

## **Coho Salmon Spawning Assessment in Tustumena Lake Tributaries, 2006**

Abstract: Aerial and ground surveys were conducted to determine the distribution and relative abundance of coho salmon in twelve Tustumena Lake tributaries during 2006. Aerial surveys included a fixed-wing survey on 5 October and a helicopter survey on 27 October. Three ground surveys were conducted between 17 October and 9 November. Adult coho salmon were observed in only three of the twelve streams surveyed: Glacier, Indian, and Shantatalik creeks. Peak counts observed between 17 and 30 October were 195, 126, and 44 coho salmon in each of these streams, respectively. Several factors influenced our ability to observe coho salmon during the surveys including glacial turbidity, turbulent water, thick and overhanging vegetation, concentrations of large woody debris, undercut banks, and tannin-stained water. Freezing temperatures in late October and early November caused ice to form on most streams prohibiting any surveys beyond 9 November.

Citation: Douglas E. Palmer and Kenneth S. Gates 2006. Pilot Study, Coho Salmon Spawning Assessment in Tustumena Lake Tributaries. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Final Report (Study No. 07-506). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Alaska Fisheries Technical Report Number 2007-10.