

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat

TO: John C. Barnett
Regional Environmental
Manager
ADOT&PF, Southcoast Region

DATE: June 5, 2018

SUBJECT: Trip Report Port Lions Airport
May 2018

FROM: Will Frost 
Habitat Biologist

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The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Utilities (ADOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration are proposing safety improvements to the Port Lions Airport. The improvements would address a variety of 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 of a new Runway Safety Area, apron, and connecting taxiway. Existing trails and access roads will be relocated and connected.

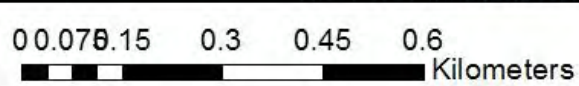
On May 7, 2018, I met with Emily Haynes and Chuck Tripp, ADOT&PF, Mac Salway, HDR, and Michael Holden, Native Village of Port Lions for the purpose of sampling streams located in the project area that may be impacted by the proposed project (Figure 1). We began sampling using an electrofisher at the mouth of "Airport Creek" (Stream No. 252-36-10005). The stream is located at 57.882 N, 152.853 W. We sampled upstream from tidewater 125 meters to the airport access road. I used a Garmin GPS to map the correct location of Airport Creek. The stream channel at tidewater has filled with gravel (Figure 2). Mr. Holden stated the stream channel has filled with gravel in recent years, limiting access to upstream habitat for adult pink salmon. We captured about 5 Dolly Varden and 10 sculpin. At the road, we observed two 60-inch diameter culverts. The culvert on the left bank looking downstream was dry and the culvert on the right bank is on a gradient of about 10%. We captured three young-of-year pink salmon in a pool downstream of the culverts (Figure 3). We sampled upstream of the culverts 170 meters. We captured 2 Dolly Varden. The culverts are likely a barrier to fish passage. Mr. Tripp stated if the airport access road is relocated as part of the airport improvement project the culverts would be removed. The young-of-year pink salmon and correct location of Airport Creek will be updated to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

We walked to an unnamed stream located at 57.883 N, 152.853 W. We sampled from tidewater upstream 150 meters to a perched 60-inch diameter culvert located under the airport access road (Figure 4). We captured 5 sculpin and 5 Dolly Varden. We sampled upstream of the culvert 210 meters and captured 5 Dolly Varden. The culvert is likely a barrier to fish passage. Mr. Tripp stated if the airport access road is relocated as part of the airport improvement project the culvert would be removed.

We drove to the north end of the runway and sampled an unnamed stream located at 57.885 N, 152.839 W. The mouth of the stream flows over bedrock. We sampled upstream from tidewater 40 meters to three culverts. The culverts were about 24-inch diameter. No fish were captured or observed. We sampled upstream 60 meters from the road into a wetland (Figure 5). No fish were captured or observed. The ADF&G will not likely require fish passage improvements at this site.



Figure 1



ADF&G

Streams in the project area.



Figure 2. Bedload covering the outlet of Airport Creek at tidewater.

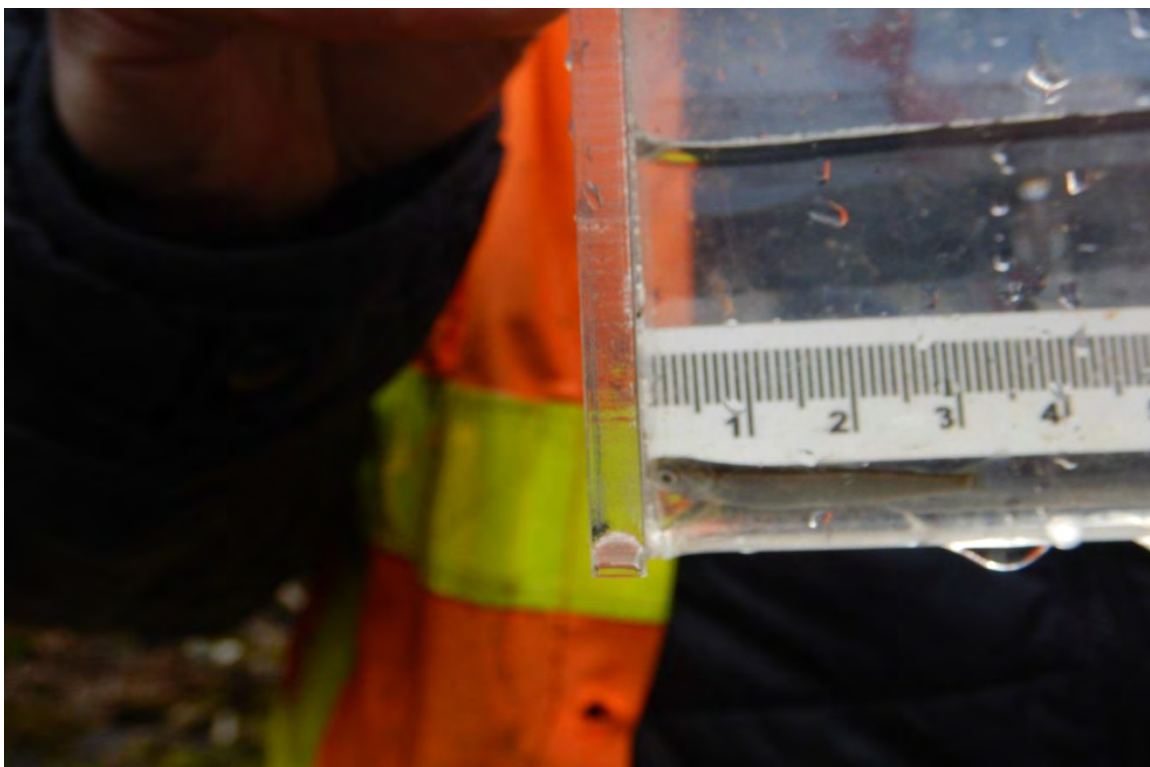


Figure 3. Young-of-year pink salmon captured in Airport Creek.



Figure 4. Perched culvert outlet located at the south end of the runway.



Figure 5. Unnamed stream located at the north end of the runway. View to east.



Figure 6. Wetland area located at north end of the runway. View to south.

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