

## PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 3-14-08

**RESEARCHER:** Ross Tallman

**TITLE:** Fishery Independent Sampling of Cambridge Bay Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) Stocks Including the Continued Weir Enumeration and Generation of a Mark-Recapture Estimate for the Halokvik River Population

**ORIGINALLY FUNDED:** 2014-2015

**NWMB FUNDING:** \$20,000

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** The primary objective of this project is to update stock assessment and biological information on commercially harvested Arctic char by: 1) continuing the collection of fishery-independent data for the Jayko and Halokvik Rivers where a time-series has been established; 2) collecting catch and effort information to understand how harvest levels are impacting current population status; 3) operating a weir at the Halokvik River to enumerate the upstream run of arctic char and provide a mark-recapture estimate of abundance; and 4) tag up to an additional 2000 arctic char for future mark-recapture estimates.

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

<b>Amount from NWMB:</b>	\$20,000
<b>Amount from Others:</b>	\$65,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$85,000
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$101,000
<b>Difference</b>	- \$16,000

**COMMENTS:** The Halokvik River was sampled from August 20-24 and the Jayko River from September 1-4. Both Rivers were sampled using multi-mesh gill nets. 192 (92 male and 100 female) and 215 (107 male and 107 female) arctic char were sampled from the Halokvik and Jayko Rivers, respectively. Assessments and analyses of the fishery independent data collected from the Halokvik and Jayko Rivers will continue. These data will be added to the time series collected for this system and a full assessment of stock health will be performed subsequent to five years of data collection. As indicated in the financial report, Fisheries and Oceans funding was increased to cover the additional costs.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NWMB Wildlife staff do not have any recommendations for this reporting period. The project leader has met all of the reporting requirements to date. A final financial report will be required by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 as per the NWRT policy. Project results will be captured in the final project report which is required by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

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