FISH OF ALASKA'S REFUGES

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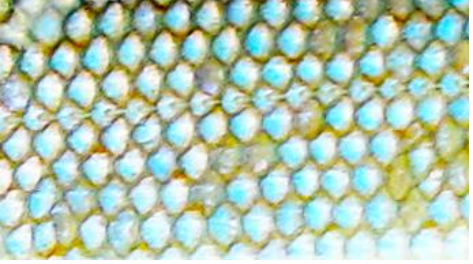
Fisheries Outreach Coordinator

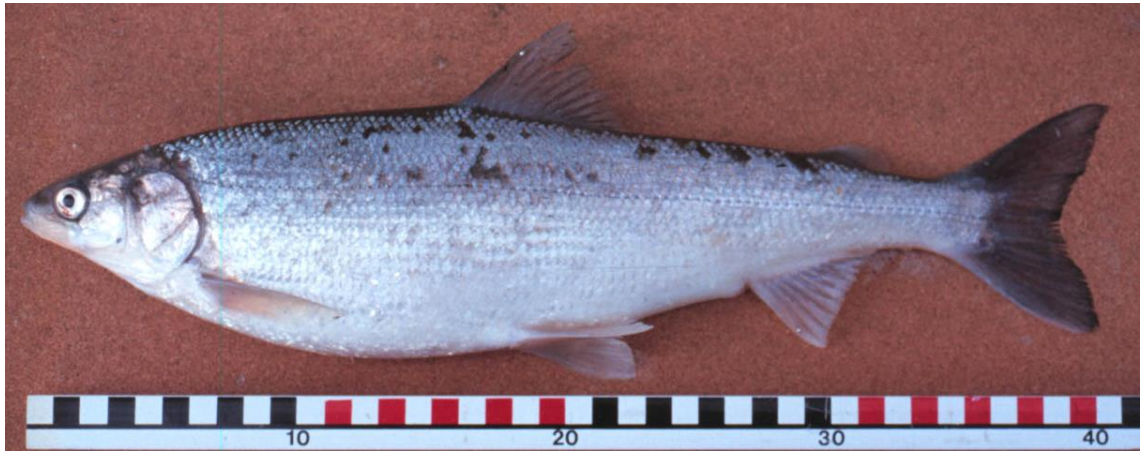
November 15, 2016



WE HOPE TO:

- Show you some of the amazing fish found in Alaska's Refuges and highlight their importance to Refuge purposes and people
- Give you a quick intro to a few USFWS programs that complement Alaska NWRs
- Start a conversation about opportunities to collaborate

VIKING
OIL RESISTANT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U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION

Ecological Services

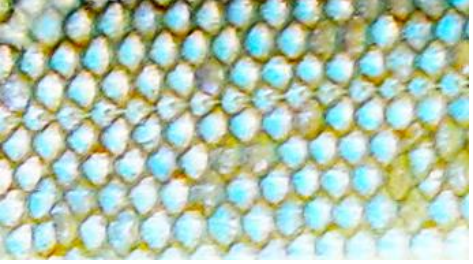
Partners for Fish & Wildlife

Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation

Coastal Program

CONSERVING AMERICA'S fisheries

National Fish Passage Program



ORGANIZATION

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices
  - *Juneau, Kenai, Anchorage, and Fairbanks*
- Regional Office
  - *Conservation Genetics Lab*
  - *Program coordinators*
    - *Fisheries/AIS, Habitat, Outreach, Subsistence*
- Work closely w/Alaska's Fish Habitat Partnerships

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

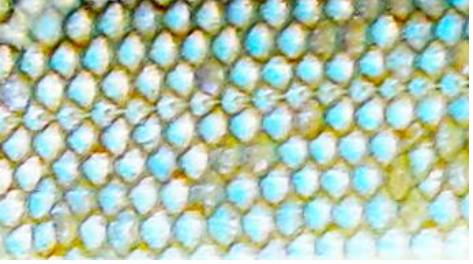
SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Western Native Trout Initative

KENAI PENINSULA FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

SOUTHWEST ALASKA SALMON HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



FISHERIES

- In-season authority to meet conservation and subsistence needs on federal lands
- Treaty obligations/interjurisdictional fisheries
  - *Canadian-origin Chinook/fall Chum*
  - *USFWS lead federal agency for Yukon River Salmon Agreement*
- Source of on-the-ground capacity/expertise for NWRs
  - *inventory of fish populations/habitat use etc*
- Supporting/influencing conservation of natural diversity
- Informing habitat programs

Video Weirs on Refuge Tributaries

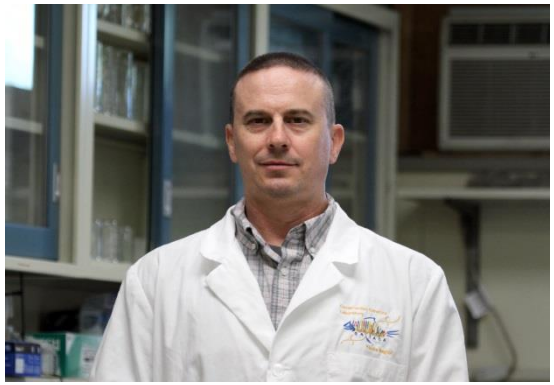
Play “underwater weir footage” clip

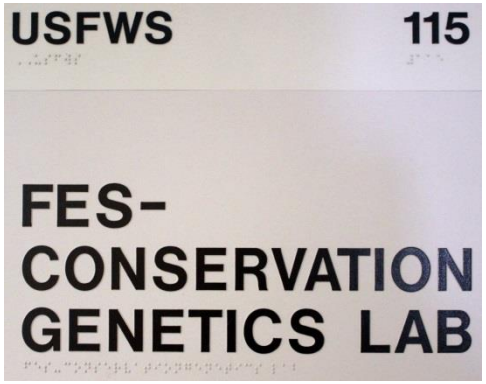
Video Weirs on Refuge Tributaries

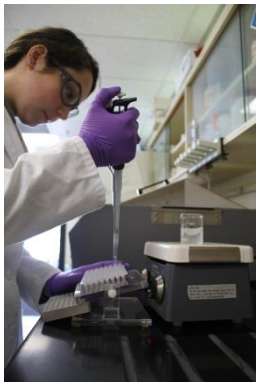
Play “Funny River weir” clip

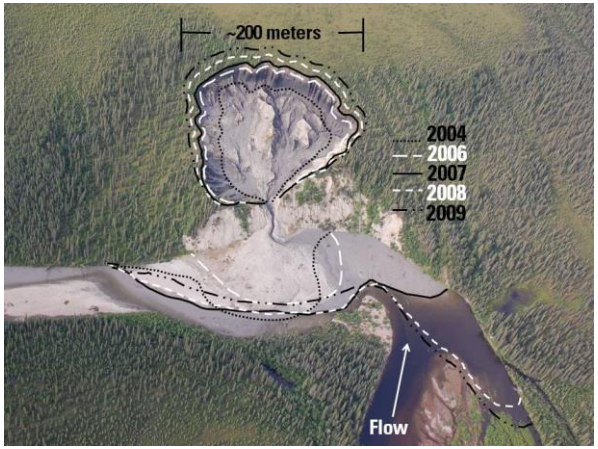
GENETICS

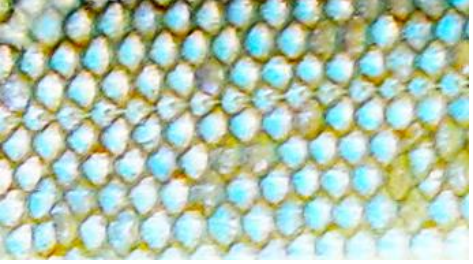
- Provide genetics and biometrics support for the Service and external partners in Alaska.
- Sophisticated laboratory techniques and analytical methods
  - *Genetic stock apportionment to support management in-season and meet treaty obligations*
  - *eDNA (northern pike and Elodea)*








~200 meters
2004
2006
2007
2008
2009
Flow



HABITAT

- Focus is restoring/protecting salmon habitat
- Foundation is voluntary partnerships/leveraging resources
- Programs:
  - *Coastal Program*
  - *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*
  - *Fish Passage Program*

Habitat Restoration

- Fish passage restoration
  - Adult and juvenile fish need to move all the time
  - Thousands of road-stream crossings in AK
    - ~70% surveyed are barriers to fish

HABITAT RESTORATION

Play “fish Passage fail” clip

Habitat Restoration

Play “fish Passage restoration” clip

HABITAT RESTORATION

Play “streambank Chena” clip

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Elodea
  - *Confirmed in waterbodies in Anchorage, Chena/Tanana Rivers (Yukon tributaries), Kenai Peninsula, Cordova area*
  - *Introduced from aquaria*
  - *by floatplane, boat trailers*
  - *Chokes out native vegetation, degrades spawning habitat*
  - *Working with State, Refuges, others to educate vectors, eradicate infestations with herbicides*

We Could Use Your Help

- Outreach about:
  - *Importance of genetic/life history diversity of fishes*
  - *Proactive protection of habitat*
  - *Threats to Alaska's fish/habitats*
- Volunteers
  - *Habitat restoration*
  - *Fish/habitat visuals from Refuges*
  - *Support efforts to engage youth in fishing*
- Support Fish Habitat Partnerships/Land Trusts
- Fundraising/mechanism to administer funds
- Fish liaison?
- **How can we help you?**

Thank you!

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