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Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 4:06 PM

To: Bear, Chad E (DFG) <chad.bear@alaska.gov>; Baumer, Jay A (DFG) <jay.baumer@alaska.gov>

Subject: Kuskokwim lampreys

Hi Chad and Jay,

Talking with Chad at the lamprey workshop in August made me take a note that I should reach out and see what and how much information there is for Pacific Lamprey captures on the Kuskokwim.

Do you have any more info and even pictures of lampreys caught in the fish wheels on the Kuskokwim? I got one batch of photos from Jay regarding a lamprey caught back in 2013 if I believe, but the talk with Chad makes it seem like we could easily submit a nomination for Pacific Lamprey to the AWC since there was more than one. And I can easily handle all that paperwork but will put you all down as observers.

And then other questions....Is there any old report with fish wheel info on bycatch? And any info on where wheels are operating in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area currently? Maybe there's other people to talk with about what happens and gets caught out there?

Thanks for the help, hope October is going well so far.

Nate

Nate Cathcart

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Hi Nate,

These are the Pacific Lamprey that were caught in the Kuskokwim Fishwheels on August 12, 2005. At the time, the fishwheel was located just upriver of Kalskag at coordinates 61.5422, -160.1807.

As Jay mentioned, we're not sure who took the photos that day. I had a laptop in camp that summer, and we were compiling pictures to share. I've looked through my 2004 and 2006 files but haven't found any additional lamprey photos yet. Unfortunately, all my images from 2001–2003 were lost, though I'll try to track them down again. There may also be some non-digital photos from those years floating around.

I remember catching lamprey most summers, The smaller Arctic lamprey would sometimes get their heads stuck in the fishwheel mesh and die—we'd pick them out and toss them. I recall seeing Pacific Lamprey during the first few weeks of running the wheels in spring, typically in late May or early June, even though these particular photos were taken in mid-August. They were less common, which is probably why we made a point to photograph them that day. But we did encounter them several times and should have some more pictures.

I'll keep digging through my old computer files and let you know if I come across any more pictures later this winter.

Best,

Chad

Chad Bear

Habitat Biologist

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Hi Nate,

That was a while ago. I am not sure who took these pictures but here is a couple of pictures from around 2005.

I did a quick look through reports but found no mention of capture of other species.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Toshihide-Hamazaki/publication/267953636_A_MARK-RECAPTURE_EXPERIMENT_TO_ESTIMATE_THE_ABUNDANCE_OF_KUSKOKWIM_RIVER_COHO_SALMON_2001_By/links/55c9329a08aebc967df90db6/A-MARK-RECAPTURE-EXPERIMENT-TO-ESTIMATE-THE-ABUNDANCE-OF-KUSKOKWIM-RIVER-COHO-SALMON-2001-By.pdf

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If I remember correctly, we saw two different specimens of lampreys. One was larger like in the picture and the other was much smaller. I am not sure if they were different species or not. I remember us keying them out in the field. I will see if I can find anymore pictures.

Maybe Chad remembers more. Nate, good luck.

-Jay







