

**KWANLIN DUN FIRST NATION
MICHIE CREEK SALMON STUDIES 2008
PROJECT # 51-08 – PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2008**

**YUKON RIVER SALMON RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND
YUKON RIVER PANEL**

Locations: WR Fish Hatchery and Fish Ladder, Whitehorse May 27th

- Approximately 300 hatchery juvenile Chinook salmon (jcs) of age 0+ were individually measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1gm) for comparison to wild 0+ from Michie Creek.
- A single temperature logger was installed in the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area Field Trip #1 June 1st to 7th

- Access the study site with ATV's was not possible for the first time since the project began in 2003 due to high water conditions of Michie Creek.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area Field Trip #2 June 26th and 27th

- Access to the Michie Creek study site was by aircraft. A crew flew into Michie Lake where a campsite was used to access the Michie Creek study area through the use of a small aluminum boat.
- A total of 96 jcs were captured in 10 baited minnow traps set overnight; all were measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1 gm); all but 2 juveniles were of wild origin based on the presence of adipose fins.
- 3 surber samples of benthic organisms were collected and preserved.
- Discharge was estimated at site M-1 of upper Michie Creek.
- Data was retrieved from loggers at the M-1 site and continued to log throughout the summer.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area Field Trip #3 July 22nd and 23rd

- A total of 121 jcs were captured in 10 baited minnow traps set overnight; all were measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1 gm); all but 5 juveniles were of wild origin based on the presence of adipose fins.
- 3 surber samples of benthic organisms were collected and preserved.
- Discharge was estimated at site M-1 of upper Michie Creek.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area Field Trip #4 August 7th and 8th

- A total of 227 jcs were captured in 10 baited minnow traps set overnight; all were measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1 gm); all but 23 were of wild origin based on the presence of adipose fins.
- Surveyed Michie Creek for obstructions from Michie Lake outlet to the Bing Creek confluence. No obstructions were noted and very little beaver sign was found. Active beaver dam in 2006 below the minnow trapping was now wide open without any recent sign of further beaver activity in the area. No spawning or migrating adult Chinook salmon were observed during this survey.
- 3 surber samples of benthic organisms were collected and preserved.
- Discharge was estimated at site M-1 of upper Michie Creek.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area

Field Trip #5 Aug 30th and 31st

- A total of 242 jcs were captured in 10 baited minnow traps set overnight; all were measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1 gm); all but 15 were of wild origin based on the presence of adipose fins.
- 3 surber samples of benthic organisms were collected and preserved.
- Discharge was estimated at site M-1 of upper Michie Creek.
- Enumerated 14 redds and counted 35 live chinook between Michie Lake outlet to the Bing Creek confluence. Biological sampling was limited to only 1 carcass of wild origin during the stream walk.

Location: Upper Michie Spawning Area

Field Trip #6 Oct 2nd and 3rd

- A total of 100 jcs were captured in 10 baited minnow traps set overnight; all were measured (FL±1mm) and weighed (±0.1 gm); all but 4 were of wild origin based on the presence of adipose fins.
- 3 surber samples of benthic organisms were collected and preserved.
- Discharge was estimated at site M-1 of upper Michie Creek.
- Only very decomposed remains and some tissue fragments of carcasses were evident along the shoreline.

Next Steps

Benthic samples have been shipped to an invertebrate biologist for identification and enumeration. Coded wire tags from preserved juvenile fish still need to be removed. Preparation of a draft report will commence shortly and should be available for review on or before December 15th pending benthic analysis.

Additional Comments

Aug 30/08

Salmon in the process of digging redds

Some observed to be moving up

Still in good condition with no carcasses observed

Upper area that in the past is most heavily utilized is vacant

Lots of kingfishers and no bear sign

During walk observed 1 pair of bald eagles

No salmon in Byng creek or pool at confluence

No bear sign

Lots of berries

June 26/08

Inlet of Michie very high with no sign of beaver activity

Had to fly in as could't cross the creek

Had to boat into the site

Highest water since project began