quality concentrations of Cd, Pb, and Zn are highest in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, we expect to see higher concentrations of these metals in whole body samples of juvenile Dolly Varden.

Whole body Cd concentrations (median value) were higher in juvenile Dolly Varden collected from Mainstem Red Dog Creek and consistently lowest in Anxiety Ridge Creek (Figure 38). Highest median Cd concentrations occurred at all three sites in 2006. Median Cd concentrations have been below 1 mg/kg in fish from Buddy Creek since 2007 and Anxiety Ridge Creek since 2005. Cd median concentrations have steadily decreased in Mainstem Red Dog juvenile Dolly Varden from 2006 to 2009, but then increased in 2010 and have decreased in 2011 and 2014. These changes in whole body Cd concentrations seem to track closely with the water quality data for Mainstem Red Dog Creek (Figure 39).
Figure 38. Median Cd whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden from 2005 to 2014.

Figure 39. Median whole body Cd concentrations and median Cd water quality data for Mainstem Red Dog Creek.

Median whole body Pb concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden are consistently higher in Mainstem Red Dog Creek than in Buddy and Anxiety Ridge creeks, which have similar Pb concentrations (Figure 40). Lead concentrations in the water of Mainstem Red Dog Creek have been increasing since 2007; however, this pattern does not appear to correspond well with whole body lead concentrations in the juvenile fish (Figure 41). Median Pb concentrations in the water in 2012 and 2013 were 6.25 and 13.6 µg/L.
Median whole body Se concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden generally are lowest in fish from Anxiety Ridge Creek (Figure 42). Median Se concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden from Mainstem Red Dog Creek and Buddy Creek generally are similar. There doesn’t seem to be any relationship between Se in the water and the quantity of Se in whole body juvenile Dolly Varden (Figure 43). In 2012 and 2013 when juvenile Dolly Varden samples were not obtained, median Se water quality concentrations in Mainstem Red Dog Creek were 2.0 and 1.7 µg/L.
Median Zn whole body concentrations are highest in fish from Mainstem Red Dog Creek and lowest in fish from Anxiety Ridge Creek (Figure 44). Zinc whole body concentrations have decreased from a high of 351 mg/kg in 2007 to a low of 160 mg/kg in 2009 in Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Minor changes in Zn whole body concentrations have occurred since 2009. Generally, as Zn concentrations in the water have decreased so have whole body Zn concentrations (Figure 45). Median Zn concentrations in the water in 2012 and 2013 were 254.5 and 350.5 µg/L.
Figure 44. Median Zn whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden from 2005 to 2014.

Figure 45. Median whole body Zn concentrations and median Zn water quality data for Mainstem Red Dog Creek.
Median Hg concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden are consistently higher in Anxiety Ridge Creek and very similar between Buddy and Mainstem Red Dog creeks (Figure 46).

Figure 46. Median Hg whole body concentrations in juvenile Dolly Varden from 2005 to 2014.
Metals Concentrations in Adult Dolly Varden

Since 1990, we have sampled adult Dolly Varden from the Wulik River (Station 2) near Tutak Creek for metals concentrations (Al, Cd, Cu, Pb, and Zn) in gill, kidney, liver, and muscle tissue (Weber Scannell et al. 2000). Station 2 is located on the Wulik River about 2 km downstream from the mouth of Ikalukrok Creek.

In 1997, we added Se and in 1998 we started sampling reproductive tissue, when available in adequate mass. In 2003, we added Hg and Ca to the analytes being tested. From 2004 through 2009, Dolly Varden tissues were analyzed for Al, Cd, Cu, Pb, Se, Zn, and Hg. In 2010, we made several modifications based on previous results, including deleting Al from the analytes and eliminating gill tissue. The extreme variability of Al in gill tissue and the potential for gill sample contamination during sampling were the reasons for this change. The sample size for each spring and fall sample period has been six fish, except for the fall 2002 sample, when only five fish were caught.

The purpose of sampling adult Dolly Varden for metals concentrations is to monitor changes in tissue metals concentrations and to provide a database for use by other professionals. It is unlikely that tissue metals concentrations in adult fish could be related to events at the Red Dog Mine, since Dolly Varden attain the majority of their growth while in the marine environment. All laboratory work has been done with Level III Quality Assurance. Metals data for 2014 are presented in Appendix 6.

Metals are known to concentrate preferentially in certain organs; however, the relationship of organ concentration to ambient environmental concentrations is unknown. Concentrations of metals vary with season, age, size, weight, and feeding habits of fish (Jenkins 1980) and in the case of anadromous Dolly Varden, the metals concentrations vary with exposure to freshwater and marine environments. None of the analytes we measure appear to concentrate in muscle tissue.
Analyte concentration in various tissues is summarized below and in Figures 47 through 52: One figure is presented for each analyte and contains data for all fish handled from 1999 to 2014.

- Cd concentrates in kidney tissue (Figure 47)
- Cu concentrates in liver tissue and eggs (Figure 48);
- Pb does not concentrate in any specific tissue (Figure 49);
- Se concentrates in kidney and eggs (Figure 50);
- Zn concentrates in eggs (Figure 51); and
- Hg concentrates in kidney tissue (Figure 52).

Figure 47. Average Cd concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).

Figure 48. Average Cu concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).
Figure 49. Average Pb concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).

Figure 50. Average Se concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).

Figure 51. Average Zn concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).
Figure 52. Average Hg concentration (dry weight ± 1SD) in Dolly Varden (1999-2014).
**Dolly Varden, Overwintering**

Two aerial surveys to estimate the number of overwintering Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were conducted in 2014, September 21 and October 7. Surveys were conducted with an R-44 helicopter provided by Teck (DeCicco 2014). The October 7 survey yielded the highest counts and was conducted under excellent conditions except for slight overcast during the last part of the survey. The permafrost slump located downstream of Driver’s camp was not a factor during either survey. In fact, the river had changed and now flows around the slump. Counts began slightly upstream of Kivalina Lagoon.

Late September estimates of Dolly Varden have decreased annually since 2005, reached their lowest (21,084) number in 2012, but then increased in fall 2014 (63,951) (Figure 53, Table 4, and Appendix 7). We hypothesized that, similar to some recent salmon migrations in the Arctic, Dolly Varden may be delaying their migration until later in the fall and that the aerial survey may need to be conducted later in the season.

![Figure 53. Aerial survey estimate of the number of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River just prior to freezeup.](image)

44
We will continue to attempt these later surveys, but results will be largely dependent upon weather and survey conditions. The ADF&G Sport Fish Division deployed a DIDSON® (Dual frequency Identification SONar) side-scanning sonar in the Wulik River in spring 2014 to estimate the number of Dolly Varden leaving the Wulik River to feed in marine waters (Scanlon and Savereide 2014). The sonar operated from the evening of May 30 through the morning of June 6. Installation of the sonar went well and it was calibrated correctly. The sonar counted 229 fish moving downstream and 52 fish moving upstream. Generally, Dolly Varden in the Wulik River begin to move downstream after the freshet in spring melt water has passed and the water begins to clear. During our sample period, the water stayed high and turbid and the majority of Dolly Varden probably left the Wulik River after the sonar was removed. In the fall of 2014, 16 adult Dolly Varden were caught in the Wulik River upstream of Ikalukrok Creek and fitted with radio-tags. The radio-tagged fish will be monitored during the spring outmigration when Sport Fish Division deploys the side scanning sonar in the Wulik River.

The number of Dolly Varden estimated in the fall in the Wulik River varies annually. Survey results in 2014 found that 99% of the fish observed were downstream of the mouth of Ikalukrok Creek. Only in 1980 and 2004 has the percentage of fish below Ikalukrok Creek been less than 90% (Table 4). Continued use of this section of the Wulik River by the majority of overwintering Dolly Varden suggests that conditions have not changed to alter the distribution of these fish.
Table 4. Estimated number of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wulik River upstream of Ikalukrok Creek</th>
<th>Wulik River downstream of Ikalukrok Creek</th>
<th>Total downstream of Fish</th>
<th>Percent of Fish in Wulik River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>3,305</td>
<td>51,725</td>
<td>55,030</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>12,486</td>
<td>101,067</td>
<td>113,553</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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<td>97,136</td>
<td>101,261</td>
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<td>2,300</td>
<td>63,197</td>
<td>65,497</td>
<td>97</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>30,483</td>
<td>30,853</td>
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<td>1987</td>
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<td>61,290</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>54,274</td>
<td>56,384</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>7,930</td>
<td>119,055</td>
<td>126,985</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>7,650</td>
<td>136,488</td>
<td>144,138</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>66,337</td>
<td>66,752</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>93,117</td>
<td>95,412</td>
<td>98</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>6,350</td>
<td>97,693</td>
<td>104,043</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16,486</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>10,645</td>
<td>110,203</td>
<td>120,848</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>4,758</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>5,503</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>71,493</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>60,876</td>
<td>60,998</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>36,318</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>62,612</td>
<td>63,249</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>21,084</td>
<td>21,084</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>21,945</td>
<td>22,059</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>63,341</td>
<td>63,951</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chum Salmon, Spawning

ADF&G conducts annual aerial surveys to assess the distribution of adult chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek from its confluence with the Wulik River upstream to Dudd Creek (Table 5 and Appendix 8). In fall 2014, we flew a survey using an R-44 helicopter. An estimated 2,406 chum salmon (live and dead) were observed in Ikalukrok Creek on September 21 (DeCicco 2014). The weather was clear with a slight wind from the northeast. All chum salmon observed were below Station 160 on Ikalukrok Creek, the furthest downstream location at which the instream TDS limits apply (from July 25 through the end of the discharge season). Our highest count of chum salmon since mining began at Red Dog was in 2006, when we estimated 4,185 chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek.

Counts of chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek in 1990 and 1991 (mine discharge began in 1989) were lower than reported in baseline studies in 1981 and 1982. It should be noted that the reported number of chum salmon in 1981 was an extrapolation based on aerial photographs and, therefore are not comparable to other datasets.

Annual aerial surveys, post-mining, were initiated in 1990. Based on the number of chum salmon counted in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage during 1981 and 1982 and recognizing that the 1981 estimate was an extrapolation, data collected suggest that the chum salmon population may have recovered to pre-mining numbers by the mid-1990s and at the latest by the early 2000s.
Table 5. Number of chum salmon adults in Ikalukrok Creek.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Date</th>
<th>Number of Chum Salmon</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1981</td>
<td>3,520 to 6,960</td>
<td>Houghton and Hilgert 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August September 1982</td>
<td>353 to 1,400</td>
<td>Houghton and Hilgert 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1984</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>DeCicco 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1986</td>
<td>1,985</td>
<td>DeCicco 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1990</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>Ott et al. 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1991</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>Ott et al. 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16, 1995</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Townsend and Lunderstadt 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1995</td>
<td>300 to 400</td>
<td>DeCicco 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 1996</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Townsend and Hemming 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12, 1997</td>
<td>730 to 780</td>
<td>Ott and Simpers 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>no survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9, 1999</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Ott and Morris 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>no survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7, 2001</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>Morris and Ott 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, 2001</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>DeCicco 2001b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29, 2001</td>
<td>1,836</td>
<td>DeCicco 2001b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23, 2001</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>DeCicco 2001c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8, 2001</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>DeCicco 2001a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5, 2002</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>Ott and Townsend 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 2003</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>Townsend and Ingalls 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26, 2004</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>Townsend and Conley 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29, 2005</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>Thompson 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14, 2006</td>
<td>4,185</td>
<td>Ott and Timothy 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 2007</td>
<td>1,408 and 1,998</td>
<td>Ott and Townsend 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6, 2008</td>
<td>3,820</td>
<td>Ott and Jacobs 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2009</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Ott and Benkert 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25, 2009</td>
<td>2,051</td>
<td>DeCicco 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24, 2010</td>
<td>1,358</td>
<td>DeCicco 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2011</td>
<td>1,507</td>
<td>DeCicco 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29, 2012</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>DeCicco 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19, 2013</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>DeCicco 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21, 2014</td>
<td>2,406</td>
<td>DeCicco 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Chum salmon count was an estimation based on extrapolation from aerial photographs
\(^2\)Counts were made independently by Ott and Townsend
Dolly Varden, Juveniles

Limited pre-mining juvenile Dolly Varden distribution data are available for streams in the Red Dog Mine area. Houghton and Hilgert (1983) identified Anxiety Ridge Creek as the most productive system in the project area. They also reported finding only one Dolly Varden in the North Fork Red Dog Creek drainage and presumed it was a resident fish. Surveys along Mainstem Red Dog Creek reported either few fish or no fish, and in some cases mortalities of small juvenile Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling fry (EVS Consultants Ltd and Ott Water Engineers 1983, Ward and Olson 1980).

We have sampled for juvenile Dolly Varden in streams within the Red Dog Mine area since 1990. We added new sample sites and increased the number of minnow traps (10) per sample reach in 1992. Under the modified program that began in 2010, we sample eight sites with 10 minnow traps per sample reach with about 24 hrs of effort in early-to-mid August (Table 6, Appendix 9). Seven of these sites are unchanged in location and the new Station 160 corresponds to Station 7 – instead of being immediately downstream of Dudd Creek, it is now located about 7 km downstream.

Table 6. Location of juvenile Dolly Varden sample sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Station No.</th>
<th>Year Sampling Started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaingiknuak Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety Ridge Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fork Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstem Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstem Red Dog Creek</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikalukrok Creek above Mainstem</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikalukrok Creek below Dudd</td>
<td>7/160</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minnow traps are the preferred sampling gear for juvenile Dolly Varden because they are very effective for the species and age classes present, the gear is suitable for sample areas in large to small streams, the effort is uniform across sample sites, variability due to sampler-induced bias is reduced, and there is very low fish mortality. Mortalities do occur and these are associated with flow increases or a large juvenile (> 150 mm) becoming gilled in the entrance to the minnow trap. Juvenile Dolly Varden generally are the most numerous fish species present and are distributed most widely in the sample area. Our objective is to assess numbers of fish using streams over time and to sample juvenile Dolly Varden for whole body metal analyses from selected streams. Data relevant to whole body metal analyses of juvenile Dolly Varden were presented in a previous section of this report.

**Dolly Varden Catches and Metrics**

The relative abundance of juvenile Dolly Varden varies considerably among sample years (Appendix 10); however, the catches among the sample sites follow similar patterns. Generally, the CPUE (total number of fish for ten traps fished for 24 hr) in Anxiety and Buddy creeks is higher than at the other sample reaches. In 2014, the CPUE was highest in Evaingiknuk Creek (17.0) and lowest in North Fork Red Dog Creek (0) (Figure 54).

![Figure 54. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in the Red Dog Mine sample reaches in 2014.](image)
Natural environmental conditions such as duration of breakup, patterns and magnitude of rainfall, ambient air temperatures, and the strength of the age 1 cohort affect distribution of juveniles and relative abundance. Probably the most important factor is the strength of the age 1 cohort which is directly related to number of spawners, spawning success, and survival the previous winter. The CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in Anxiety Ridge and Buddy creeks from 1997 to 2014 reflects the high degree of variability among sample years (Figures 55 and 56). The CPUE follows a similar pattern between Anxiety Ridge Creek and Buddy Creek.

![Figure 55. CPUE of juvenile Dolly Varden in Anxiety Ridge Creek.](image)

![Figure 56. CPUE of juvenile Dolly Varden in Buddy Creek.](image)
The CPUE for lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek from 1997 to 2014 is presented in Figure 57. The CPUE ranged from a low of 2.5 in 2006 to a high of 73.3 in 1999. A similar pattern was found for Anxiety Ridge and Buddy creeks. Catches since 2000 in lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek have remained low, but relatively consistent. Only in 2004 did we not catch any juvenile Dolly Varden in lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Use of lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek by juvenile Dolly Varden is substantially greater than what was found by Houghton and Hilgert (1983) during baseline studies.

![Figure 57. CPUE for juvenile Dolly Varden in lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek.](image)

Anadromous Dolly Varden spend at least one year in freshwater before their migration to the marine environment (DeCicco 1990). Adult Dolly Varden collected from the Wulik River had an average freshwater residency of 3.1±1.1 years (1 SD, n = 192). Based on length frequency distributions for juvenile Dolly Varden captured in 2014, it is likely all fish were age 1+ (Figure 58). Small Dolly Varden (< 70 mm) captured in late July and August likely are age 0, which were not present in 2014, but were present in 2011 (Figure 59). In previous sample years (1997 to 2014 – excluding 2012 and 2013 when minnow traps were not fished due to high water), age-0 fish were present in our catches in 12 out of 16 years.
Figure 58. Length frequency distribution of Dolly Varden in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage in fall 2014.

Figure 59. Length frequency distribution of Dolly Varden in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage in fall 2011.

In our catches of Dolly Varden in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage we capture some fish that are > 145 mm. Some of these fish are resident and have not been to the marine environment. These resident fish are identified by their coloration (orange dots and white edges on the pelvic fins) and sexual condition (milt observed). During spring each year, fyke net(s) are fished in North Fork Red Dog Creek for the primary purpose of catching Arctic grayling. However, Dolly Varden also are caught in the fyke nets and generally these fish are larger than those caught later in the summer in minnow traps. In spring
2014, we caught four Dolly Varden that averaged 128 mm long (Figure 60). Many of the Dolly Varden caught in North Fork Red Dog Creek are freshwater resident (non-anadromous) fish due to size (larger than smolts), obvious parr marks, and distinct orange/pink dots.

Figure 60. Dolly Varden caught in fyke nets fished in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring during the Arctic grayling spawning run. Average, maximum, and minimum lengths are shown for each sample year.
Arctic Grayling, Red Dog Creek Drainage

Before mine development, Arctic grayling adults migrated through Mainstem Red Dog Creek in spring when flows were high and metals concentrations were low (Ward and Olsen 1980, EVS and Ott Water Engineers 1983, and Houghton and Hilgert 1983). Arctic grayling moved through Mainstem Red Dog Creek to spawn in North Fork Red Dog Creek. None of these reports indicated that Arctic grayling spawned in Mainstem Red Dog Creek. Arctic grayling fry reared in North Fork Red Dog Creek and were displaced downstream by high-water events or outmigrated as water temperatures cooled in the fall. A few juvenile Arctic grayling were collected in North Fork Red Dog Creek prior to mine development. Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling fry mortality was reported in Mainstem Red Dog Creek by EVS Consultants and Ott Water Engineers (1983) and Ward and Olsen (1980). Since 1994, we have documented Arctic grayling use of Mainstem Red Dog Creek and have not observed any fish mortalities (Appendix 11).

Arctic Grayling Spawning

We have monitored Arctic grayling spawning during the spring in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks since 2001. The purposes of this sampling effort are to document when spawning has been substantially completed in Mainstem Red Dog Creek and to assess the return of Arctic grayling to North Fork Red Dog Creek. Spring water temperatures and timing of warming appear to be the key variables determining spawning success, spawning time, fry emergence, first year growth, and likely survival. High flows during or immediately following spawning can have a negative effect on fry survival (Clark 1992).

Discharge volume and quality from the wastewater treatment facility at the Red Dog Mine are regulated to meet permit conditions. From 2001 to 2007, TDS concentrations were regulated to be less than 500 mg/L at Station 151 (Station 10) during Arctic grayling spawning. During that time frame, monitoring of Arctic grayling spawning was performed to determine when spawning was substantially completed, thus allowing Teck to increase the TDS concentrations to 1,500 mg/L for the rest of the ice-free season.
A TDS site-specific criterion (SSC) of 1,500 mg/L during Arctic grayling spawning was
issued by ADEC and became effective on February 15, 2006. The US Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA) approved the 1,500 mg/L TDS SSC on April 21, 2006. The
SSC developed by ADEC was based on field and laboratory studies conducted with
Arctic grayling at the Red Dog Mine site (Brix and Grosell 2005). Teck regulates the
wastewater discharge to ensure that TDS concentrations do not exceed the ADEC and
EPA approved TDS limit of 1,500 mg/L at Station 151.

We used a fyke net to capture Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek from June 9
to 14, 2014 (Figure 61). On June 9 flows peaked at 300 cfs at 0910 hours, delaying the
deployment of the fyke net; however, by June 11 discharge had dropped to 180 cfs. This
decrease in discharge allowed us to deploy the net fyke net and allow it to fish for about
three days.

Figure 61. Looking downstream at the fyke net in North Fork Red Dog Creek, June 2014.
We caught a total of 37 Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek in June 2014. The CPUE peaked on June 12 (Figure 62). All of the Arctic grayling captured were juvenile fish, except for four spent females on June 12. Most of the large mature Arctic grayling had already moved into North Fork Red Dog Creek before the fyke net was set.

**Figure 62.** CPUE (fish/day) in North Fork Red Dog Creek in June 2014.

Limited spawning could have started on June 5 when the water temperature exceeded 3.0°C (Figure 63). Based on these data, it appears that spawning was substantially complete in Mainstem Red Dog Creek by June 11 (Table 7). Water temperatures were consistently higher in Mainstem Red Dog Creek than in North Fork Red Dog Creek.

**Figure 63.** Peak daily water temperatures in North Fork Red Dog (Station 12) and Mainstem Red Dog (Station 151) Creeks.
Table 7. Summary of Arctic grayling spawning in Mainstem Red Dog Creek.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date When Limited Spawning Started (3°C)</th>
<th>Date When Spawning Complete (Condition of Females)</th>
<th>Number of Days Peak Temperatures Exceeded 4°C$^1$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010$^2$</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013$^3$</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$Does not include the day spawning was judged to be complete since the fyke net is worked in the early morning prior to peak temperatures on that day.

$^2$The date spawning was judged to be substantially complete was based solely on the water temperature data collected in spring 2010.

$^3$Arctic grayling sampling was not conducted in spring 2013 due to extremely high water throughout the spring sampling period.

**Arctic Grayling Fry**

Since 1992, we have estimated the relative abundance of Arctic grayling age-0 fish in North Fork Red Dog Creek (Appendix 12). Estimates are made in early July of each year after the eggs have hatched and the fry have absorbed the yolk sac. In 2014, spawning success in North Fork Red Dog Creek probably was low due to high water during spawning. However, Arctic grayling fry were present along the stream margins and one group of 20 to 30 was observed in the vicinity of Station 151 (just downstream of North Fork Red Dog Creek).
Arctic Grayling Catches and Metrics

In spring 2014, we handled 37 Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek caught with fyke nets (Figure 64). Thirty three of these fish were immature. Recruitment of immature fish to North Fork Red Dog Creek has been strong since 2007 and may be due in part to juvenile fish leaving Bons Pond and returning to North Fork Red Dog Creek (Figure 65).

![Length Frequency Arctic Grayling 2014](image)

**Figure 64.** Length frequency distribution of Arctic grayling in June 2014.

![Immature Arctic Grayling](image)

**Figure 65.** Average CPUE (fish/day) of immature Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek from spring 2001 to spring 2014. No sampling was done due to high water in spring 2013.
Catches of mature Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek have remained stable since 2001 (Figure 66). Our highest CPUE was 37.6 fish/day in 2007 and our lowest was 1.3 fish/day in 2014. Most of the variability in the catches is related to temporal variability in spring breakup, warming water temperatures, and sampling efficiency. Sampling events are limited to times of lower discharge (≤ 100 cfs) when fyke nets can be set and fished effectively.

![Figure 66. Average CPUE (fish/day) of mature Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek from spring 2001 to spring 2014. No sampling was done due to high water in spring 2013.](image)

Some of the Arctic grayling caught in the North Fork Red Dog Creek are fish that were marked in Bons Pond. The percentage of marked fish coming from Bons Pond in our 2014 sample was 0% (Figure 67). Since 2008, we have observed a decrease in the percentage of Bons Pond Arctic grayling being captured in North Fork Red Dog Creek. This decrease is due to the fact that the number of fish ≥ 200 mm in Bons Pond also has been declining since 2007.
Figure 67. Percent of marked fish caught in North Fork Red Dog Creek that were marked in Bons Pond.

The average growth rate (mm/year) for Arctic grayling between 250 and 300 mm long when marked and at large for about one year is presented in Figure 68. Fish growth data includes only those fish marked the previous year and recaptured the following spring. Recapture numbers in any given year are low (1 to 7 fish per year).

Figure 68. Average, maximum, and minimum annual growth of Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek for fish between 250 and 300 mm long when marked.
The population of Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek, pre-mining, is not known. We attempt to make population estimates each year, but in some years the number of recaptures is not adequate to make the estimate with any level of confidence. The highest population estimate was 1,422 in 2010 and the lowest estimate was 942 in 2011 (Figure 69). The 2011 population estimate based on the 2012 recapture event was the last year where we had adequate marks and recaptures for an estimate of the population. The confidence limits overlap for all of the population estimates suggesting that there are no significant differences among years.

![Arctic Grayling, North Fork Red Dog Creek](chart)

*Figure 69. The estimated Arctic grayling population (95% CI) in North Fork Red Dog Creek for fish ≥ 200 mm long.*
**Arctic Grayling, Bons Pond**

Bons Pond, is an impoundment created by construction of an earthen dam. The dam was built in 1987/1988 to provide potable and make-up water for operational activities. Prior to construction of the dam, there were no fish present in Bons Creek due to a series of impassable waterfalls and chutes in bedrock about 1 km downstream of the dam (Figure 70). Bons Creek flows into Buddy Creek and eventually into Ikalukrok Creek.

![Figure 70. Outlet of Bons Pond – Arctic grayling leaving Bons Pond go over the falls and into Bons Creek.](image)

The Arctic grayling population in Bons Pond is the result of a fish transplant conducted in 1994 and 1995 (Ott and Townsend 2003). In 1994, fish from North Fork Red Dog Creek that ranged in size from 158 to 325 mm long (n=102, average 235, SD = 34) and included 5 large Arctic grayling from Ikalukrok Creek (350 to 425 mm long, average 376, SD = 32) were transplanted to Bons Pond. In 1995, about 200 fry were caught in North Fork Red Dog Creek and moved to Bons Pond.
In 1996 and 1997 visual observations and fyke net sampling in Bons Pond were conducted and no fish were caught or observed. In summers 1995 to 1997, 12 of the marked Arctic grayling transplanted to Bons Pond were recaptured in North Fork Red Dog Creek. Initially, it was believed that the fish transplant was unsuccessful. However, in 2001 and 2002 Arctic grayling juveniles were observed in Bons Creek immediately downstream of the blast road. In summer 2003, fish sampling was conducted in Bons Pond to determine fish use and the estimated Arctic grayling population was 6,773 fish ≥ 200 mm long (Ott and Townsend 2003).

Since 2003, we have sampled Bons Pond and Bons Creek in the spring, with additional sampling later in the ice-free season to increase the number of marked fish. Spawning has been observed in Bons Creek and in the outlet of Bons Pond. Our current program in Bons Pond includes a mark/recapture study to estimate the population size and the collection of 15 juvenile Arctic grayling for whole body metals analysis.

Bons Creek, upstream of Bons Pond, is incised with streambanks vegetated with willows and sedges, and measures 1 to 2 m wide with depths from 0.3 to 1 m. In our sample reach, located about 200 m upstream of Bons Pond, the substrate consists of gravel in riffles, with fine sediments and organics in the pools.

A diversion ditch was constructed to carry surface water around the waste rock stockpile. Thermal and hydraulic erosion in the diversion ditch contributes seasonally to the sediment and organic load in Bons Creek. Most of the Bons Creek drainage area is in ice-rich permafrost with thermal erosion and sediment/organic input that varies with seasonal conditions. Generally, there is a high input of sediments and organics to Bons Creek, particularly during rainfall events.

**Arctic Grayling Fry**

Drift nets, which have been used to sample aquatic invertebrates in Bons Creek upstream of Bons Pond since 2004, are also effective in catching Arctic grayling fry. Each year in the summer (usually the first week of July), five drift nets are set for a duration of one hour and the contents placed in a container for later analyses (Figure 71). In five of 11
years of sampling, catches of Arctic grayling fry have been zero. The highest number of Arctic grayling fry caught was 78 in five drift nets in 2007 (Figure 72).

Figure 71. Looking upstream at drift nets in Bons Creek upstream of Bons Pond in 2014.

Figure 72. Number of Arctic grayling fry caught in drift nets.
**Arctic Grayling Catches and Metrics**

We fished a fyke net in Bons Creek from June 9 to June 14, 2014, and caught 266 Arctic grayling. Most of the Arctic grayling were caught in the fyke net (n = 261); however, some fish (n = 5) were captured by angling in the outlet of Bons Pond. Our mean CPUE (#fish/day) for the fyke net in 2014 was 52 (Figure 73). The CPUE for Arctic grayling < 200 mm has ranged from 1 to 38 since 2006 (Figure 74). Catch rates in 2012 and 2014 are some of the highest, with the exception of 2006.

![Catch/Day Arctic Grayling](image)

**Figure 73.** CPUE for all Arctic grayling in Bons Creek.

![Catch/Day Arctic Grayling < 200 mm](image)

**Figure 74.** CPUE for Arctic grayling < 200 mm in Bons Creek.
The length frequency distribution for Arctic grayling caught in fyke nets and by angling in spring 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014 is presented in Figure 75. The current population in Bons Pond consists of a small number of mature fish with a large number of juvenile fish suggesting that the population (≥ 200 mm) is likely to increase.

Growth rates for Arctic grayling from Bons Pond are much less than for comparable sized fish from North Fork Red Dog Creek. Growth data were not obtained for 2012 and 2013 because of high water and a lack of recaptures. Growth rates by size group (< 250 mm and ≥ 250 mm at marking) are presented in Figures 76 and 77. The number of recaptured Arctic grayling that were less than 250 at marking was relatively high in 2003 and 2004 and had average growth rates of 20 mm and 37 mm, respectively. Annual growth rates for larger fish (≥ 250 mm) generally were less than 10 mm except for 2011 when the average growth was 15 mm.
We estimated the 2012 Arctic grayling population in Bons Pond using 2012 as the mark event and spring 2014 as the recapture event. We had 144 marked fish in summer 2012 that were either recaptures or new marks. In spring 2014, we caught 83 Arctic grayling of which 16 were recaptures from the spring 2012 mark event. Based on these values, our estimated Arctic grayling population for 2012 is 715 fish $\pm$ 277 (95% CI) $\geq$ 200 mm long. The population estimates show a continuous decrease in the population beginning in 2005 (Figure 78).
Figure 78. Estimated Arctic grayling population (95% CI) in Bons Pond for fish ≥ 200 mm long.
Slimy Sculpin

Houghton and Hilgert (1983) found slimy sculpin in Ikalukrok and Dudd creeks, but none were observed or caught in the Red Dog Creek drainage. However, in 1995, slimy sculpin were captured in both Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks (Weber Scannell and Ott 1998). They were captured again during the spring Arctic grayling sampling event in 2008 and 2009 ranging in size from 129 to 142 mm total length.

Minnow trap data (CPUE is for 10 minnow traps fished for 24 hr) since 1997 for lower Mainstem Red Dog Creek is presented in Figure 79. There is no apparent trend with CPUE varying from 0 to a high of five in fall, 2009.

![Figure 79. CPUE of slimy sculpin caught in Mainstem Red Dog Creek at the sample reach in the vicinity of Station 10 near the mouth of the creek.](image)

In 2010, we moved our minnow trap sample reach from Station 7 on Ikalukrok Creek to a new site on the same system, upstream of Station 160. The new sample reach in Ikalukrok Creek is similar to Station 7 in that there are multiple channels. The CPUE has varied from a low of 0 to a high of 24 in 2004 (Figure 80). Catches of slimy sculpin generally are higher in Ikalukrok Creek than in the other sample reaches located in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, upper Ikalukrok (Station 9), Buddy, Anxiety, and Evaingiknuik creeks. These data are consistent with findings by Houghton and Hilgert
(1983) in the early 1980s prior to development of the Red Dog Mine when they reported slimy sculpin to be numerous in Ikalukrok Creek, but different in that we now find slimy sculpin in the Red Dog Creek drainage.

Figure 80. CPUE of slimy sculpin caught in Ikalukrok Creek at Station 7 (1997 to 2009) and Station 160 (2010, 2011, and 2014).
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DeCicco, A.L. 1995. Personal communication. AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division. Fairbanks, AK.


Literature Cited (continued)


Literature Cited (continued)


Literature Cited (concluded)


Appendix 1. Summary of Mine Development and Operations

1982
● Baseline studies initiated, Cominco agreement with NANA finalized

1983
● EIS process initiated, alternatives for mine and road to port site identified

1984
● Stream surveys conducted along proposed road by private consultant

1985
● Permit applications prepared for regulatory agencies
● Implementation of wastewater treatment plant deferred to ADEC by ADF&G
● Wastewater discharge limited to summer
● Potential for acid rock drainage and metals mobilization not recognized

1986
● ADEC solid waste permit and bonding not required
● ADEC permit preceded solid waste regulations
● AIDEA bonds to build road and port site issued

1987
● Construction of road began, budget request to AIDEA prepared by ADF&G
● Reimbursement agreement for logistics with ADF&G to monitor construction made by AIDEA

1988
● Ore body developed
● Road and port site construction began
● Notice of Violation issued to AIDEA by ADF&G for failed road crossing bypasses
● Uniform Summons and Complaint issued for illegal water removal
● AIDEA provided funding to ADF&G for monitoring
● Rehabilitation plans for streams developed and implemented
Appendix 1 (continued)

1989

- Agreement to close-out old solid waste site finalized with Cominco
- Civil work on ore body and surface water drainage control begun
- Complaints about water quality in Ikalukrok Creek received
- Tailing dam becomes full, Cominco’s request to siphon untreated water over the dam denied by State
- Elevated metals concentrations identified by red precipitation, were observed in Ikalukrok Creek below the mine
- Winter discharge of treated water authorized by State
- State regulatory agencies and Cominco in disagreement over whether metals exceeded background conditions

1990

- Biomonitoring of fish populations proposed and initiated by ADF&G
- Dead fish from the Wulik River were discovered by the public
- ADF&G sampling indicated very few fish remaining in Ikalukrok Creek
- Installation of sumps and pumps by Cominco prevented metals-laden water from entering Red Dog Creek
- Baseline and current water quality data reviewed by ADF&G
- Clean water bypass system requested by ADF&G
- Zinc levels in Ikalukrok Creek exceeded 40 mg/L
- State regulatory agencies and Cominco in disagreement over cause and extent of water quality problems
- Compliance Order by Consent for water quality violations affecting anadromous fish issued by ADEC
- Notice of Violation for water quality violations affecting anadromous fish issued by ADF&G
- Cominco directed to design and construct a clean water bypass system
- Perceived impairment to the subsistence fishery initiated involvement by the community of Kivalina

1991

- Clean water bypass system designed by Cominco, approved by state agencies
- ADF&G fisheries study funded by Cominco
- Clean water bypass system built
- Clean water bypass system repaired
- Improvements to water quality were documented
Appendix 1 (continued)

1992
● Fish study continued
● Water quality improvements to downstream receiving water continued
● Increasing water volume in tailing impoundment continued
● Water from dirty water collection system entering tailing impoundment increased volume
● Water treatment plant modifications made

1993
● Fish study continued
● Sand filters to remove particulate zinc installed

1994
● Fish study continued
● Use attainability studies of several streams initiated for reclassification
● Water treatment capacity increased by thickening tank conversion
● Wastewater discharge increased from 7.5 cfs to 23 cfs
● Ore processing capability expanded by Cominco
● 107 juvenile and adult Arctic grayling transplanted from North Fork Red Dog Creek to Bons Pond in late June
● 79 juvenile Dolly Varden transplanted from Anxiety Ridge Creek to Bons Pond in late June

1995
● Fish study expanded to include other aquatic biota
● Work on stream reclassification and site-specific criteria continued by ADF&G
● Metals concentrations in the clean water bypass system increased; contributing sources were identified: Hilltop Creek (Zn), Shelly Creek (Cd), and Rachel Creek (Al)
● Clean water bypass system extended to collect water from Hilltop Creek
● Reserves were doubled after exploration drilling located more ore
● Possible metals contamination in Bons Creek identified by ADF&G
● About 200 Arctic grayling fry (40 to 45 mm) were moved from North Fork Red Dog Creek to Bons Pond in August

1996
● Public notice for stream reclassification sent out
● Bons Creek water samples from above and below the Kivalina shale dump collected
● Fish and aquatic biota study continued
Appendix 1 (continued)

1997

- Stream reclassification incorporated into regulation (18 AAC 70.50)
- Fish barrier constructed across Middle Fork Red Dog Creek
- Water bypass around the Kivalina shale dump and interceptor trench at the head of the tailing impoundment built
- Gray-white precipitate observed in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek
- Heavy red staining and precipitate seen in Ikalukrok Creek; originated from seep near headwaters of Ikalukrok Creek, located upstream of mining activity
- Laboratory experiments of TDS on egg fertilization and early egg development initiated
- Fish and aquatic biota studies continue
- US EPA brings enforcement action for water quality violations; Cominco initiates Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Two-year aquatic community study in upper Ikalukrok Creek, above and below the Red Dog Mine discharge initiated by ADF&G
- Ground water monitoring wells installed and monitored below tailing dam by Cominco

1998

- Wet fertilization studies to test effects of TDS on fish embryos continued
- Draft 401 certification for a new NPDES permit prepared by ADEC and reviewed by ADF&G
- Discussed extension of the clean water bypass system up Shelly and Connie Creeks to ensure bypass of clean water and collection of seepage water from newly disturbed areas
- Heavy red staining in headwaters of Ikalukrok Creek, originating from seep in headwaters of Ikalukrok Creek, upstream of mining activity, staining extends downstream about 30 km
- Site-specific criteria for Zn in Mainstem Red Dog and Ikalukrok Creeks approved by EPA
- Heavy rains cause an unanticipated release of water into Bons Creek from the Kivalina stockpile
- Plans to increase port site capacity for direct loading of ships released to public
- NPDES permit (AK-003865-2) issued by US EPA became effective August 28, 1998 and was certified by ADEC (Certificate of Reasonable Assurance)
- Two-year aquatic community study completed
- Biomonitoring, including studies of fish and aquatic biota, required under 1998 NPDES permit
Appendix 1 (continued)

1999

● Two-year drilling program (Shelly and Connie Creeks) proposed
● New station 7 on Ikalukrok Creek established by Cominco, USGS, and ADF&G
● Fish and aquatic biota study expanded to upper North Fork Red Dog, Ikalukrok, and Ferric creeks
● Biomonitoring and USGS gauging work proposals submitted to Cominco
● Study of periphyton communities exposed to different concentrations of TDS in Mainstem Red Dog Creek done by ADF&G and Cominco Alaska Inc.
● Request to increase TDS for periphyton colonization experiment not approved
● Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Alvinella Creek seepage water continued to below Dudd Creek mouth
● Arctic grayling females in ripe spawning condition collected from North Fork Red Dog Creek for selenium analysis of livers and ovaries

2000

● Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued; red stain and precipitate observed several km below mouth of Mainstem Red Dog Creek
● North Fork Red Dog Creek silty at breakup, previously not observed
● Minimal precipitate in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall observed
● Civil work performed in Connie Creek to isolate surface from subsurface flows and bypass flow through disturbed areas
● Effectiveness of pump back system at the Kivalina rock dump verified by presence of juvenile Arctic grayling in creek immediately south of dump
● Site-specific criteria for TDS requested by Cominco
● Biomonitoring study continued
● Baseline fish and aquatic biota studies in streams located in the vicinity of the Anarraaq Prospect begun
Appendix 1 (continued)

2001

- Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued, red stain and precipitate observed in Ikalukrok Creek to Station 8 below Mainstem Red Dog Creek, affects minor near mouth of Dudd Creek
- North Fork Red Dog Creek, siltation (natural) less than in summer 2000
- Minimal precipitate in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall
- Water quality was monitored in Shelley, Rachel, Connie, and Middle Fork Red Dog creeks upstream and downstream of surface disturbance, catch-box and pipeline (about 430 m) placed in Shelley Creek to move water pass disturbance
- Juvenile Arctic grayling observed in Bons Creek just south of the Kivalina rock dump, pump-back system working based on fish use
- Fish weir repairs made during 2000, no problems observed in 2001
- Stream survey of cross drainage structures made along the Delong Mountains Transportation System, some minor work at some crossings identified
- Site-specific criteria for TDS still being worked, data on Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature collected in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks, supplemental data gathered at the Ft. Knox mine
- Studies expanded to include the Delong Mountains Transportation System based on a National Park Service report that metals concentrations adjacent to road were elevated, water sites established upstream and downstream of road and sampled by Teck Cominco, juvenile Dolly Varden samples collected in Omikviorok River and Aufeis Creek, vegetation sampling started by Teck Cominco
- New haul trucks brought on site, hard-covered trucks to minimize loss of zinc and lead concentrates during transport
- Exploratory drilling (ore and shallow gas) continued, focus on North Fork Red Dog Creek and Wulik River basins near Anarraaq and Lik, including west of the Wulik River, another ore prospect found northwest of Anarraaq, shallow gas results promising
- State and Teck Cominco agree to start the state’s large mine team to work on issues, key issue identified was development of a solid waste permit with bonding for the tailing dam, other issues include site-specific criterion for total dissolved solids, clean-water bypass system, waste rock dumps (acid-rock drainage, and truck wash to minimize metal transport)
- Biomonitoring study continued, baseline fish and aquatic biota studies in streams located in the vicinity of the Anarraaq Prospect continued for the second field season, four new sites added (tributaries on west side of Wulik in the area of the Lik Deposit and potential shallow gas development)
Appendix 1 (continued)

2002

- Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued, red stain and precipitate observed in Ikalukrok Creek to Station 8 below Mainstem Red Dog Creek, affects minor near mouth of Dudd Creek
- North Fork Red Dog Creek, siltation minor during summer 2002
- Minor precipitate in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall
- Fish weir operating as designed
- Data on Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature collected in North Fork Red Dog Creek, supplemental data gathered at Ft. Knox
- Pit expansion continues to the north of the clean-water bypass system, road crossing added for access
- A bypass was installed for Connie Creek during winter 2001/2002. The bypass captures the upstream creek and carries the water in a pipe to the clean-water bypass system
- The bypass system for Shelly Creek was modified during summer 2002 to correct an overflow problem that occurred during breakup (the overflow water was captured in the pit and did not affect downstream waters). The modification involved adding a lined ditch to contain overflowing clean water and direct the water to the clean-water bypass system
- Juvenile Dolly Varden collected at eight sites located upstream and downstream of the Delong Mountains Regional Transportation System, whole body metals analyses for Cd, Pb, Se, and Zn
- Site-specific criteria for total dissolved solids is still being worked
- State and Teck Cominco continue to work on key issues, e.g., solid waste permit with bonding for the tailing dam, site-specific criterion for total dissolved solids, clean-water bypass system, waste rock dumps (acid-rock drainage, and truck wash to minimize metal transport)
- Biomonitoring study continued, baseline fish and aquatic biota studies in streams located in the vicinity of the Anarraaq Prospect and shallow gas exploration
- Arctic grayling adults remained in North Fork Red Dog Creek through early August, only the second time since 1992 that most of the adults stayed in the creek during summer, most years adults outmigrate shortly after spawning in spring
- Arctic grayling adults present in Buddy Creek just below the falls, about 50 adult fish in sample reach (0.3 km) in early July, all gone by early August
- About 50 to 60 adult Dolly Varden in Ikalukrok Creek at mouth of Dudd Creek from early July through late August
- Effluent discharge ceased on October 5, 2002, to allow time to winterize the water treatment plant
Appendix 1 (continued)

2003

● Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued but were much less than seen in the last two to three years
● North Fork Red Dog Creek, natural siltation throughout most of the summer was minor in summer 2003
● Minor precipitate in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall
● Fish weir operating as designed
● Data on Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature collected in North Fork Red Dog Creek, supplemental data gathered at Ft. Knox
● Site-specific criteria for total dissolved solids was finalized
● USEPA modified the NPDES effective August 22, 2003, to incorporate the ADEC Site Specific Criteria and mixing zones for total dissolved solids in Mainstem Red Dog and Ikalukrok creeks with conditions that ensure total dissolved solids are at or below 500 mg/L during Arctic grayling spawning in Mainstem Red Dog Creek and during chum salmon and Dolly Varden spawning in Ikalukrok Creek, the modified permit was appealed by the Kivalina Relocation Planning Committee
● State and Teck Cominco continue to work on key issues, e.g., solid waste permit with financial assurance for the tailing dam, site-specific criterion for total dissolved solids, clean-water bypass system, waste rock dumps (acid-rock drainage, and truck wash to minimize metal transport)
● Arctic grayling adult returns to North Fork Red Dog Creek were low, number of adult Arctic grayling seen in the Ikalukrok Creek drainage was the lowest seen since aerial surveys were begun in the late 1990s
● Arctic grayling population estimate was completed for Bons Pond the site of a fish transplant made in 1994 and 1995, estimated population in the reservoir was 6,773
● Modification to Shelly Creek bypass ditch completed, a better designed and constructed lined ditch was built and commissioned in August, 2003
● A permanent lined ditch was constructed parallel to the Connie Creek diversion pipeline to avoid spring freeze-up issues
● A permanent monitoring station was established at the end of the mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, the location designation is Station 151, and is fitted with real time total dissolved solids and flow determination equipment and telemetry to link the station directly into the mill process control system
● Station 150, at the end of the mixing zone in Ikalukrok Creek, was fitted with real time total dissolved solids and flow determination equipment and telemetry to link the station directly into the mill process control system
Appendix 1 (continued)

2004

● Wastewater discharge began on May 20, ended on September 26, total discharge about one billion gallons
● Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued but were minor
● North Fork Red Dog Creek, natural siltation minor during ice-free season
● Minor precipitate in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall
● Fish weir operating as designed
● Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature data collected, Arctic grayling from North Fork Red Dog Creek used for TDS fertilization experiment
● State and Teck Cominco continued to work on key issues associated with the solid waste permit and closure plan for the mine
● Arctic grayling adult returns to North Fork Red Dog Creek were low, number of adults seen in Ikalukrok Creek drainage remained low as in summer 2003
● Bons Pond (the site of a fish transplant made in 1994 and 1995), estimated Arctic grayling population for summer 2003 was 6,773 and for summer 2004 was 5,739
● Chinook salmon juveniles were documented for the first time in Ikalukrok Creek, near Dudd Creek, and in Anxiety Ridge Creek
● Age-1 Arctic grayling were caught in minnow traps fished in Ikalukrok, Mainstem, and Buddy creeks, since age-1 fish are seldom captured in minnow traps this may indicate good survival of fry spawned in spring 2003
● Red Dog Creek diversion (clean water ditch) was realigned to the west side of the pit. Realigned configuration is a combination of large diameter culvert and open lined ditch

2005

● Wastewater discharge began on May 10, 2005, ended on October 6, 2005, total discharge about 1.501 billion gallons
● Major precipitate observed on streambed in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall in July and August, precipitates (gray colored) evident for at least 1 km downstream of effluent outfall
● Fish weir operating as designed
● Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep substantially greater than seen for past several years, water opaque and streambed coated with red precipitate at confluence with Mainstem Red Dog Creek, TCAK water sample from Cub Creek seep with a pH of 3.3
● Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature data collected, Arctic grayling from North Fork Red Dog Creek used for TDS fertilization experiment
● Attended and participated in a NPDES permit renewal meeting in Seattle with EPA, TCAK, and NANA, identified and discussed key issues
Appendix 1 (continued)

2005

● Red Dog Creek diversion (clean water ditch) mine engineering drawings (r4) were provided by TCAK showing the culverts and lined ditch that carry water from tributaries and Middle Fork Red Dog Creek through the pit area.

● Recommendations for changes to the Red Dog biomonitoring program based on field data collection and analyses since 1999 were made for possible incorporation into the renewed NPDES permit or ADEC’s solid waste permit for the tailing impoundment.

● TCAK distributed the 2005 draft report on Arctic grayling fertilization studies that concluded TDS concentrations at or below 1,500 mg/L at Station 10 in Mainstem Red Dog Creek would provide for proper protection of Arctic grayling in the Red Dog Creek drainage, OHMP supported these findings in a letter to Pete McGee (ADEC) dated August 17, 2005.

● Dr. Weber Scannell prepared comments on fish tissue data (Dolly Varden from Wulik and Kivalina rivers) collected by Maniilaq Association and compared these data with existing information from other sources in both Alaska and nationwide.

● OHMP prepared a summary report (letter to Jim Kulas dated August 23, 2005) on temperature/spawning data collected for Arctic grayling in Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks from 2001 through 2005, a recommendation for determining start and completion of spawning based on temperature was developed for Mainstem Red Dog Creek.

● State and TCAK continued to work on key issues associated with the solid waste permit and closure plan for the mine ADEC.

● Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) #3 began operations in late summer 2005 to treat mine sump water and drainage from waste rock dumps prior to placement of these waters into the tailing impoundment; purpose is to improve water quality in tailing impoundment over time.

● Exploratory drilling and flow testing for gas in North Fork Red Dog Creek basin was conducted, access road and pads inspected, corrugated pipes installed to provide cross drainage, no evidence of erosion noted along road to and connecting the drill pads.

● A road was constructed to Station 151 (end of mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek).

● Work to expand and relocate the water treatment plant sand filters was initiated.

● Bons Pond (the site of a fish transplant made in 1994 and 1995), estimated Arctic grayling population for summer 2003 was 6,773 - for summer 2004 was 5,739 – and for summer 2005 was 5,356.
Appendix 1 (continued)

2006

- ADEC amended the site-specific criteria (SSC) for TDS in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, the 500 mg/L limit during Arctic grayling spawning was removed and replaced with a 1,500 mg/L limit on February 15, 2006, and EPA approved the new SSC in April 2006
- North Fork Red Dog Creek, extensive areas of aufeis existed, turbidity and organic debris high due to erosion and thermal degradation, in several reaches flow was not in stream channel due to aufeis
- Arctic grayling spawning/water temperature data collected, early spring warming followed by cold weather, adult Arctic grayling entered North Fork Red Dog Creek in late May and due to cold water temperatures abandoned spawning and outmigrated from the creek in mid-June
- Four Arctic grayling captured in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring 2006 were fish that had been marked in Bons Pond
- Review of ADEC’s draft 401 certification to the renewal of the NPDES was completed and we provided a letter of support (March 10, 2006) to ADEC, including our concurrence with ADEC’s decision to not require Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) limits
- Effects to Ikalukrok Creek from Cub Creek seep continued, but were minor
- Major precipitate observed on streambed in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek below effluent outfall in August, precipitates (orange colored) evident for at least 1 km downstream of effluent outfall and precipitates continued upstream through the clean water bypass to Connie and Rachel creeks
- Fish weir operating as designed
- Work continued on the design for the Red Dog tailing backdam, the dam will be located on the south side of the tailing pond and will be constructed of earth fill with a concrete/soil aggregate/bentonite cutoff wall, the dam will be constructed to a final height of 986 ft., construction anticipated during 2006 and 2007
- In July, windrows of dead capelin were documented at the Port Site, die off after spawning is normal, only a small percentage survive spawning
- Total count of chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek on August 16 was 4,185, the highest number reported since 1990
- In 2006, slightly elevated Zn concentrations persisted and TCAK initiated a field investigation comprised of sampling along the clean water bypass, although not definitive, results indicated that the Mine Sump might have been the source of increased Zn concentrations, modifications were made in operational procedures to ensure containment of contaminated waters in the Mine Sump
- Bons Pond (the site of a fish transplant made in 1994 and 1995), estimated Arctic grayling population for summer 2006 was 4,249
Appendix 1 (continued)

2007

- ADEC issued the Certificate of Reasonable Assurance for NPDES Permit AK-003865-2 on February 12, 2007. EPA issued the proposed NPDES permit for the Red Dog Mine discharge on March 7, 2007. Both actions were appealed and on September 28, 2007, EPA signed the NPDES Permit withdrawal. EPA intends to reissue the NPDES Permit upon completion of the Supplemental EIS for Aqqaluk Extension. In the interim, TCAK will operate under the 1998 NPDES Permit.
- OHMP completed Technical Report No. 07-04 which summarized aquatic biomonitoring in Bons and Buddy creeks from 2004 to 2006. OHMP recommended that aquatic biomonitoring at four sites in Bons and Buddy Creeks and field work to estimate the Arctic grayling population in Bons Pond continue.
- On May 17, 2007, ADNR issued the Certificate of Approval to Construct a Dam Red Dog Back Dam (AK00303).
- On May 24, we notified EPA that open flow existed in North Fork and Mainstem Red Dog creeks. TCAK received written permission from EPA to begin discharge from Outfall 001 and discharge was initiated on May 25.
- Two fyke nets were fished in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring 2007 to determine when Arctic grayling spawning was finished. Based on net catches, observed spawning activity in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, outmigration of mature fish from Mainstem Red Dog Creek as observed on June 3, and the lack of any spawning activity in Mainstem Red Dog Creek on June 3, OHMP determined that spawning was completed on June 2.
- On June 6, EPA notified TCAK that the TDS load in Mainstem Red Dog Creek could be increased to 1,500 mg/L due to the fact that Arctic grayling spawning was complete.
- Seven Arctic grayling captured in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring 2007 were fish that had been marked in Bons Pond. Recruitment of Arctic grayling to North Fork Red Dog Creek from the Bons Pond population is occurring.
- Fish weir, on Middle Fork Red Dog Creek, is operating as designed.
- Arctic grayling spawning success, as determined by presence of fry, was very good in 2007 due to early spawning, low water following spawning for most of the summer, and warm water temperatures. Numerous fry were seen in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, Ikalukrok, and Bons creeks. Arctic grayling fry in mid-August average 64 mm long (n = 26, 58 to 71 mm, SD = 3.1).
- Middle Fork Red Dog Creek contained an orange, tan colored precipitate that extended both above and below the waste water discharge point and was visible downstream to the fish weir.
Appendix 1 (continued)

2007

● Our two estimates for adult chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek (downstream of Station 160) were 1,408 and 1,998 along with about 100 adult Dolly Varden and 8 Chinook salmon

● Work on a Supplemental EIS for the Aqqaluk Extension project began with a draft scoping document in August, public meetings in early October, and draft alternatives scoping in December

● TCAK continued to make improvements to the mine’s clean water bypass system. In October, galvanized culvert was installed replacing sections of HDPE lined ditch in Middle Fork Red Dog Creek upstream of Shelly Creek and continued upstream to the Rachel Creek confluence. In addition, the section of HDPE lined ditch in Connie Creek was converted to culvert as well

2008

● Work on the SEIS for the Aqqaluk Extension continued during 2008. Input via the State’s LMPT coordinator was made periodically with emphasis on the alternatives being considered, the aquatic biology background section, and the monitoring plan for both the Red Dog and Bons/Buddy Creek drainages

● On May 5, 2008, we distributed copies of our technical report titled “Aquatic biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2007 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit No. AK-003865-2” covering work done in summer 2007

● On May 13, 2008, we notified ADEC that based on information provided by TCAK that open water flow existed in North Fork Red Dog, Mainstem Red Dog, and Ikalukrok creeks and that wastewater discharge could commence under the conditions of state and federal permits

● On May 28, 2008, TCAK reported to EPA that TDS on May 16 exceeded the permit limits in effect at the time of the discharge

● In spring 2008, Kivalina residents and NANA collected a number of adult Dolly Varden in the Wulik River and planned to have the fish analyzed for metals by Columbia Analytical Lab. Input regarding sampling protocol for adult Dolly Varden was provided to TCAK and NANA on June 6

● June 24, 2008, we reported to TCAK the successful completion of spring work on Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks and Bons Creek/Bons Pond. In spring 2008, we had at least three age classes of immature fish present in our North Fork Red Dog Creek sample and 18% of these recaptures were fish originally marked in Bons Pond. Our estimated population of Arctic grayling in Bons Pond for summer 2007 was 4,363 fish ≥ 200 mm
Appendix 1 (continued)

2008

● On July 9, 2008, we participated in a teleconference with TCAK and Tetra Tech (contractor for the Aqqaluk SEIS) to discuss the potential impacts to Mainstem Red Dog Creek if the wastewater discharge was moved to the ocean. A short narrative describing possible changes to Mainstem Red Dog Creek was prepared and distributed

● On July 16, 2008, ADF&G sent a letter to TCAK that summarized results of our early July field work when we sampled periphyton, aquatic invertebrates, and fish at the NPDES and ADEC sample sites

● In early August, 2008, ADF&G Commissioner Denby Lloyd spent several days at Red Dog that included a briefing, tour of mine facilities, and an overflight of the project area including Ikalukrok Creek, Wulik River, Port Site, and the haul road from the port to the mine

● On August 13, 2008, ADF&G sent to TCAK a summary of fish work done in early August. Using a helicopter, we estimated 3,820 chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek on August 6 – one of our highest counts since surveys began in 1990

● On August 21, 2008, ADF&G sent to TCAK a summary of Arctic grayling spawning in Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks that covered from 2001 to 2008. The report includes a temperature-based criterion for determining when the majority of Arctic grayling spawning in Mainstem Red Dog Creek is substantially complete

● On September 3, 2008, a settlement was reached between all five plaintiffs residents of Kivalina and TECK on a lawsuit that alleged violations of the mine’s NPDES permit. On October 23, 2008, a Consent Decree was entered with the Department of Justice as required under a CWA lawsuit. Principle to the agreement was a commitment (barring certain requirements) by TECK to design, permit and construct a pipeline to carry treated mine effluent to the ocean

● TCAK prepared and submitted on August 26, 2008, a draft Fugitive Dust Risk Management Plan

● On October 3, 2008, ADF&G sent by letter to TCAK results of the fall Dolly Varden overwintering survey in the Wulik River. Overall the count of Dolly Varden was lower than in the recent past; however, it was noted that very few small fish (first year migrants) were present. More chum salmon (16,215) were seen from Sivu to Driver’s Camp – more chum salmon than have been seen before

● TCAK prepared and submitted a draft monitoring plan for state agency review in early November 2008. The objective is to develop one comprehensive monitoring plan for all state and federal permits pertaining to the mine site as defined by the ambient air boundary. In November and December, we provided input to the States LMPT on the monitoring plan which when completed will be incorporated by reference into the 401 Certification and the ADEC Waste Management Permit
Appendix 1 (continued)

2008

- Adult Dolly Varden and juvenile Dolly Varden for selected metals analyses were prepared and sent to Columbia Analytical Laboratory in mid-November.
- November 24, 2008, the SEIS for Red Dog Aqqaluk Extension was released by EPA for public review.
- On December 22, 2008, we received a CD for the Red Dog Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan – the final draft for agency review. The closure and reclamation plan are the result of over six years of work by TCAK in consultation with state and federal agencies and the public.

2009

- Continued to review and provide comments on the SEIS for the Red Dog Aqqaluk Extension project with emphasis on the monitoring plan prepared by Teck that covers both the Bons/Buddy Creek and Red Dog Creek drainages.
- During 2009, Teck continued construction of the back dam/cutoff wall and the next raise of the main dam.
- On February 10, 2009, the National Park Service issued a news release that they had released a report titled “Assessment of Metals Exposure and Sub-Lethal Effects in Voles and Small Birds Captured Near the Delong Mountain Regional Transportation System Road, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Alaska, 2006”.
- On February 12, 2009, we received notification that the legal company name for Red Dog was now changed to Teck Alaska Incorporated and in simple form will be known as Teck.
- On May 1, 2009, ADF&G distributed copies of the report titled “Aquatic Biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2008 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit No. AK-003865-2”.
- On May 5, 2009, ADF&G by email stated that we have no objection to Teck beginning the discharge of treated water to Middle Fork Red Dog Creek.
- On May 6, 2009, ADF&G provided written input to ADEC on Teck’s Monitoring Plan.
- Several field inspections of the fish weir on Middle Fork Red Dog Creek were made by ADF&G - the weir was operating in compliance with the Fish Habitat Permit.
- In early June, ADF&G monitored the Arctic grayling spawning run in Mainstem Red Dog and North Fork Red Dog creeks. Six adult Dolly Varden were collected in the Wulik River near Tutak Creek by Teck.
- In early July we successfully completed collection of periphyton, aquatic invertebrates and fish at all NPDES required sample sites as well as 4 sites located in the Bons/Buddy Creek drainages.
Appendix 1 (continued)

2009

● Due to extremely low flows, Teck ceased the discharge at Outfall 001 from July 22 around 0600 hr to August 2 around 1400 hr. In our sample reach at Station 151 in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, we observed hundreds of Arctic grayling fry and caught 7 juvenile Dolly Varden in minnow traps. At Station 10 in Mainstem Red Dog Creek we observed several Arctic grayling fry and two adults and caught 6 juvenile Dolly Varden and 5 slimy sculpin. The Arctic grayling fry observed were actively feeding and showed no sign of stress. These results were obtained from July 29 to 31, 2009, and represent conditions in the creek without water from the wastewater discharge.

● On August 19, 2009, we reported to Teck the successful completion of spring work on Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog and Mainstem Red Dog creeks and Bons Creek/Bons Pond. In spring 2009, we again saw strong recruitment of Arctic grayling to North Fork Red Dog Creek and 13% of these recaptures were fish originally marked in Bons Pond. Our estimated population of Arctic grayling in Bons Pond for summer 2008 was 2,216 ≥200 mm – a fairly substantial decrease from the summer 2007 estimate of 4,363.

● Provided to Teck via email on September 3 the protocols that should be used to handle a fish for pathological work.

● On September 25, 2009, Mr. Fred DeCicco (Fisheries Services and Supplies) and Mr. Brendon Scanlon (ADF&G) conducted aerial surveys for Dolly Varden in the Wulik River and chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek.


● On December 15, 2009, the ADEC issued the Certificate of Reasonable Assurance for the NPDES Permit AK-003865-2 to regulate the discharge of treated wastewater and stormwater from Red Dog Mine.

2010

● On January 8, 2010, the EPA issued NPDES Permit No. AK-003865-2. The permit shall become effective on March 1, 2010.

● On January 14, 2010, two nonprofit law firms, representing local tribes and environmental groups, filed an appeal of the state’s 401 certification, asserting that certain provisions do not comply with the Clean Water Act.
Appendix 1 (continued)

2010

● On February 15, 2010, the same two nonprofit law firms filed a petition for review of the EPA permit with the Environmental Appeals Board. In a letter dated February 26, 2010, EPA stayed several contested conditions of NPDES Permit No. AK-003865-2
● On March 11, 2010, the US Department of the Army issued permit POA-1984-12-M45 to Teck which would authorize development of the Aqqaluk Pit at the Red Dog Mine
● On March 17, 2010, EPA Region 10 withdrew conditions from the 2010 NPDES Permit No. AK-003865-2, including: Part IA.1, Table 1 effluent limits for lead (monthly average limit), selenium (daily maximum limit), zinc, and weak acid dissociable (WAD) cyanide, and; Part IA.7.a – effluent limitations for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Those permit conditions not withdrawn, which include the entire permit except the conditions identified above, became fully effective and enforceable on March 31, 2010. As a result of this withdrawal, the following conditions in the 1998 NPDES Permit No. AK003865-2 remain in effect until further agency action: Part IA.1 – effluent limitations for lead (monthly average limit), selenium (daily maximum limit), zinc, TDS, and total cyanide
● On May 20, 2010, Teck announced plans to proceed with development of Aqqaluk
● In early June, ADF&G monitored the Arctic grayling spring spawning migration in the Red Dog Creek drainage and in Bons Pond – strong recruitment of immature Arctic grayling was seen in North Fork Red Dog Creek
● On June 14, 2010, ADNR responded to a Legislative Research Services request for information on what happened at Red Dog during the past – ADF&G provided input on the request including a copy of Appendix 1 (chronology of events)
● In early July, we collected periphyton and aquatic invertebrate samples at all sites, except Bons Creek where there was no surface flow present
● On July 12, 2010, ADF&G sent a letter to Teck that included a document titled “Comparison of adult Dolly Varden (Salvelinus malma) tissue metals concentrations from fish caught in 2008 in the Wulik River Kivalina, Alaska.” The document compares metals concentrations between fish collected by Kivalina and those collected by ADF&G
● We estimated the Arctic grayling population (fish ≥200 mm) in North Fork Red Dog Creek in spring 2009 at 1,368 fish (SD = 418) based on the 2010 recapture event
● We estimated the Arctic grayling population (fish ≥200 mm) in Bons Pond in spring 2009 at 2,180 (SD = 539) based on the 2010 recapture event
● On September 24, 2010, Mr. Fred DeCicco (Fisheries Services and Supplies) and Mr. Brendon Scanlon (ADF&G) conducted aerial surveys for Dolly Varden in the Wulik River and chum salmon in Ikalukrok Creek – they also estimated 548 adult Dolly Varden in Ikalukrok Creek
Appendix 1 (continued)

2010

- An Arctic grayling tagged in North Fork Red Dog Creek was recaptured by an
  sport fisherman in the Wulik River due west of the mine and near the Lik Deposit
  on August 15, 2010
- Seasonal discharge from Outfall 001 was initiated on May 6 and terminated on
  September 22, 2010

2011

- Technical Report No. 11-01 titled “Aquatic biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine,
  2010 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. AK-
  003865-2” was submitted to EPA and ADEC on February 2, 2011
- In mid-February, Teck approved funding to support a radio telemetry project on
  Arctic grayling in North Fork Red Dog Creek
- On March 11, 2011, ADNR approved modifications (fertilizer rates and
  composition, use of wild native seeds) to the Reclamation Plan
- On March 30, 2011, ADNR approved modifications to the waste rock
  segregation criteria as submitted by Teck
- Reports were received from hunters in April of a foul odor up the Wulik River
  and Teck responded by sending out an inspection crew – they went to Jakes seep
  along Ikalukrok Creek – the seep was active with a fair amount of gas being
  released and the odor was very noticeable downwind
- On May 8, 2011, Teck notified EPA (by letter) of plans to utilize Waste
  Treatment Plant (WTP1) in parallel with WTP2 in order to facilitate more
  efficient treatment of tailings impoundment (reclaim) water
- On May 15, 2011, Teck notified EPA (by letter) that the discharge through
  Outfall 001 was initiated at about 0830 – seasonal discharge was terminated on
  September 24, 2011
- On June 6, 2011, Teck sent a letter to ADF&G summarizing work conducted to
  clear bridges and culverts of snow and ice along the Port Road prior
- On June 13, 2011, Teck notified EPA by letter of an exceedance in TDS
  collected at Outfall 001 on May 17 – Teck also indicated that they continue to be
  in compliance with TDS at Station 151
- In early June, ADF&G monitored the Arctic grayling spring spawning migration
  in the Red Dog Creek drainage and in Bons Pond – strong recruitment of
  immature Arctic grayling was seen in North Fork Red Dog Creek
- On June 2, 7 adult Dolly Varden were captured and retained for metals analyses
  of selected tissues
- 15 mature Arctic grayling were surgically implanted with radio transmitters
  between June 5 and 11 – all fish were caught and tagged in North Fork Red Dog
  Creek
Appendix 1 (continued)

2011

- Arctic grayling with radio transmitters were radio-located in July, September, October and November – initially they distributed throughout the Ikalukrok Creek drainage but by fall most were in lower Ikalukrok Creek in a reach used by chum salmon for spawning – on the last survey in early November most of the fish were in the Wulik River between the mouth of Ikalukrok Creek to a location several km downstream of the mouth of Tutak Creek
- In mid-July, periphyton and aquatic invertebrate samples were collected at all the NPDES and ADEC sites
- In late August, 2011, juvenile Dolly Varden sampling was conducted and 42 fish were retained for whole body metals analyses
- On September 27, 7 adult Dolly Varden were captured and retained for metals analyses of selected tissues and an aerial survey of chum salmon spawners in Ikalukrok Creek was conducted on September 25 – 1,507 chum salmon (live and dead) were counted
- Two aerial surveys of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were flown (September 26 and October 6). The first survey found 16,916 Dolly Varden, but on October 6 DeCicco estimated 64,499 Dolly Varden – a substantial increase from the earlier survey
- Seasonal discharge from Outfall 001 was terminated on September 24, 2011
- On November 5, an aerial tracking survey to relocate 14 radio tagged Arctic grayling was conducted finding 9 in the Wulik River, 2 in lower Ikalukrok Creek, 2 in North Fork Red Dog Creek, and 1 in Grayling Junior Creek – the fish in North Fork Red Dog and Grayling Junior creeks had not moved and are presumed to be dead

2012

- Technical Report No. 12-02 titled “Aquatic biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2010 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. AK-003865-2” was submitted to EPA and ADEC on March 1, 2012
- Discharge through Outfall 01 to Red Dog Creek began on May 8 and was postponed on June 8 with treated discharge water then routed to either the main pit or back to the tailings impoundment for the remainder of the 2012 discharge season. Discharge to Red Dog Creek was postponed to facilitate repairs to the water treatment plant and was not resumed due to elevated Se concentrations
- In early June, ADF&G monitored the Arctic grayling spring spawning migration in the Red Dog Creek drainage and in Bons Pond – strong recruitment of immature Arctic grayling was seen in North Fork Red Dog Creek in 2012 (recruitment has been strong the last 6 years)
Appendix 1 (continued)

2012

- In early June, radio tagged Arctic grayling were radio-located. Analysis of relocation sites for each fish indicated a 64% mortality rate from 2011 to spring 2012.
- On June 3 and 4, adult Dolly Varden were captured and retained for metals analyses of selected tissues – these fish were caught by angling in the Wulik River near Station 2.
- In early June, Arctic grayling were captured in Bons Creek and Bons Pond. Growth rates for summer 2011 increased compared with previous years and fish appeared to be more robust and in better condition.
- In June, Teck made required notifications to EPA and the State that TDS at Outfall 001 exceeded the end-of-pipe limitation, but TDS did not exceed the applicable state water quality standard at Station 151 in Mainstem Red Dog Creek.
- In June, Teck made required notifications to EPA and the State that Se analytical results for Outfall 001 potentially exceeded the limitation set in the 1998 NPDES permit. Currently, Teck is not discharging to Red Dog Creek.
- In early July, periphyton and aquatic invertebrate samples were collected in accordance with permit requirements.
- In August, Teck made required notifications to EPA and the State that the diversion structure along the western perimeter of the Aqqaluk Pit had overtopped as a result of a major precipitation event (over three inches of precipitation during a 24-hr period). A temporary repair of the diversion structure was made immediately.
- Our mid-August field trip (August 11 to 19) to Red Dog to sample juvenile Dolly Varden was made, but due to extremely high rainfall actual sampling could not be done.
- Three aerial surveys of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were flown (September 27 and 29 and October 10). The second survey (best conditions) found 21,084 Dolly Varden in the Wulik River.

2013

- Teck continued to mine ore from the Aqqaluk Pit.
- Discharge through Outfall 001 to Middle Fork Red Dog Creek began on May 26, 2013 and ended on September 20, 2013.
- An environmental audit of the Red Dog Mine operation was initiated. The scope of the audit does not include the road or Port Facility. The audit is required by the Waste Management Plan and Closure Plan Approval.
Appendix 1 (continued)

2013

● The State of Alaska (ADEC) and Teck entered into a Compliance Order by Consent for Se in the waste water discharge. Se concentrations exceeded the permit limits at Outfall 001 on several occasions, but did not exceed the Fresh Water Aquatic Life Criterion of 5.0 μg/L at Station 151 (the end of mixing zone in Mainstem Red Dog Creek). Teck continues its effort to obtain State authorization of a mixing zone for Se in Mainstem Red Dog Creek

● On June 13, fyke nets were set in North Fork Red Dog and Bons creeks and due to high water and rain, the nets were pulled on July 15 – only one Arctic grayling was captured

● In late July, periphyton and aquatic invertebrate samples were collected at six of the nine sites in accordance with permit requirements

● In late July, Arctic grayling fry were present in Bons Creek upstream of Bons Pond, but none were observed in North Fork Red Dog or Mainstem Red Dog creeks

● Our mid-August field trip to Red Dog to sample juvenile Dolly Varden was not made due to repeated high rainfall events during the entire month

● Two aerial surveys of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were flown (September 19 and October 4). A chum salmon survey in Ikalukrok Creek also was done on September 19

● On October 11, ADF&G sent a letter to Teck regarding increased winter water use from Bons Pond to support lime slaking. We recommended that Teck monitor water use during winter and document surface water elevation in spring prior to breakup

2014

● Technical Report No. 14-02 titled “Aquatic biomonitoring at Red Dog Mine, 2013 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. AK-003865-2” was submitted to EPA and ADEC on February 28, 2014

● On April 8, 2014, ADEC issued Modification #1 to the APDES Permit (AK0038652) which authorized a mixing zone for selenium and adjusts Outfall 001 effluent limits for selenium. The modification became effective on May 8, 2014

● Discharge through Outfall 001 to Middle Fork Red Dog Creek began on May 1, 2014 and ended on September 20, 2014

● On May 5, 2014, TDS concentrations at Station 151 as measured with a conductance probe exceeded the TDS limit of 1,500 mg/L – measures will be implemented (during episodic freezing conditions conductance probes will be removed and washed and checks will be made with calibrated, hand-held instruments)
Appendix 1 (concluded)

2014

● On May 28, 2014, ice buildup in the clean water bypass culvert caused water to overflow. The water was collected and pumped back into the creek for about 24 hr until it was determined that it may have mixed with mine contact water. Pumping was then diverted to the mine water drainage containment system. Water quality changes downstream during this 24 hr period were undetectable at monitoring stations

● A DIDSON® side-scanning sonar was operated in the lower Wulik River from May 30 to June 6 – over this time period 229 fish moved downstream and 52 moved upstream – water remained high and turbid during the entire sample period

● On June 5, 2014, Teck filed a court report stating that it was exercising their option not to build a pipeline to the coast

● The spring spawning migration of Arctic grayling in Bons Pond/Bons Creek and North Fork Red Dog Creek was sampled from June 7 to 16. Adult Dolly Varden were collected for metals analyses in tissues and adult Arctic grayling were retained from Bons Creek for selenium analysis of ovaries

● In the July 26 to August 2, 2014, field trip, periphyton, aquatic invertebrate, and juvenile fish sampling was done at all nine sites in accordance with permit requirements. In addition, aquatic biomonitoring was conducted in Volcano, Competition, Sourdock, and Upper North Fork Red Dog creeks

● Two aerial surveys of Dolly Varden in the Wulik River were flown (September 21 and October 7, 2014). The chum salmon survey in Ikalukrok Creek also was done on September 21. Radio-tags were placed in 15 adult Dolly Varden in the Wulik River – these fish will be monitored next year during the spring outmigration

● On December 1, 2014, DNR administratively extended the Final Reclamation Plan approval (F20099958) to July 2, 2015

2015

● On January 6, 2015, ADF&G by email indicated that we would be willing to assume regulatory oversight over Teck’s maintenance of the fish weir on Middle Fork Red Dog Creek

● On January 22, 2015, ADF&G by letter reported a summary of Se data (ovaries and livers) collected on Arctic grayling females at the Red Dog Mine, Fort Knox Mine, and from the Chena River near Fairbanks

● On February 10, 2015, Habitat (Parker Bradley) gave a presentation at the Alaska Center for the Environment Forum in Anchorage on biomonitoring at Red Dog, Fort Knox, and Greens Creek
## Appendix 2. Periphyton Standing Crop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vial #</th>
<th>Station / Site</th>
<th>Date Collected</th>
<th>Date Analyzed</th>
<th>Vial #</th>
<th>Station / Site</th>
<th>Date Collected</th>
<th>Date Analyzed</th>
<th>Detection Limit mg/m²</th>
<th>Below Estimated Chl a mg/m²</th>
<th>Ratio mg/m² mg/m²²</th>
<th>Chlb mg/m²²</th>
<th>Chlc mg/m²²</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>2 Mid Fk Red Dog Cr</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Below Detection Limit</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>5 Mid Fk Red Dog Cr</td>
<td>07/27/2014</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Below Detection Limit</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>0.32</td>
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<td>0.63</td>
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<td>1.56</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>8 Mid Fk Red Dog Cr</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.05</td>
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<td>0.11</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Below Detection Limit</td>
<td>0.11</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>0.18</td>
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<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Mid Fk Red Dog Cr</td>
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<td>07/28/2014</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>15.59</td>
<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
<td>14.29</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>0.19</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>13 Bons u/s of confl w/ buddy</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>14 Bons u/s of confl w/ buddy</td>
<td>07/28/2014</td>
<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>3.74</td>
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<td>01/30/15</td>
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<td>1.45</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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### Chl a Below Estimated

<table>
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<th>Vial #</th>
<th>Station / Site</th>
<th>Date Collected</th>
<th>Date Analyzed</th>
<th>Vial #</th>
<th>Station / Site</th>
<th>Date Collected</th>
<th>Date Analyzed</th>
<th>Detection Limit mg/m²²</th>
<th>Below Estimated Chl a mg/m²²</th>
<th>Ratio mg/m²² mg/m²²²</th>
<th>Chlb mg/m²²</th>
<th>Chlc mg/m²²</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>12 Bons u/s of confl w/ buddy</td>
<td>7/28/2014</td>
<td>02/03/15</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>16.95</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
<td>3.95</td>
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<td>0.24</td>
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<td>14 North Fk</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.10</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
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<td>3.02</td>
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<td>16 North Fk</td>
<td>7/27/2014</td>
<td>02/03/15</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>4.30</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>4.68</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
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<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
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<td>0.08</td>
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<td>19 North Fk</td>
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<td>02/03/15</td>
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<td>4.07</td>
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<td>Linear Check Maximum = 20.18 mg/m²²</td>
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<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.26</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OR

Above Linear Check

(20.18 mg/m²²)

**Note:** The table above includes detections of Chl a below estimated levels, indicating they are below the detection limit.
## Appendix 2 (concluded)

### 2014 Chloro Results - Red Dog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Station</th>
<th>Vial #</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Detection Limit</th>
<th>Linear Check Maximum</th>
<th>Chl a</th>
<th>Chl c</th>
<th>Below Estimated Chl a</th>
<th>Ratio mg/m²</th>
<th>Phaeo Corrected</th>
<th>Chl a</th>
<th>Chl c</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Blank</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2/6/15</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>2/6/15</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank 43</td>
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<td>2/6/15</td>
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</table>
### Appendix 3. Aquatic Invertebrate Drift Samples

**Middle Fork Red Dog Creek, Station 20, Drift Samples Invertebrates**

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Total aquatic taxa</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>Tot. Ephemeroptera</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>Tot. Plecoptera</td>
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<td>Total Aqu. Diptera</td>
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<td>103</td>
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<td>103</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>% Ephemeroptera</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Plecoptera</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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**Appendix 3 (continued)**

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102
### Appendix 3 (continued)

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- **2006a** is without Cladocerans and **2006b** is with Cladocerans
- **2007a** is without Ostracods and **2007b** is with Ostracods
- **2008a** is without Ostracods and **2008b** is with Ostracods
- **2013a** is without Ostracods, Cladocerans, and Copepods and **2013b** is with Ostracods, Cladocerans, and Copepods
- **2014a** is without Ostracods, Cladocerans, and Copepods and **2014b** is with Ostracods, Cladocerans, and Copepods
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Buddy Creek (below falls), not sampled in 2013 due to high water

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<td>18%</td>
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2006a is without Cladocerans and 2006b is with Cladocerans
2011a is without Ostracods and 2011b is with Ostracods
## Appendix 4. Juvenile Arctic Grayling from Bons Creek, Whole Body Metal Concentrations, 2014

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Appendix 5. Juvenile Dolly Varden from Anxiety Ridge, Buddy, and Mainstem Red Dog Creeks, Whole Body Metal Concentrations, 2014

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## Appendix 6. Dolly Varden Metals Data, Wulik River 2014

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Appendix 7. Dolly Varden Aerial Surveys


<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Wulik River upstream of Ikalukrok Creek</th>
<th>Wulik River downstream of Ikalukrok Creek</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent of Fish downstream of Ikalukrok Creek</th>
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The population estimate (mark/recapture) for winter 1988/1989 for fish >400 mm was 76,892 (DeCicco 1990a)

The population estimate (mark/recapture) for winter 1994/1995 for fish >400 mm was 361,599 (DeCicco 1996b)

Fall 2000 and 2003 aerial surveys were not made due to weather.
Appendix 8. Dolly Varden and Chum Salmon Survey Areas
Appendix 9. Juvenile Dolly Varden Sampling Sites
### Appendix 10. Juvenile Dolly Varden Catches

Number of Dolly Varden Caught in Late-July/Early August with ten minnow traps per sample site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Ikaniuksen (above Mainstem) (Sta 9)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Total Catch</td>
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<td>406</td>
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Appendix 11. Arctic Grayling, Mainstem Red Dog Creek

Observations and catches of Arctic grayling in Mainstem Red Dog Creek below the confluence of North Fork Red Dog and Middle Fork Red Dog creeks since 1994.

7/27/94 – visual, two adults just below North Fork

6/29/95 – angling, one adult just below North Fork
7/17/95 – angling, two adults near rock bluff 0.8 km below North Fork
7/20/95 – visual, one adult near rock bluff 0.8 km below North Fork
8/11/95 – visual, fry (about 30) below North Fork
8/14/95 – angling, 11 adults marked and released, rock bluff 0.8 km below North Fork

6/19/96 – visual, one adult near Station 10
7/15/96 – angling, seven adults marked and released near Station 10
8/11/96 – visual, fry in shallow eddies at mouth of Mainstem
8/12/96 – visual, fry near rock bluff 0.8 km below North Fork

6/25/97 – visual, two adults at rock bluff 0.8 km below North Fork
6/25/97 – drift net, fry caught at Station 10, 13-15 mm long
6/26/97 – angling, 15 adults marked and released near Station 10
6/27/97 – visual, fry numerous at Station 10
8/10/97 – visual, fry in backwaters
9/29/97 – minnow traps, seven fry caught near Station 10

6/10/98 – visual, no fish seen between North Fork mouth and rock bluff 0.8 km downstream
6/28/98 – visual, one adult feeding at rock bluff (0.8 km below North Fork)

5/29/99 – angling, three adults caught just below North Fork mouth
5/30/99 – fyke net, 32 adults caught about 100 m below North Fork mouth
7/8-9/99 – angling, two adults captured, marked, and released near Station 10
7/8-9/99 – visual, 12 adults and some fry near Station 10
7/8-9/99 – visual, two adults at rock bluff (0.8 km below North Fork)
8/9-10/99 – visual, numerous fry in backwaters and along stream margins
Appendix 11 (continued)

6/11-12/00 – fyke net, adults captured, marked, and released
7/28/00 – visual, several fry in backwaters and along stream margins, not numerous
7/5/00 – visual, two adults feeding at rock bluff (0.8 km below North Fork), juvenile observed
7/6/00 – visual, walked most of creek, tagged three adults near Station 10, most pools held one to three adults

6/15-18/01 – visual, walked creek to check for spawners in proposed mixing zone, none observed, one adult seen feeding at rock bluff (about 0.8 km below North Fork)
6/17/01 – angling, 11 adults marked and released near Station 10, all females spent
7/29-31/01 – visual, very few fry seen (about 20 mm), late breakup, cold temperatures resulted in late spawning

5/31/02 – fyke net, seven adults marked and released near Station 10
6/1/02 – fyke net, 31 adults marked and released near Station 10
6/2/02 – fyke net, eight adults marked and released near Station 10
6/3/02 – fyke net, three adults marked and released near Station 10
6/4/02 – fyke net, three adults and three juveniles marked and released near Station 10
6/7/02 – angling, 10 adults and three juveniles marked and released near Station 10, most of the females were spent
7/27/02 – visual, few fry (<10) seen
7/28/02 – visual, adults present near Station 10, three to four per pool

6/11/03 – aerial, 48 adults, two spawning pairs seen
6/12/03 – visual, ten adults, three active spawning pairs observed near Station 10
6/14/03 – angling, eight adults, one spent male near Station 10
7/7/03 – visual, fry in backwaters near Station 10, one group of 30
7/8/03 – visual, ten adults near Station 10
9/7/03 – visual, two adults and five fry near Station 151

5/25/04 – visual, two adult males near Station 10
5/26/04 – fyke net, four adults near Station 10
7/7/04 – visual, fry common near Station 151
7/7/04 – angling, two adults (333, 325 mm) near Station 151
7/8/04 – visual, fry in all backwaters near Station 10
7/8/04 – angling, three adults (373, 297, 356 mm) near Station 10
Appendix 11 (continued)

6/5/05 – aerial, observed 30 adult Arctic grayling, only two sets paired
6/25 and 26/05 – Houghton reported catching about 60 fish in Mainstem between mouth
and North Fork Red Dog Creek
7/4/05 – visual, 8 adults and fry (about 70) observed near Station 10
7/28/05 – visual, small numbers of fry in backwaters near Station 10

6/13/06 – visual, five adult Arctic grayling seen in Mainstem near Station 10
6/16/06 – angling, caught 8 Arctic grayling (260 – 355 mm long) in Mainstem just below
mouth of North Fork

6/1/07 – visual, several adult male and female Arctic grayling seen near Station 151
6/2/07 – visual, numerous Arctic grayling spawning at 3rd bend downstream of Station
151 in area of cobbles to gravelly sand
6/3/07 – visual, groups of 4 to 5 adults moving downstream in Station 10 area, caught
several spent females, fish obviously moving out of Mainstem
7/1/07 – visual, observed large number of fry in side channels and backwaters near
Station 10 and three adult Arctic grayling feeding on drift
7/3/07 – visual, observed one adult Arctic grayling at Station 151 and several fry along
stream margins
8/9/07 – visual, observed two adult Arctic grayling at Station 151 and saw 35 fry along
stream margins, one group of about 25
8/10/07 – visual, observed quite of few Arctic grayling fry in vicinity of Station 10 and
crushed fry in minnow traps (n = 10, 59 to 68 mm, average 64.1, SD = 2.8)

6/6/08 – visual, observed one Arctic grayling near Station 151
6/9/08 – visual and angling, walked Station 151 downstream for about 1.6 km and caught
one Arctic grayling (363 mm)
6/10/08 – visual and angling, caught 5 Arctic grayling (325 – 425 mm long) just upstream
of Station 10, four males and one partially spent female – saw about six fish that
we did not catch
7/3/08 – visual, saw one adult Arctic grayling near Station 10
7/4/08 – visual, fry common along stream margins near Station 10, very small (about 15
mm long)
7/4/08 – minnow traps, caught one 67 mm Arctic grayling near Station 151
8/3/08 – minnow traps, caught one 82 mm Arctic grayling near Station 151
Appendix 11 (concluded)

6/13/09 – caught one 408 mm Arctic grayling in Mainstem Red Dog Creek at first rock bluff below North Fork Red Dog Creek
7/2/09 – observed one adult Arctic grayling near Station 151
7/3/09 – observed 8 adult Arctic grayling in pools just upstream of Station 10
7/29/09 – saw large numbers of Arctic grayling fry virtually everywhere in our sample reach in Mainstem Red Dog Creek upstream of Station 151
7/30/09 – observed a few Arctic grayling fry in Mainstem Red Dog Creek near Station 10

7/3/10 – observed fry at Station 10, fry numerous and schools of 5 to 20 seen everywhere we looked
8/15/10 – observed moderate numbers of Arctic grayling fry just upstream of Station 151
8/15/10 – saw two adult Arctic grayling just upstream of Station 10
8/15/10 – observed moderate numbers of Arctic grayling fry upstream and downstream of Station 10

6/7/2011 – one male Arctic grayling (Code #49 – radiotag) radio-located in Mainstem Red Dog Creek along with many other adult Arctic grayling near first bluff below Station 151
6/10/2011 – caught 6 Arctic grayling in Mainstem Red Dog Creek between the mouth of North Fork Red Dog Creek and Station 151
6/11/2011 – two male Arctic grayling (Code 50 and 54 – radiotag) radio-located in Mainstem Red Dog Creek downstream of Station 151
7/17/2011 – aerial survey to relocate radio-tagged Arctic grayling, 13 of 15 fish found – none were in Mainstem Red Dog Creek
8/28/2011 – observed several Arctic grayling fry in Mainstem Red Dog Creek just upstream of Station 151, fry were in backwaters and in a side channel

7/8/2012 – observed Arctic grayling fry near Station 10, broad distribution in vicinity of drift nets, several small schools of 15 to 20 fry

7/30/2013 – Arctic grayling fry were not observed near Station 10

7/28/2014 – one Arctic grayling fry observed near Station 10, about 40 mm long, several 300 mm Arctic grayling observed moving upstream, smaller Arctic grayling (200 to 300 mm) common (five to seven is backwaters and pools throughout the minnow bucket sample reach)
### Appendix 12. Arctic Grayling Fry, North Fork Red Dog Creek

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<td>1992</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>100’s of fry, late July</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Few fry in early August, high water</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>High water after spawning probably displaced fry</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Fry small (&lt;25 mm) in mid-July</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>Schools of 50 to 200 fry common</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>Average size of fry was 10 mm greater than in 1996</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Cold water, late breakup, high water after spawning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>Low flows, warm water after spawning, schools of 50 to 100 fry common</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Cold water, late breakup, spawning 90% done June 13/14, fry small (&lt;25 mm) and rare in mid-July</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Cold water, late breakup, spawning 90% done June 19, fry small (&lt;25 mm) and rare in mid-July</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>High flows, spawning 90% done June 8, fry small (&lt;35 mm) in early August and rare, more fry seen in Ikalukrok Creek in early July, probably displaced by high water</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Cold water, late breakup, spawning 90% done June 14, fry small (&lt;25 mm) and rare in early August</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>Early breakup, spawning 90% done by May 31, fry (&lt;30 mm) on July 10</td>
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<td>low</td>
<td>Spawning 90% done by June 7, fry present in early July, several groups of 25 to 30 observed to high water</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Spawning partially abandoned due to cold water temperatures, no fry observed in early August, July surveys not possible due to high water</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>Spawning 90% done by June 3, followed by low water with very little rainfall until mid-August, fry numerous, hundreds seen in shallow water along stream margin, fry averaged 64 mm in early August</td>
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### Appendix 12 (concluded)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Relative Abundance of Fry</th>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Spawning 90% done by June 9, most fish probably spawned in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, no fry seen along stream margins</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>Most fish probably spawned in Mainstem Red Dog Creek, breakup late, very few fry seen in July or August, fry observed in the reach just upstream of Station 151 indicate some spawning success in North Fork Red Dog Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Breakup early, water flows low, moderate numbers of fry seen in North Fork Red Dog Creek in July, grayling fry caught in minnow buckets on August 16</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Spawning probably began on June 9, 2011 – no fry were seen in July and in late August a few fry (less than 5) were observed in backwaters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Observed small numbers (2 to 3) of fry along stream margins and in several pools</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>No observations made due to extremely high water</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Arctic grayling fry observed in most back waters, about 20 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>