

Summary of Reconnaissance Trips to Upper Adams River And Momich River/Cayenne Creek 2008

Date: August 18, 2008

Location: Upper Adams River from Mica Lake campground to the boat launch at 8 km sign on TumTum Lk. Road

Method: drifting in an inflatable boat

Water level: about 0.3 m above normal

Visibility: below 0.3 m

- Two male sockeye salmon were observed: one (probably dying) in a dead-water bay at the main spawning site, the other 10 m upstream of the boat launch.

Date: August 22, 2008

Location and method: as above

Water level: about 0.4 m above normal

Visibility: below 0.3 m

- Ten sockeye salmon were observed splashing in three different holding pools (at Mica Lake channel, upstream of main spawning grounds, upstream of lower spawning grounds). No fish were observed on spawning grounds.

Date: August 24, 2008

Location and method: as above

Water level: about 0.2 m above normal

Visibility: 0.5 m – 0.6 m

- Four sockeye salmon were observed on the main spawning grounds. In one tangle-net set four males and one female were captured. The female was 3-4 days from spawning
- 20 – 30 sockeye salmon were observed on the lower spawning grounds. One attempt of capturing fish by tangle netting failed as the net was snagged on wooden debris. It took over two hours to remove the net from spawning grounds (in few pieces).

Date: August 30, 2008

On August 29, 2008, a jet boat and all fish capture and spawning equipment were transported from Shuswap River Hatchery to Chase in preparation for the egg take.

Location: Upper Adams River at the boat launch at 9:00 A.M.

Water level: flood condition, about 0.6 m – 0.8 m above normal

Boat launch under water

Visibility: 0, water very turbid

Note: It was decided to abandon fishing Upper Adams R. and go to Momich River to assess the opportunity of fish capture there.

Location: Momich River and Cayenne Creek at 10:30 A.M.

Water level: 0.15 m higher than normal

Visibility: water clear

- During the reconnaissance walk about 50 fish were observed between the bridge upstream of the Momich Lake and higher reaches of Cayenne Creek above a big logjam. 12 –15 fish were observed on tiny spawning gravel patch above the logjam: two out four females were spawned out (white tails), two redds counted.
- 20 – 25 fish were observed on spawning grounds at the confluence of Momich River and Cayenne Creek. In one tangle net set 12 fish were captured: six males and six females. One female was ripe, two females were partially spawned (below 50% retention, two females were one to two days from spawning, one female was more than three days from spawning.
- 10 fish were observed (mostly singles) in odd places. Historically used spawning grounds were void of fish. In addition one moribund female was captured by hand above the bridge and quickly examined. Fish did not have any injuries; it had slightly eroded gills that showed signs of the beginning of blood coagulation. Four more fresh pre-spawned mortalities were observed in deeper water above the bridge.
- The total number of redds counted in Momich River/Cayenne Creek system was five.