

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska


Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat

TO: Ben Storey
Regional Environmental
Manager
ADOT&PF, Southcoast Region

DATE: September 3, 2019

THRU: Megan Marie
Habitat Biologist

SUBJECT: Trip Report Port Lions Airport

FROM: Will Frost 
Habitat Biologist

PHONE NO: 267-2813

On August 21, 2019, I joined Michael Holden, Native Village of Port Lions at the Port Lions Airport for the purpose of sampling streams located in the project area that may be impacted by the proposed safety improvements (Figure 1). The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Utilities (ADOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration are proposing to address a variety of safety deficiencies and allow the airport to fulfill its role as a community class airport. The proposed project will increase the runway length from 2,200 feet to 3,300 feet. This will require re-orienting the runway and constructing a new Runway Safety Area, apron, and connecting taxiway. Existing trails and access roads will be relocated and connected. The weather conditions were sunny and warm. The Kodiak area has not received significant rain in over two months.

We walked to an unnamed stream located at 57.8843 N, 152.8545 W. Sampling conducted in May 2018 identified resident Dolly Varden upstream and downstream of a perched 5-foot diameter culvert (ADF&G Culvert No. 20703782). As part of this project, the culvert will be removed and replaced with a culvert designed for fish passage. We waked upstream 570 meters from the point of the May 2018 sample effort. I used a Garmin GPS to map the stream location. The stream gradient is less than 5% and the average stream width is about 1.2 meters. Step pools are present throughout the reach (Figures 2 and 3). We observed Dolly Varden throughout the reach. Additional fish habitat is present upstream from the point where we ended our survey. We walked back downstream and located a tributary stream at 57.8845 N, 152.8545W. We walked upstream 315 meters (Figure 4). The stream gradient is less than 5% and the average stream width is about 1.2 meters. Step pools are present throughout the reach. We observed Dolly Varden throughout the reach. Additional fish habitat is present upstream from the point where we ended our survey. We walked back downstream and located an ephemeral tributary stream at 57.8844 N, 152.8580 W (Figure 5). The stream was dry at the time of our survey. A new culvert designed for fish passage will be required under the new airport access road. The location of the new road has not been determined.

Mr. Holden and I walked to “Airport Creek” (Stream No. 252-36-10005). The stream is located at 57.882 N, 152.853 W (Figure 6). Two perched culverts are located at the road crossing (ADF&G Culvert No.20703781). The culverts are likely a barrier to fish passage. The ADOT&PF is working with the US Corps of Engineers to remove the culverts as mitigation for this project. We walked 560 meters upstream from the upper point of the specified reach. The stream gradient is less than 5% and the average stream width is about 1.8 meters. Step pools are present throughout the reach. We ended our survey at a 30% gradient barrier (Figure 7). We observed Dolly Varden throughout the surveyed reach. We walked downstream and located a tributary at 57.8797 N, 152.8694W. We walked upstream 300 meters. The stream gradient is less than 3% and the average stream width is about 1.2 meters. We observed Dolly Varden throughout the reach. Additional fish habitat is present upstream from the point where we ended our survey.

Mr. Holden has requested authorization to remove accumulated bedload material that has been deposited at the mouth of Airport Creek (Figure 8 and 9). The bedload is restricting adult pink salmon access to Airport Creek. We observed adult pink salmon in the marine waters at the mouth of the creek. I stated that a Fish Habitat Permit would be required to remove the bedload and that the material would have to be deposited in an upland location. The work would be authorized from early May to early July. The Habitat Section will work with Mr. Holden to design the channel for fish passage.

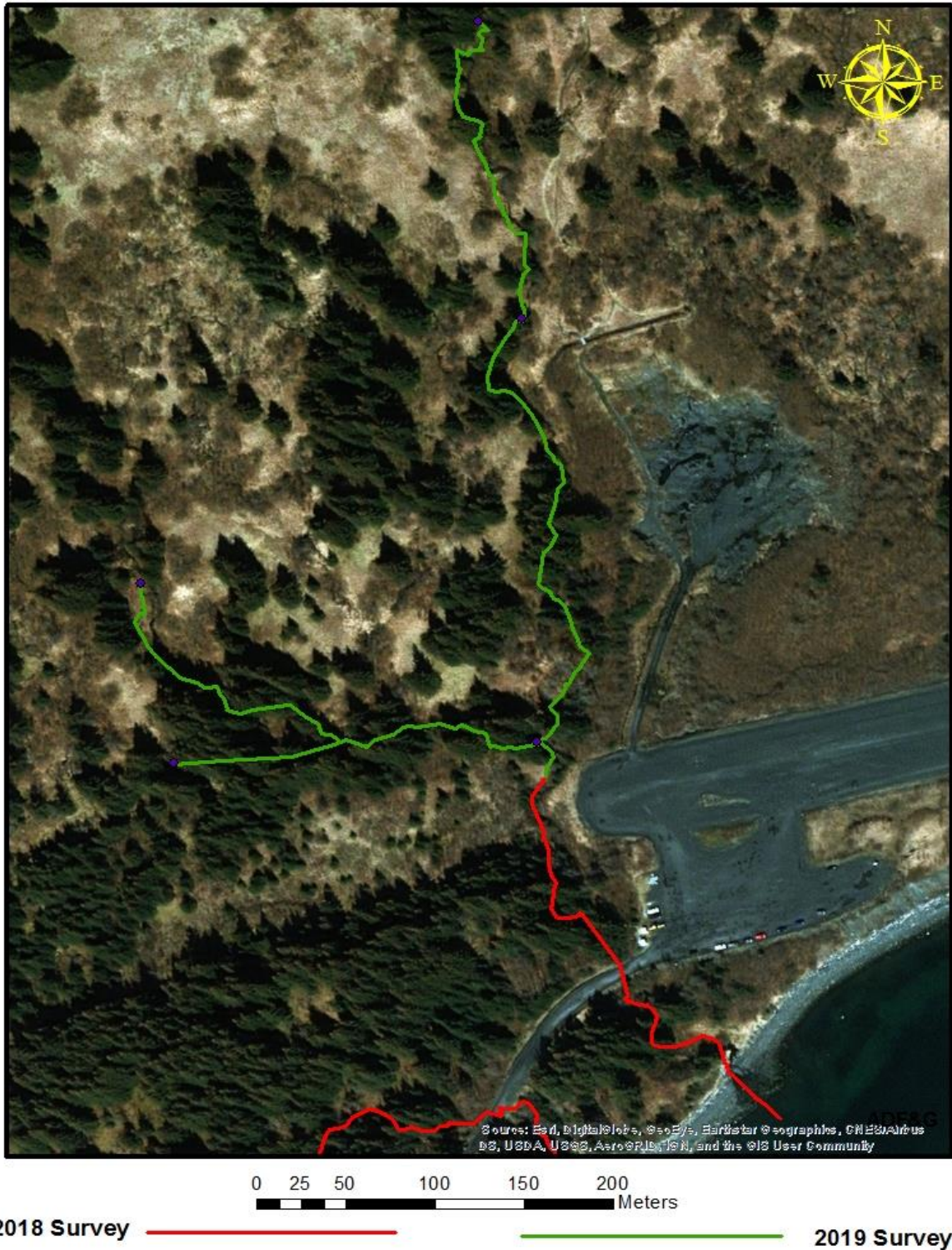


Figure 1. Location of fish habitat upstream of the airport project site.



Figure 2. Unnamed stream upstream of the airport project site.



Figure 3. Unnamed stream upstream of the airport project site.



Figure 4. Unnamed tributary stream upstream of the airport project site.



Figure 5. Ephemeral stream upstream of the airport project site.



Figure 6. Fish habitat surveyed upstream of the specified reach of Airport Creek.



Figure 7. Mr. Frost at gradient barrier upstream of the specified reach of Airport Creek.



Figure 8. Bedload at the outlet of Airport Creek. View looking downstream.



Figure 9. Bedload at the outlet of Airport Creek. View looking upstream.

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