

Yukon River Chum Salmon Aerial Surveys

FY2011 Request: \$200,000

Reference No: 48912

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Interior Areawide

Contact: John Hilsinger

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2014

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This four year project conducts intensive aerial surveys of summer chum salmon spawning streams in the lower and middle Yukon River drainage including the Tanana and Koyukuk River tributaries. Results will be used to determine geographic shifts in production of lower river stocks, to assess future monitoring needs, and potentially to re-evaluate management plans and escapement goals. This project contributes to the department's mission by improving utilization of summer chum salmon stocks through documentation of changes in spawning distributions and magnitudes of escapement.

Funding:	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$200,000						\$200,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year for the project.

Project Description/Justification:

This capital project will conduct intensive aerial surveys of summer chum salmon spawning streams in the lower and middle Yukon River drainage, including the Tanana and Koyukuk River tributaries. This project will span a four-year period. The stock composition of Yukon River summer chum runs has been in flux over the last decade. The Anvik River is the largest producer of summer chum salmon, contribution to the overall Yukon River stock production above Pilot Station sonar has decreased since 2002. This reduction corresponds with increased production in other chum salmon spawning streams. Runs in the Tanana River drainage are also exhibiting decreases in production from record escapements in 2005 and 2006 to below average runs in 2007. Similar fluctuations have been observed elsewhere in the Yukon River drainage. Existing management plans and strategies are being affected by these changes in production. This project will examine possible changes in Yukon River summer chum salmon production.