

Title: Location, Migration Timing, and Description of Kuskokwim River  
Bering Cisco Spawning Origins

Study Number: OSM Project 12-313

Project Objectives and Results 2012:

1. Objective: Deploy 50 radio transmitters in Bering Cisco in 2012; 25 at the Kalskag Fish Wheels on the main stem and 25 near Nikolai on the South Fork.

Results: Successfully deployed 13 out of 25 planned tags at the Kalskag Fish Wheel. Fewer tags were deployed as a result of former PI's illness (appendicitis) and low numbers of fish passing at the Kalskag site. The remaining 37 and planned 25 tags were deployed at sites above Nikolai.

2. Objective: Identify spawning destinations for Bering cisco in the Kuskokwim River by use of fixed tracking stations along the main stem and aerial telemetry flights along the main stem and in suspected, tributary spawning areas.

Results: Tag frequencies were entered into a total of six fixed receiving stations (Aniak, Sleetmute, McGrath, Big River, Medfra and Nikolai) and monitored throughout the winter. All stations were downloaded in July 2013, and the data is currently being analyzed. A total of four telemetry flights were conducted in October 2012 of the South Fork and general presumed spawning locations identified, Figure 1. We believe 42 fish survived the tagging procedure, of these 41 tags were located on the South Fork.

3. Objective: Characterize habitat that make these spawning areas suitable for Bering cisco spawning in order to add this information to the life history record of Bering cisco.

Results: Work planned for fall of 2013.

4. Objective: Nominate spawning areas for inclusion into the Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Results: Nomination will be submitted with final report in 2014.