



GENERAL FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH17-I-0002-GP

ISSUED: February 6, 2017
EXPIRES: December 31, 2022

General Public:

RE: Tsirku River Vehicle and Equipment Crossing and Bridge Installation and Removal
Tsirku River (Stream No. 115-32-10250-2067)
Section 11, T 29S, R 56E, CRM (Skagway B-3)
Location: 59.3742 N, 135.9407 W

Chilkat Lake Landing is a boat launch and snow machine location in the Tsirku River that provides access to private and public lands in the Chilkat Lake area. A person taking vehicles or equipment across the Tsirku River must be permitted, per AS 16.05.871. ADF&G has determined the public interest is served and fish and game is properly protected with the use of a General Permit for vehicle and equipment crossing, and the installation and removal temporary bridges.

Project Description

There is one established Tsirku River crossing at the Chilkat Lake Landing. During the winter, members of the public install one or more temporary bridges across the active channel after freeze-up. The temporary bridges are removed and stored at an upland location prior to spring thaw. After spring thaw, vehicles drive onto the riverbed to launch boats. The permitted area is bounded by the yellow lines in Figure 1.

Anadromous Fish Act

The Tsirku River has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). Stream No. 115-32-10250-2067 provides habitat for chum, coho, and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden char, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and whitefish. Chum, coho, and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden char, and cutthroat trout transit this portion of the waterbody and spawn upstream in Chilkat Lake and the Little Salmon River between August and the end of October. Eggs hatch into free-swimming fry as early as March and migrate downstream through mid-June. Coho salmon smolt migrate downstream through this area April through mid-June.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), approval is given subject to the activity description above and the terms of this permit.

Permit Terms

You must maintain the integrity of the bridges in accordance with the terms of this permit so that free passage of fish is assured. You must restore any obstruction to the free passage of fish to the satisfaction of ADF&G.

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Division of Habitat. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

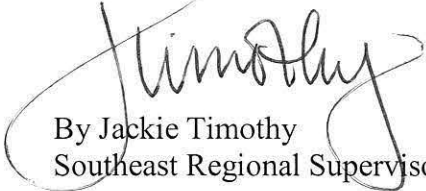
In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. The department reserves the right to require mitigation measures to correct disruption to fish and game created by the project and which was a direct result of the failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

Any member of the general public operating under this General Permit shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department's negligence.

This permit decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Any questions about this permit may be directed to Habitat Biologist Nicole Legere at (907) 465-6979 or emailed to nicole.legere@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,
Sam Cotten
Commissioner



By Jackie Timothy
Southeast Regional Supervisor

Email cc:

Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
ADF&G Habitat Staff, Juneau
Rich Chapell, ADF&G/SF, Juneau
Mark Sogge, ADF&G/CF, Juneau
Stephanie Sell, ADF&G/WC, Juneau

Mike Eberhardt, DNR-DOF, Juneau
Steve Brockmann, USFWS, Juneau
Linda Speerstra, USACE, Sitka
Cindy Hartmann Moore, NMFS, Juneau

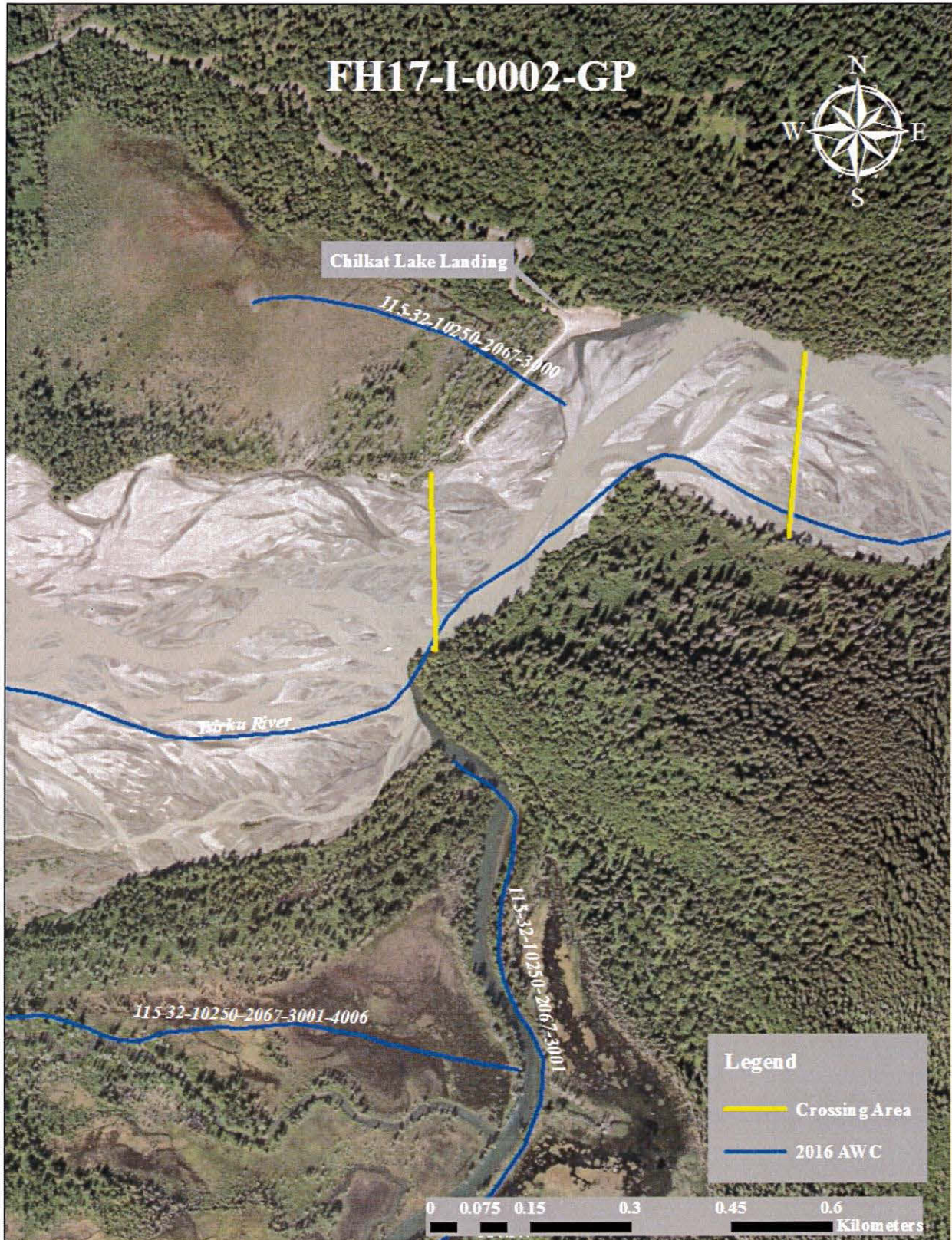


Figure 1.—Tsirku River crossings and temporary bridges approved between yellow lines.