Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document
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Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)

Study of Fish Distribution and Abundance in the Middle and Lower Susitna River Study
Study Plan Section 9.6

Initial Study Report
Part B: Supplemental Information (and Errata) to Part A (February 3, 2014 Draft Initial Study Report)

Prepared for

Alaska Energy Authority

SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.

Prepared by

R2 Resource Consultants Inc.
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June 2014

PART B: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (AND ERRATA) TO PART A (FEBRUARY 3, 2014 DRAFT INITIAL STUDY REPORT)

Part A Reference	Description
Section 4.11	The following text should be added to the end of Section 4.11: Prior to developing recommendations for the winter 2013/2014 study efforts in the draft ISR (AEA 2014), AEA discussed a proposed approach and gathered input from stakeholders at the Fish and Aquatic Resources Technical Work Group Meetings on September 23 and December 4, 2013 (R2 Resource Consultants 2013c & 2013d) and the Fisheries Technical Meeting March 20, 2014 (R2 Resource Consultants 2014c). Based on stakeholder feedback, a review of existing information, and pilot study efforts, AEA developed the following specific winter fish sampling objectives with the goal to increase our knowledge of the winter ecology of fish species in the Middle Susitna River: 1) Describe overwintering habitat associations of juvenile anadromous salmonids, non-salmonid anadromous fishes and resident fishes. 2) Describe winter movements of juvenile salmonids and selected fish species such as Arctic grayling, burbot, Dolly Varden, lamprey, northern pike, rainbow trout, humpback whitefish, and round whitefish within select Focus Areas. a. Describe seasonal movements using biotelemetry 3) Describe early life history, timing, and movements of anadromous salmonids. a. Determine juvenile salmonid diurnal behavior by season. 4) Document the seasonal age class structure, growth, and condition of juvenile anadromous and resident fish by habitat type. 5) Collect tissue samples from juvenile salmon and opportunistically from all resident and non-salmon anadromous fish to support the Fish Genetic Baseline Study (ISR Study 9.14). AEA implemented the first year of winter study efforts in 2013/14 following the recommendations put forth in the Draft ISR. Study efforts included one November sampling trip prior to mainstem freeze-up and three collaborative interdisciplinary sampling trips between early February and mid-April. Data entry, Quality Control, and analysis from these efforts are ongoing. AEA will summarize the findings of the 2013/14 winter efforts and develop plans for completing the study, including proposed methodologies and modifications in a *Study 9.6 Fish Distribution and Abundance in the Middle and Lower Susitna River: Winter Fish Studies 2013/14 Technical Memorandum* to be filed with the FERC.

Section 8, Literature Cited	The following references should be added to Section 8: R2 Resource Consultants. 2013c. Fish Distribution and Abundance in the Middle and Lower Susitna River: Winter Studies. PowerPoint Presentation, Technical Workgroup meeting on September 23, 2013. Prepared for Alaska Energy Authority, Anchorage, Alaska. Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC no. P-14241. http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/RSP9.6_FDA_Winter_2013_09_23_TWG.pdf R2 Resource Consultants. 2013d. Fish and Aquatic Resources. PowerPoint Presentation, Technical Workgroup meeting on December 4, 2013. Prepared for Alaska Energy Authority, Anchorage, Alaska. Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC no. P-14241. http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/FishandAquaticsDecTWG.pdf