

Migratory behavior of broad and humpback whitefish in the Kuskokwim River, 2006

Abstract

Radio telemetry was used to monitor the seasonal migrations of broad whitefish *Coregonus nasus* and humpback whitefish *C. pidschian* in the Kuskokwim River drainage during 2006. Thirty-four broad and 39 humpback whitefish were surgically implanted with radio transmitters between June 12 and August 24, in the lower reaches of the Kuskokwim River. Surgeries were suspended June 24, due to high water temperatures and resumed August 13, after water temperatures cooled. Whitefish movements were monitored with fixed telemetry stations placed at key locations between 106 and 863 rkm and with aerial and boat surveys. Humpback whitefish migrated distances up to 680 rkm. One humpback whitefish was relocated at a possible spawning location in the Swift River. A broad whitefish implanted at ADF&G fish wheels, migrated approximately 543 rkm to a location between McGrath and Medfra, Alaska. Broad whitefish were tracked in the Kuskokwim River between McGrath and Medfra. Subsistence users returned the radio transmitters from three (9%) broad and one (2%) humpback whitefish implanted in 2006.

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