# 2010 YUKON RIVER PANEL RESTORATION \& ENHANCEMENT FUND FINAL REPORT 

Project Number: URE-23N-10
Project Title: Stock composition of age-0 Chinook salmon rearing in nonnatal U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River

Project Proponent: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Fairbanks FWFO
Contact Name: David Daum, Fish Biologist
Email Address: david_daum@fws.gov
Phone/Fax: (907) 456-0290, (907) 456-0454 - Fax
Mailing Address: 101 12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Ave., Rm. 110, Fairbanks, AK 99701

## Project Partners/Additional Participants

Blair Flannery, USFWS, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503. blair_flannery@fws.gov

## Project Location

The study area includes clear-water Yukon River tributaries between Circle and the U.S.-Canada border ( 260 km ) and between Tanana and Stevens Village ( 250 km ).

## Project Objectives

1. genotype collection of age-0 Chinook salmon from sampled streams; and
2. estimate stock composition of samples for regional genetic groups and country of origin by year and collection area.

## Project Summary

Canadian-origin Chinook salmon juveniles have been recently documented rearing in downstream U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River. A comprehensive three-year distribution study was funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) in 2008 to describe the extent of colonization in U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River between the Tanana River confluence and U.S.-Canada border near Eagle. Genetic collections from captured fish were archived for future analysis if funding was made available. In 2010, the Yukon River Panel, through the R\&E Fund, provided the necessary funding to analyze the three-year genetic collections (2008-2010). Genetic analytical techniques were used to determine stock and country of origin for the samples. Samples were grouped by collection year and sample area.

FINAL REPORT TO YUKON RIVER PANEL<br>URE-23N-10

# STOCK COMPOSITION OF AGE-0 CHINOOK SALMON REARING IN NONNATAL U.S. TRIBUTARY STREAMS OF THE YUKON RIVER 

David W. Daum ${ }^{1}$<br>and<br>Blair G. Flannery ${ }^{2}$

${ }^{1}$ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office

101 12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
${ }^{2}$ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Conservation Genetics Laboratory
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

May 2011

# Stock composition of age-0 Chinook salmon rearing in nonnatal U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River 

David W. Daum and Blair G. Flannery

Final Report to the Yukon River Panel<br>URE-23N-10


#### Abstract

Yukon River Chinook salmon Oncorhynchus tshawytscha are described as having "stream-type" life histories. After emergence from river gravel, juvenile Chinook salmon feed and grow in tributary streams of the Yukon River throughout their first summer, overwinter in freshwater, and usually leave rearing areas for marine waters during the second spring/summer. Previous life history and distribution studies have shown that some age-0 Chinook salmon leave their natal streams and colonize downriver, nonnatal habitats for rearing and overwintering. A pilot study in 2006-2007 documented rearing of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon in downstream U.S. waters. A comprehensive three-year distribution study was funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund in 2008 to describe the extent of Chinook salmon rearing in nonnatal U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River between the U.S.-Canada border and Tanana, Alaska, a distance of over 850 km . Juvenile Chinook salmon were captured in 44 of the 56 streams sampled. Genetic material was collected from all 616 fish captured and the stock composition results from the samples are presented in this report. Using genetic mixed-stock and individual assignment analyses, sample mixtures and individuals were assigned to regional stock groups and country of origin. Canadian-origin Chinook salmon contributed between $88 \%$ and $100 \%$ of the yearly mixtures and between $91 \%$ and $100 \%$ of the yearly assigned samples, with Canadian percentages decreasing with increased distance from the U.S.-Canada border. The Carmacks regional group, 470 to 590 km upstream of the border, made up the majority of mixtures and individual assignments throughout the study area. Other Canadian groups were under-represented, including the large-river stocks from the Stewart, Pelly, and Teslin rivers. The furthest travel distance was estimated to be over $1,300 \mathrm{~km}$. The Upper USA stock group was identified in some downstream creeks below the Dalton Highway Bridge, but always in low numbers. The mechanism that causes this disproportionate number of Carmacks area juveniles to leave their natal streams for downstream rearing areas and the cost, if any, of this dispersal strategy are unknown.


## Introduction

Yukon River Chinook salmon Oncorhynchus tshawytscha are classified as "stream-type" (Gilbert 1922; Healey 1983). After emergence from river gravel, Yukon River Chinook salmon typically disperse downstream to suitable rearing habitat, feed and grow throughout the summer, overwinter in freshwater, and usually leave these rearing areas for marine waters during the second year (Beacham et al. 1989). Previous life history and distribution studies have shown that some age- 0 Chinook salmon leave their natal streams and colonize downriver, nonnatal habitats for rearing and overwintering. Several hundred nonnatal streams in the upper Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage have been found to provide important feeding, and in some cases, overwintering habitat for Chinook salmon juveniles (Brown et al. 1976; Walker 1976; Beacham et al. 1989; Murray et al. 1990; Moodie et al. 2000; Bradford et al. 2001; Perry et al. 2003; Mossop and Bradford 2004, 2006; A. von Finster, DFO, personal communication). In sharp contrast, little information was available on the use of nonnatal streams by Chinook salmon juveniles in the upper U.S. portion of the drainage until a pilot study was conducted in 2006-2007 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Eight streams below the U.S.-Canada border were found to contain rearing age-0 juveniles and genetic stock composition analysis indicated that $100 \%$ of the samples were of Canadian origin (Daum and Flannery 2011). Populations from the Carmacks region of Canada contributed $91 \%$ to the mixtures in 2006 and $82 \%$ in 2007. The Carmacks genetic regional group includes spawning populations from Tatchun Creek, and Little Salmon, Big Salmon, Nordenskiold, and main-stem Yukon rivers. Canadian stocks nearest the border and from large river systems were underrepresented in the collections. Some age-0 Chinook salmon may have travelled over $1,200 \mathrm{~km}$ to reach downstream rearing areas.

Genetic mixed-stock (MSA) and individual assignment (IA) analyses are effective methods for estimating the source origin of unknown samples (Cadrin et al. 2005). Genetic data have been collected for Yukon River Chinook salmon from allozyme (Templin et al. 2005), single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP; Smith et al. 2005), and microsatellite (Flannery et al. 2006; Templin et al. 2006; Beacham et al. 2008) loci. These studies revealed significant genetic divergence among regional population groups suitable for MSA and IA applications. Since development of the initial 19-population microsatellite genetic baseline for Yukon River Chinook salmon (Beacham et al. 2008), 15 new populations and additional collections have been added and 10 regional stock groups have been defined for apportioning mixtures from genetic samples (Daum and Flannery 2011; Table 1 and Figure 1). For the 13 standardized microsatellite loci established by the Genetic Analysis of Pacific Salmonids group (GAPS; Seeb et al. 2007), MSA and IA simulations were $98-100 \%$ accurate to the 10 regional Yukon River stock groups (Daum and Flannery 2011). Stock composition estimates for know-origin mixtures were within $10 \%$ of expected and IA of known-origin mixtures were $96 \%$ accurate to region and $100 \%$ accurate to country when the $95 \%$ probability criterion was used (Daum and Flannery 2011).

A comprehensive three-year distribution study was funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) in 2008 to describe the extent of Chinook salmon rearing in nonnatal U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River above the Tanana River confluence. The study area included clear-water Yukon River tributaries between Circle and the U.S.-Canada border (260 km ) and between Tanana and Stevens villages ( 250 km ). Along with distributional, biological, and aquatic habitat information, fin-clips of sampled fish were collected and archived for future
genetic stock analysis. By the study's completion in 2010, 44 streams were found to contain age-0 Chinook salmon and over 600 individual genetic samples were collected. In 2010, the Yukon River Panel, through the R\&E Fund, provided funding (project URE-23N-10) to genotype and estimate the stock composition of this three-year genetic collection. This paper describes the results from the genetic analysis. A future peer-reviewed journal article will present the combined biological, habitat, and genetic results into one citable publication.

## Methods

## Sample Collection and Laboratory Analysis

Genetic samples were collected from captured age-0 Chinook salmon as part of a broader juvenile distribution and rearing study (2008-2010) funded by AKSSF. Anal fin tissue was stored in $2-\mathrm{ml}$ vials containing $100 \%$ ethanol. The anal fin tissue was chosen for collection because of its tendency to regenerate quickly (Johnsen and Ugedal 1988) and removal would least affect swimming performance (Webb 1975). When possible, stream collections were spread out over a large spatial area ( $\gg 100 \mathrm{~m}$ ) to decrease the potential of sampling families (Hansen et al. 1997). Streams were sampled in a systematic order, beginning near the U.S.Canada border and ending near Tanana village, a distance of approximately 850 km . The samples were genotyped from the 13 standardized microsatellite loci identified by the GAPS group (Seeb et al. 2007) using methods described in Daum and Flannery (2011). Because of the difficulty in visually distinguishing between Chinook and coho $O$. kisutch salmon juveniles, all collected tissue were genetically confirmed to species using diagnostic loci with non-overlapping allele size distributions before proceeding with the genetic analysis.

## Stock Composition and Individual Assignment Analyses of Genetic Samples

The genetic profiles for each age-0 Chinook salmon were compared to a genetic baseline representing 34 major spawning populations of Yukon River Chinook salmon (Table 1; Figure 1). The 34 genetically defined populations were further divided into 10 regional stock groupings based on neighbor-joining results, geography, and management goals (Daum and Flannery 2011). Distances from upper Yukon River baseline populations to the U.S.-Canada border and to the Yukon River mouth are presented in Table 2. Using genetic MSA and IA techniques, sample mixtures and individual samples were assigned to regional genetic stock groups and country of origin by cBAYES (Neaves et al. 2005). Individuals were assigned to region and country of origin if their posterior source probabilities were $\geq 95 \%$; otherwise, they were classified as unknown. Samples were analyzed by collection year, with individual assignments also compiled by collection site or area. The lack of an exhaustive population-specific genetic baseline prevented stock composition estimation for individual populations. The probability of unrepresented extra-baseline stocks being present in the 2008-1010 samples was tested using HWLER (Pella and Masuda 2006). Prior to this study, simulation and known-origin mixture analyses were used to evaluate the accuracy and precision of MSA and IA estimates derived from the existing Yukon River Chinook salmon baseline. Results show these techniques to be highly accurate and precise in estimating regional and country of origin from sample mixtures and individual assignments. Detailed descriptions of the genetic techniques used and results from baseline testing are presented in Daum and Flannery (2011).

## Results

## Sample Collection and Laboratory Analysis

During the 2008-2010 study, 44 streams were found to contain age-0 Chinook salmon and a total of 616 genetic samples were collected (Table 3; Figures 2 - 6). Mission Creek near Eagle had been previously documented to contain nonnatal rearing juveniles Daum and Flannery (2011), but additional samples were collected opportunistically in 2008 and added to the collection. Drought conditions in the summer of 2009 precluded some selected streams from being sampled (streams dry) causing a lower then expected sample size, especially in areas upstream of Circle (Figure 4). Of the 616 genetic tissue samples collected, 611 ( $99 \%$ ) were successfully genotyped at a minimum of 10 of the 13 loci (Table 3). All genotyped samples field identified as Chinook salmon were genetically confirmed. Distances from streams with juvenile genetic collection to the U.S.-Canada border and to the Yukon River mouth are presented in Table 4.

## Stock Composition and Individual Assignment Analyses of Genetic Samples

No significant stocks were determined to be missing from the baseline in the analysis by HWLER. There was a $90 \%, 96 \%$, and $94 \%$ probability that no extra baseline stocks were present in the collections from 2008, 2009, and 2010, respectively. Stock composition analysis of age-0 Chinook salmon in the 2008-2010 samples indicated that Canadian-origin Chinook salmon contributed between $88 \%$ and $100 \%$ to the yearly mixtures, with Canadian percentages decreasing with increased distance from the U.S.-Canada border (Table 5). Fish from the Carmacks region in Canada contributed $82 \%$ to the mixtures in 2008, $86 \%$ in 2009, and $71 \%$ in 2010. Individual assignment results were similar to the stock composition analysis with $100 \%$ of the assigned samples being of Canadian origin in 2008, $98 \%$ in 2009 , and $91 \%$ in 2010 (Tables $6-8)$. The Carmacks regional group made up $96 \%$ of the IA individuals in 2008, $97 \%$ in 2009, and $85 \%$ in 2010. A few fish from the Pelly $(n=5)$ and Stewart $(n=1)$ rivers of Canada were present in upriver samples. Little Salt Creek (Figure 5, stream \# 23), downstream of the Dalton Highway Bridge, was the first stream sampled containing a U.S.-origin stock (Table 7), 672 km downstream from the U.S.-Canada border (Table 4). The farthest downriver stream (Mission Creek near Tanana, 847 km downstream from the U.S.-Canada border) had a fish from the Carmacks regional group, an estimated travel distance of over $1,300 \mathrm{~km}$ (Table 3). Four of the 10 Yukon River regions were represented in the individual assignment analysis, with no regions downstream from the sampled streams represented in the individually assigned samples. Overall, assigning individuals according to the $\geq 95 \%$ probability criterion resulted in $54 \%$ of the individuals being assigned to specific regions and $96 \%$ to country.

## Discussion

This study documents the presence of Canadian-origin, age- 0 juvenile Chinook salmon in 44 streams of the upper U.S. portion of the Yukon River. Fish were found to travel downstream long distances from their natal origins. Moreover, the study emphasizes the importance of these distant nonnatal rearing habitats to the overall health and productivity of Canadian Chinook salmon.

Age-0 Chinook salmon from the Carmacks region made up the vast majority of captures in downstream tributary streams of the Yukon River. As in the 2006-2007 pilot study (Daum and Flannery 2011), this represents a disproportionately large number of Carmacks area fish in downstream juvenile captures. The largest Canadian river systems (Stewart, Pelly, and Teslin
rivers) were grossly underrepresented in the stream samples, $<2 \%$ of the individually assigned samples. But unlike the pilot study, no Upper Canada, Teslin, White, or Lower Canada stock groups were found. The Upper U.S. stock group was identified in some downstream streams below the Dalton Highway Bridge, but always in low numbers.

The mechanism that causes this disproportionate number of Carmacks area, age-0 Chinook salmon to leave their natal streams is unknown. Larger river systems may contain sufficient rearing habitat to "hold" dispersing fish within the drainage, while some smaller spawning streams may be more susceptible to emigration because of limited rearing habitat. The delayed dispersal timing of downstream migrating age-0 juveniles captured on the main-stem Yukon River near Dawson (Bradford et al. 2008) and the mixture of different stock groups in these main-stem catches (Bradford et al. 2009) suggest a complex interaction of density-dependent factors, quantity and quality of rearing habitats, environmental variables, timing of emergence, and perhaps the greater propensity for some populations to disperse.

At present, five spawning populations of Chinook salmon are used to define the Carmacks region in the upper Yukon River (Table 1) where the majority of downstream migrants in this study originated. A main-stem spawning population is included in the baseline for this region, but without an exhaustive, population-specific genetic baseline, the contributions of this and other populations to the overall downstream dispersal remain uncertain. Until the baseline is expanded, many important ecological and mechanistic questions relating to population-specific differences and similarities may remain unanswered.

This study records the longest downstream dispersal distances in published literature for streamtype, Chinook salmon into nonnatal streams during the first summer's rearing period. The longest migratory distance was from the Carmacks regional group found in Mission Creek near Tanana, a distance of between 1,316 and $1,435 \mathrm{~km}$ downstream from natal stream origins (Tables 2 and 4). Previously, Daum and Flannery (2011) described a Minook Creek sample near Rampart as containing the Carmacks stock group, but the present Mission Creek sample may extend this distance by over 100 km . Future sampling of Yukon River tributary streams below Tanana village should yield even further downstream dispersal distances. These results beg the question as to why Carmacks area fish have a greater propensity to disperse to distant rearing streams than other stock groups in the upper Yukon River drainage and what, if any, cost is associated with this long-distance dispersal strategy.

## Acknowledgements

Special appreciation is extended to those who contributed to this project: P. Sanders and staff of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park and Preserve in Eagle; T. Beacham and A. von Finster of Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; J. Johnson of Alaska Department of Fish and Game; M. Bradford of Simon Fraser University; Stan Zuray of Rapids Research Center; and J. Adams, R. Brown, B. Carter, C. Lewis, and Lisa Daum (volunteer) of USFWS. Funding for this project was provided by the USFWS, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office and Conservation Genetics Laboratory, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, and the Restoration and Enhancement Fund of the Yukon River Panel (project URE-23N-10). The findings and conclusions in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## References

Beacham, T.D., C.B. Murray, and R.E. Withler. 1989. Age, morphology, and biochemical genetic variation of Yukon River Chinook salmon. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 118:46-63.

Beacham, T.D., M. Wetklo, C. Wallace, J.B. Olsen, B.G. Flannery, J.K. Wenburg, W.D. Templin, A. Antonovich, and L.W. Seeb. 2008. The application of microsatellites for stock identification of Yukon River Chinook salmon. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 28:283-295.

Bradford, M.J., J. Duncan, and J.W. Jang. 2008. Downstream migrations of juvenile salmon and other fishes in the upper Yukon River. Arctic 61:255-264.

Bradford, M.J., J.A. Grout, and S. Moodie. 2001. Ecology of juvenile Chinook salmon in a small nonnatal stream of the Yukon River drainage and the role of ice conditions on their distribution and survival. Canadian Journal of Zoology 79:2043-2054.
Bradford, M.J., A. von Finster, and P.A. Milligan. 2009. Freshwater life history, habitat, and the production of Chinook salmon from the upper Yukon basin. Pages 19-38 in C.C. Krueger and C.E. Zimmerman, editors. Pacific salmon: ecology and management of western Alaska's populations. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 70, Bethesda, Maryland.
Brown, R.F., M.S. Elson, and L.W. Steigenberger. 1976. Catalogue of aquatic resources of the Upper Yukon River drainage (Whitehorse Area). Canadian Fisheries and Marine Service Technical Report PAC/T-76-4.

Cadrin, S.X., K.D. Friedland, and J.R. Waldman. 2005. Stock identification methods: applications in fishery science. Elsevier, New York.

Daum, D.W., and B.G. Flannery. 2011. Canadian-origin Chinook salmon rearing in nonnatal U.S. tributary streams of the Yukon River, Alaska. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 140:207-220.

Flannery, B., T. Beacham, M. Wetklo, C. Smith, W. Templin, A. Antonovich, L. Seeb, S. Miller, O. Schlei, and J. Wenburg. 2006. Run Timing, migratory patterns, and harvest information of Chinook salmon stocks within the Yukon River. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fisheries Technical Report 92, Anchorage, Alaska.

Gilbert, C.H. 1922. The salmon of the Yukon River. U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service Bulletin 38:317-332.
Hansen, M.M., E.E. Nielsen, and K.L.D. Mensburg. 1997. The problem of sampling families rather than populations: relatedness among individuals in samples of juvenile brown trout, Salmo trutta L. Molecular Ecology 6:469-474.

Healey, M.C. 1983. Coastwide distribution and ocean migration patterns of stream- and oceantype Chinook salmon, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha. Canadian Field-Naturalist 97:427-433.

Johnsen, B.O., and O. Ugedal. 1988. Effects of different kinds of fin-clipping on over-winter survival and growth of fingerling brown trout, Salmo trutta L., stocked in small streams in Norway. Aquaculture and Fisheries Management 19:305-311.

Moodie, S., J.A. Grout, and A. von Finster. 2000. Juvenile Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) utilization of Croucher Creek, a small nonnatal tributary of the upper Yukon River during 1993. Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2531.

Mossop, B., and M.J. Bradford. 2004. Importance of large woody debris for juvenile Chinook salmon habitat in small boreal forest streams in the upper Yukon River basin, Canada. Canadian Journal of Forest Resources 34:1955-1966.

Mossop, B., and M.J. Bradford. 2006. Using thalweg profiling to assess and monitor juvenile salmon (Oncorhynchus spp.) habitat in small streams. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 63:1515-1525.
Murray, C.B., M.A. Henderson, and T.D. Beacham. 1990. Size and scale characteristics of upper Yukon River juvenile Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha). Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 1767.

Neaves, P.I., C.G. Wallace, J.R. Candy, and T.D. Beacham. 2005. CBayes: computer program for mixed stock analysis of allelic data, version v4.02. Available: pac.dfompo.gc.ca/sci/mgl/Cbayes_e.htm (February 2010).

Pella, J., and M. Masuda. 2006. The Gibbs and split-merge sampler for population mixture analysis from genetic data with incomplete baselines. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 63:576-596.
Perry, R.W., M.J. Bradford, and J.A. Grout. 2003. Effects of disturbance on contribution of energy sources to growth of juvenile Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) in boreal streams. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 60:390-400.

Seeb, L.W., A. Antonovich, M.A. Banks, T.D. Beacham, M.R. Bellinger, S.M. Blankenship, M.R. Campbell, N.A. Decovich, J.C. Garza, C.M. Guthrie III, T.A. Lundrigan, P. Moran, S.R. Narum, J.J. Stephenson, K.J. Supernault, D.J. Teel, W.D. Templin, J.K. Wenburg, S.F. Young, and C.T. Smith. 2007. Development of a standardized DNA database for Chinook salmon. Fisheries 32:540-552.

Smith, C.T., J.E. Seeb, P. Schwenke, and L.W. Seeb. 2005. Use of the 5'-nuclease reaction for SNP genotyping in Chinook salmon. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 134:207-217.

Templin, W.D., N.A. Decovich, and L.W. Seeb. 2006. Yukon River Chinook salmon genetic baseline: survey of Pacific Salmon Commission loci for U.S. populations. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series 06-46, Anchorage, Alaska.

Templin, W.D., R.L. Wilmot, C.M. Guthrie III, and L.W. Seeb. 2005. United States and Canadian Chinook salmon populations in the Yukon River can be segregated based on genetic characteristics. Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin 11:44-60.
Walker, C.E. 1976. Studies on the freshwater and anadromous fishes of the Yukon River within Canada. Canada Fisheries and Marine Service Technical Report PAC/T-76-7.

Webb, P.W. 1975. Hydrodynamics and energetics of fish propulsion. Bulletin of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada 190.

Table 1. Genetic baseline collections by sampled population, region, collection years, and number of fish sampled ( $n$ ) from 34 Yukon River Chinook salmon populations. See map in Figure 1 for stream locations.

| Population | Region | Sample year | $n$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Andreafsky | Lower USA | 2003 | 208 |
| Anvik | Lower USA | 2002 | 94 |
| Gisasa | Lower USA | 2001 | 188 |
| Henshaw | Upper USA | 2001 | 147 |
| South Fork Koyukuk | Upper USA | 2003 | 56 |
| Tozitna | Lower USA | 2003 | 190 |
| Kantishna | Tanana | 2005 | 187 |
| Chena | Tanana | 2001 | 189 |
| Salcha | Tanana | 2003, 2004 | 133 |
| Beaver | Upper USA | 1997 | 100 |
| Chandalar | Upper USA | 2002, 2003 | 113 |
| Sheenjek | Upper USA | 2002, 2004, 2006 | 51 |
| Chandindu | Lower Canada | 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004 | 566 |
| Klondike | Lower Canada | 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003 | 102 |
| Stewart | Stewart | 1996, 1997 | 110 |
| Mayo | Stewart | 1992, 1997, 2003 | 195 |
| Tincup | White | 2003 | 32 |
| Pelly | Pelly | 1996, 1997 | 125 |
| Big Kalzas | Pelly | 2003 | 22 |
| Little Kalzas | Pelly | 2003, 2004 | 40 |
| Earn | Pelly | 2003, 2004 | 54 |
| Glenlyon | Pelly | 2003 | 23 |
| Blind | Pelly | 1997, 2003, 2004 | 161 |
| Tatchun | Carmacks | 1987, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003 | 366 |
| Yukon main stem | Carmacks | 1987, 2002 | 27 |
| Little Salmon | Carmacks | 1987, 1997 | 100 |
| Big Salmon | Carmacks | 1987, 1997 | 116 |
| Nordenskiold | Carmacks | 2003 | 99 |
| Takhini | Upper Canada | 1997, 2002, 2003 | 167 |
| Whitehorse | Upper Canada | 1985, 1987, 1997 | 241 |
| Wolf | Upper Canada | 1995, 2003 | 59 |
| Michie | Upper Canada | 1994 | 47 |
| Nisutlin | Teslin | 1987, 1997 | 56 |
| Morley | Teslin | 1997, 2002, 2003 | 28 |

Table 2. Distances (km) from the confluence of each tributary to Yukon River mouth and U.S.-Canada border for genetic baseline populations in the upper Yukon River drainage.

| Regional groups/populations | Km from mouth | Km from U.S.-Canada border |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Upper USA |  |  |
| Beaver Creek | 1,436 | 534 |
| Chandalar River | 1,580 | 390 |
| Sheenjek River | 1,696 | 441 |
| U.S.-Canada Border | 1,970 | 0 |
| Lower Canada |  |  |
| Chandindu River | 2,068 | 98 |
| Klondike River | 2,100 | 130 |
| Stewart |  |  |
| Stewart River | 2,196 | 226 |
| Mayo River | 2,426 | 456 |
| White |  |  |
| Tincup Creek | 2,489 | 519 |
| Pelly |  |  |
| Pelly River | 2,356 | 386 |
| Big Kalzas River | 2,481 | 511 |
| Little Kalzas River | 2,486 | 516 |
| Earn River | 2,526 | 556 |
| Glenlyon River | 2,581 | 611 |
| Blind Creek | 2,641 | 671 |
| Carmacks |  |  |
| Tatchun Creek | 2,439 | 469 |
| Yukon main stem (above Tatchun Creek) | 2,439 | 469 |
| Little Salmon River | 2,510 | 540 |
| Big Salmon River | 2,558 | 588 |
| Nordenskiold River | 2,467 | 497 |
| Upper Canada |  |  |
| Takhini River | 2,701 | 731 |
| Whitehorse | 2,719 | 749 |
| Wolf Creek | 2,732 | 762 |
| Michie Creek | 2,774 | 804 |
| Teslin |  |  |
| Nisutlin River | 2,830 | 860 |
| Morley River | 2,832 | 862 |

Table 3. Streams with genetic collections of age-0 Chinook salmon by location and collection date, 20082010. Coordinates (datum NAD 83) are from the uppermost capture site for each stream. Map reference refers to numbering of stream locations on Figures 3-6. Data arranged by stream location, upstream to downstream.

| Stream | Map reference | Coordinates |  | Collection date | Field collected (n) | Genotyped <br> (n) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lat (N) | Long (W) |  |  |  |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boundary Creek | 1 | 64.68027 | 141.00546 | 7/17/2008 | 30 | 30 |
| Eagle Creek | 2 | 64.77488 | 141.03609 | 7/17/2008 | 29 | 27 |
| Mission Creek* | 3 | 64.79539 | 141.20703 | 9/9/2008 | 23 | 23 |
| American Creek (trib | 4 | 64.79128 | 141.23784 | 7/17/2008 | 30 | 30 |
| to Mission Creek) | 4 | 64.79128 | 141.23784 | 9/9/2008 | 17 | 17 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 6 | 5 | 65.14222 | 141.66050 | 7/25/2008 | 12 | 11 |
| Michigan Creek | 6 | 65.19445 | 141.80950 | 8/9/2008 | 21 | 21 |
| Fourth of July Creek | 7 | 65.19514 | 141.82910 | 8/9/2008 | 4 | 4 |
| Schley Creek | 8 | 65.21528 | 141.88545 | 7/23/2008 | 5 | 5 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 13 | 9 | 65.24973 | 141.88942 | 8/7/2008 | 30 | 29 |
| Butte Creek | 10 | 65.25477 | 141.95822 | 7/23/2008 | 14 | 14 |
| Rock Creek | 11 | 65.27908 | 141.93770 | 8/11/2008 | 6 | 6 |
| Logan Creek | 12 | 65.27045 | 141.99664 | 7/23/2008 | 11 | 11 |
| Glenn Creek | 13 | 65.29718 | 142.09320 | 8/11/2008 | 16 | 16 |
| Washington Creek | 14 | 65.31777 | 142.31344 | 8/13/2008 | 1 | 1 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 19 | 15 | 65.33649 | 142.39714 | 8/13/2008 | 3 | 3 |
| Weshrinarin Creek | 16 | 65.33152 | 142.46496 | 8/12/2008 | 4 | 4 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 21 | 17 | 65.40006 | 142.64161 | 8/14/2008 | 6 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 262 | 258 |
| 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Woodchopper Creek | 18 | 65.35153 | 143.32633 | 7/31/2009 | 2 | 2 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 25 | 19 | 65.35512 | 143.39650 | 7/30/2009 | 3 | 3 |
| Webber Creek | 20 | 65.40512 | 143.54997 | 7/31/2009 | 11 | 11 |
| Eureka Creek | 21 | 65.44012 | 143.57140 | 8/1/2009 | 15 | 15 |
| Big Salt River | 22 | 65.85433 | 149.90849 | 8/22/2009 | 30 | 30 |
| Little Salt Creek | 23 | 65.80754 | 150.07631 | 8/22/2009 | 30 | 30 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 53 | 24 | 65.79322 | 150.11218 | 8/23/2009 | 8 | 8 |
| Isom Creek | 25 | 65.75027 | 149.78691 | 8/25/2009 | 3 | 3 |
| Twentymile Creek | 26 | 65.64054 | 149.92165 | 8/26/2009 | 30 | 30 |
| Sarah Creek | 27 | 65.60250 | 150.18545 | 8/28/2009 | 4 | 4 |
| Susie Creek | 28 | 65.58228 | 150.17119 | 8/29/2009 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 137 | 137 |

Table 3. continued.

| Stream | Map reference | Coordinates |  | Collection date | Field collected <br> (n) | Genotyped <br> (n) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lat (N) | Long (W) |  |  |  |
| 2010 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Russian Creek | 29 | 65.47957 | 150.27302 | 8/4/2010 | 18 | 18 |
| Sixmile Creek | 30 | 65.48582 | 150.37627 | 8/4/2010 | 1 | 1 |
| Roadhouse Creek | 31 | 65.50059 | 150.55666 | 8/5/2010 | 2 | 2 |
| Moose Creek | 32 | 65.46625 | 150.68737 | 8/6/2010 | 2 | 2 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 83 | 33 | 65.43464 | 150.75744 | 8/7/2010 | 2 | 2 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 97 | 34 | 65.41210 | 150.89910 | 8/9/2010 | 2 | 2 |
| Bear Creek | 35 | 65.36561 | 151.00031 | 8/10/2010 | 28 | 28 |
| Texas Creek | 36 | 65.34478 | 150.99454 | 8/11/2010 | 25 | 25 |
| Jordan Creek | 37 | 65.29466 | 151.12137 | 8/19/2010 | 1 | 1 |
| Cheyenne Creek | 38 | 65.24680 | 151.23330 | 8/19/2010 | 2 | 2 |
| Quartz Creek | 39 | 65.26223 | 151.36369 | 8/20/2010 | 28 | 28 |
| Schieffelin Creek | 40 | 65.22890 | 151.44560 | 8/21/2010 | 30 | 30 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 99 | 41 | 65.18211 | 151.46074 | 8/22/2010 | 24 | 24 |
| Spicer Creek | 42 | 65.20162 | 151.71960 | 8/24/2010 | 30 | 29 |
| Coal Creek | 43 | 65.20742 | 151.77553 | 8/24/2010 | 12 | 12 |
| Jackson Creek | 44 | 65.20872 | 151.82990 | 8/25/2010 | 6 | 6 |
| Mission Creek | 45 | 65.19512 | 151.96862 | 8/26/2010 | 4 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  | Total | 217 | 216 |
| Total (all years) |  |  |  |  | 616 | 611 |

[^0]Table 4. Distances (km) from the confluence of each tributary to Yukon River mouth and U.S.-Canada border for streams with juvenile Chinook salmon genetic samples, 2008-2010.

| Sampled stream | Km from mouth | Km from U.S.-Canada border |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S.-Canada Border | 1,970 | 0 |
| Boundary Creek | 1,969 | 1 |
| Eagle Creek | 1,959 | 11 |
| Eagle | 1,952 | 18 |
| Mission Creek | 1,951 | 19 |
| American Creek (trib to Mission Creek) | 1,953 | 20 |
| Unnamed Creek \#6 | 1,881 | 89 |
| Michigan Creek | 1,870 | 100 |
| Fourth of July Creek | 1,869 | 101 |
| Schley Creek | 1,867 | 103 |
| Unnamed Creek \#13 | 1,863 | 107 |
| Butte Creek | 1,860 | 110 |
| Rock Creek | 1,859 | 111 |
| Logan Creek | 1,858 | 112 |
| Glenn Creek | 1,853 | 117 |
| Washington Creek | 1,838 | 132 |
| Unnamed Creek \#19 | 1,834 | 136 |
| Weshrinarin Creek | 1,830 | 140 |
| Unnamed Creek \#21 | 1,819 | 151 |
| Woodchopper Creek | 1,786 | 184 |
| Unknown Stream \#25 | 1,783 | 187 |
| Webber Creek | 1,774 | 196 |
| Eureka Creek | 1,771 | 199 |
| Circle | 1,708 | 262 |
| Yukon River Bridge (Haul Road) | 1,320 | 650 |
| Big Salt River | 1,308 | 662 |
| Little Salt Creek | 1,298 | 672 |
| Unnamed Creek \#53 | 1,296 | 674 |
| Isom Creek | 1,279 | 691 |
| Twentymile Creek | 1,261 | 709 |
| Sarah Creek | 1,242 | 728 |
| Susie Creek | 1,239 | 731 |
| Rampart | 1,228 | 742 |
| Russian Creek | 1,222 | 748 |
| Sixmile Creek | 1,217 | 753 |
| Roadhouse Creek | 1,208 | 762 |
| Moose Creek | 1,200 | 770 |
| Unnamed Creek \#83 | 1,194 | 776 |
| Unnamed Creek \#97 | 1,187 | 783 |
| Bear Creek | 1,179 | 791 |
| Texas Creek | 1,177 | 793 |
| Jordan Creek | 1,170 | 800 |
| Cheyenne Creek | 1,162 | 808 |
| Quartz Creek | 1,157 | 813 |
| Schieffelin Creek | 1,152 | 818 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 99 | 1,147 | 823 |
| Spicer Creek | 1,134 | 836 |
| Coal Creek | 1,132 | 838 |
| Jackson Creek | 1,130 | 840 |
| Mission Creek | 1,123 | 847 |
| Tanana | 1,118 | 852 |

Table 5. Age-0 Chinook salmon stock composition estimates from genetic collections (2008, $\boldsymbol{n}=\mathbf{2 5 8}$; 2009, $\boldsymbol{n}=$ 137; 2010, $n=216$ ) with associated standard deviations (SD) and $95 \%$ confidence intervals (CI). Mean stock compositions, standard deviations, and $95 \%$ confidence intervals were estimated using cBAYES (Neaves et al. 2005).

| Regional and country groups | Stock composition |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Estimate | SD | 95\% CI |  |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |
| Lower USA | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.007 |
| Tanana | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.004 |
| Upper USA | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.000 | 0.016 |
| Lower Canada | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.024 |
| Stewart | 0.103 | 0.033 | 0.044 | 0.174 |
| White | 0.000 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.005 |
| Pelly | 0.058 | 0.019 | 0.025 | 0.101 |
| Carmacks | 0.815 | 0.039 | 0.735 | 0.885 |
| Upper Canada | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.000 | 0.045 |
| Teslin | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.007 |
| USA | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.000 | 0.018 |
| Canada | 0.996 | 0.005 | 0.982 | 1.000 |
| 2009 |  |  |  |  |
| Lower USA | 0.004 | 0.009 | 0.000 | 0.031 |
| Tanana | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.007 |
| Upper USA | 0.031 | 0.018 | 0.006 | 0.072 |
| Lower Canada | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.006 |
| Stewart | 0.009 | 0.021 | 0.000 | 0.076 |
| White | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.002 |
| Pelly | 0.032 | 0.022 | 0.002 | 0.085 |
| Carmacks | 0.855 | 0.046 | 0.752 | 0.932 |
| Upper Canada | 0.066 | 0.032 | 0.010 | 0.137 |
| Teslin | 0.002 | 0.007 | 0.000 | 0.020 |
| USA | 0.036 | 0.020 | 0.007 | 0.082 |
| Canada | 0.964 | 0.020 | 0.918 | 0.993 |
| 2010 |  |  |  |  |
| Lower USA | 0.001 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.011 |
| Tanana | 0.006 | 0.008 | 0.000 | 0.028 |
| Upper USA | 0.113 | 0.024 | 0.069 | 0.165 |
| Lower Canada | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.000 | 0.037 |
| Stewart | 0.111 | 0.040 | 0.040 | 0.198 |
| White | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.002 |
| Pelly | 0.037 | 0.026 | 0.000 | 0.097 |
| Carmacks | 0.709 | 0.048 | 0.612 | 0.798 |
| Upper Canada | 0.008 | 0.010 | 0.000 | 0.035 |
| Teslin | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.000 | 0.017 |
| USA | 0.120 | 0.024 | 0.076 | 0.172 |
| Canada | 0.880 | 0.024 | 0.828 | 0.924 |

Table 6. Individual assignments of age-0 Chinook salmon stream samples from 2008 to region and country using cBAYES (Neaves et al. 2005). Individuals were assigned if their source probabilities were at least $95 \%$. Differences in total individuals assigned between region and country result from some cases where individuals could not be assigned to region but could be assigned to country. Streams were sequentially ordered, beginning with stream farthest upstream.

| Regional and country groups | Absolute no. | Relative no. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Boundary Creek |  |  |
| Pelly | 1 | 0.059 |
| Carmacks | 16 | 0.941 |
| Canada | 29 | 1.000 |
| Eagle Creek |  |  |
| Pelly | 1 | 0.091 |
| Carmacks | 10 | 0.909 |
| Canada | 27 | 1.000 |
| Mission Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 11 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 23 | 1.000 |
| American Creek |  |  |
| Pelly | 2 | 0.077 |
| Carmacks | 24 | 0.923 |
| Canada | 47 | 1.000 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 6 |  |  |
| Carmacks | 7 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 11 | 1.000 |
| Michigan Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 10 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 21 | 1.000 |
| Fourth of July Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 1 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 4 | 1.000 |
| Schley Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 3 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 5 | 1.000 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 13 |  |  |
| Carmacks | 15 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 29 | 1.000 |


| Regional and country groups | Absolute no. | Relative no. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Butte Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 7 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 13 | 1.000 |
| Rock Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 3 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 6 | 1.000 |
| Logan Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 8 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 11 | 1.000 |
| Glenn Creek |  |  |
| Stewart | 1 | 0.077 |
| Carmacks | 12 | 0.923 |
| Canada | 16 | 1.000 |
| Washington Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 1 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 1 | 1.000 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 19 |  |  |
| Carmacks | 1 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 3 | 1.000 |
| Weshrinarin Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 1 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 4 | 1.000 |
| Unnamed Creek \# 21 |  |  |
| Carmacks | 4 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 6 | 1.000 |

Table 7. Individual assignments of age-0 Chinook salmon stream samples from 2009 to region and country using cBAYES (Neaves et al. 2005). Individuals were assigned if their source probabilities were at least $95 \%$. Differences in total individuals assigned between region and country result from some cases where individuals could not be assigned to region but could be assigned to country. Streams were sequentially ordered, beginning with stream farthest upstream.

| Regional and country groups | Absolute no. | Relative no. | Regional and country groups | Absolute no. | Relative no. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Woodchopper Creek |  |  | Unnamed Creek \# 53 |  |  |
| Canada | 2 | 1.000 | Pelly | 1 | 0.167 |
|  | ned Creek \# |  | Carmacks | 5 | 0.833 |
| Carmacks | 2 | 1.000 | Canada | 8 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 3 | 1.000 | Isom Creek |  |  |
| Webber Creek |  |  | Carmacks | 2 | 1.000 |
| Carmacks | 7 | 1.000 | Canada | 3 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 11 | 1.000 | Twentymile Creek |  |  |
| Eureka Creek |  |  | Upper USA | 1 | 0.056 |
| Carmacks | 12 | 1.000 | Carmacks | 17 | 0.944 |
| Carmacks | 12 | 1.000 | USA | 1 | 0.033 |
| Canada | 14 | 1.000 | Canada | 29 | 0.967 |
| Big Salt River |  |  | Sarah Creek |  |  |
| Carmacks | 23 | 1.000 | Carmacks | 2 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 28 | 1.000 | Canada | 3 | 1.000 |
| Little Salt Creek |  |  | Susie Creek |  |  |
| Upper USACarmacks | 1 | 0.050 | Carmacks | 1 | 1.000 |
|  | 19 | 0.950 |  | 1 | 1.000 |
| USA | 1 | 0.037 | Canada | 1 | 1.000 |
| Canada | 26 | 0.963 |  |  |  |

Table 8. Individual assignments of age-0 Chinook salmon stream samples from 2010 to region and country using cBAYES (Neaves et al. 2005). Individuals were assigned if their source probabilities were at least $\mathbf{9 5 \%}$. Differences in total individuals assigned between region and country result from some cases where individuals could not be assigned to region but could be assigned to country. Streams were sequentially ordered, beginning with stream farthest upstream.



Figure 1. Locations of genetic baseline collections (described in Table 1) for 34 Yukon River Chinook salmon populations: 1=Andreafsky, 2=Anvik, 3=Gisasa, 4=Henshaw, 5=South Fork Koyukuk, 6=Tozitna, 7=Kantishna, 8=Chena, 9=Salcha, 10=Beaver, 11=Chandalar, 12=Sheenjek, 13=Chandindu, 14=Klondike, 15=Stewart, 16=Mayo, 17=Tincup, 18=Pelly, 19=Big Kalzas, $20=$ Little Kalzas, 21=Earn, 22=Glenlyon, 23=Blind, 24=Tatchun, 25=Yukon main stem, 26=Little Salmon, 27=Big Salmon, 28=Nordenskiold, 29=Takhini, 30=Whitehorse, 31=Wolf, 32=Michie, 33=Nisutlin, and 34=Morley.


Figure 2. Generalized map of region with study areas represented by enclosed rectangles (Maps 1-4 presented in Figures 3-6).


Figure 3. Map 1 (see Figure 2) representing streams with genetic collections in 2008. Table 3 cross-references stream name with map numbering.


Figure 4. Map 2 (see Figure 2) representing streams with genetic collections in early period, 2009. Table 3 cross-references stream name with map numbering.


Figure 5. Map 3 (see Figure 2) representing streams with genetic collections in late period, 2009. Table 3 cross-references stream name with map numbering.


Figure 6. Map 4 (see Figure 2) representing streams with genetic collections in 2010. Table 3 cross-references stream name with map numbering.


[^0]:    * Genetic samples from Mission Creek (near Eagle) were added to the 44 stream collections from the stream inventory study.

