

Introduction

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Topics:

- Redd Assessment Surveys
- Habitat Survey
- Adult Sampling
- Redd/Spawning Surveys

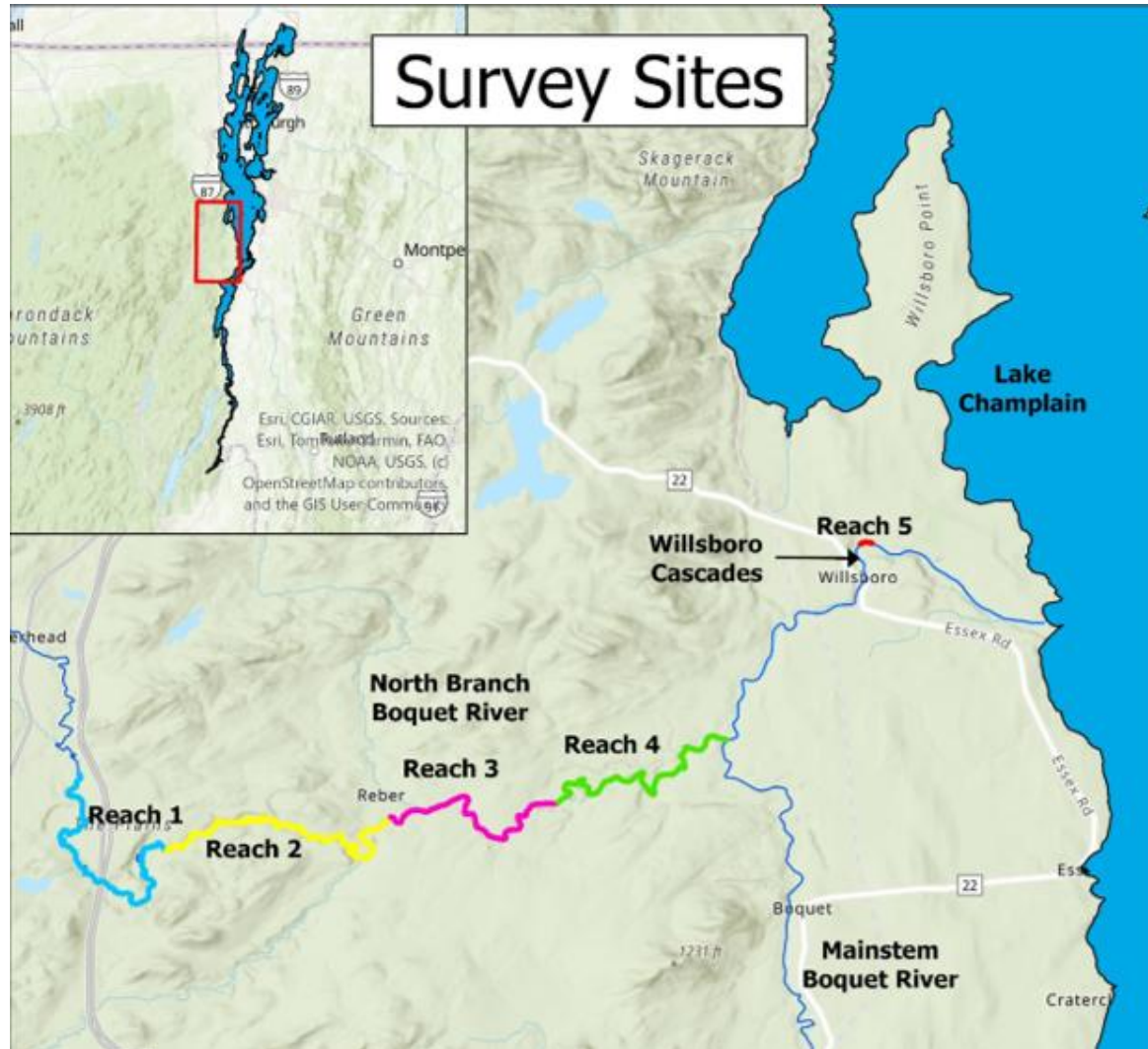


Redd Assessment Surveys

- Backpack electrofishing surveys on North Branch Boquet River, Boquet River Mainstem below Willsboro Cascades, and Saranac River below Imperial Mills Dam
- Primary objective is to capture wild salmon fry
- Surveys are conducted in areas where salmon redds were found the previous fall
- Record species and total length of salmonids
 - Genetic sample taken from Atlantic Salmon
- In 2025:
 - **North Branch Boquet:** 23 salmon fry
 - **Below Willsboro Cascades:** 0 salmon fry
 - **Saranac River:** 155 salmon fry



Redd Assessment Surveys



Redd Assessment Surveys



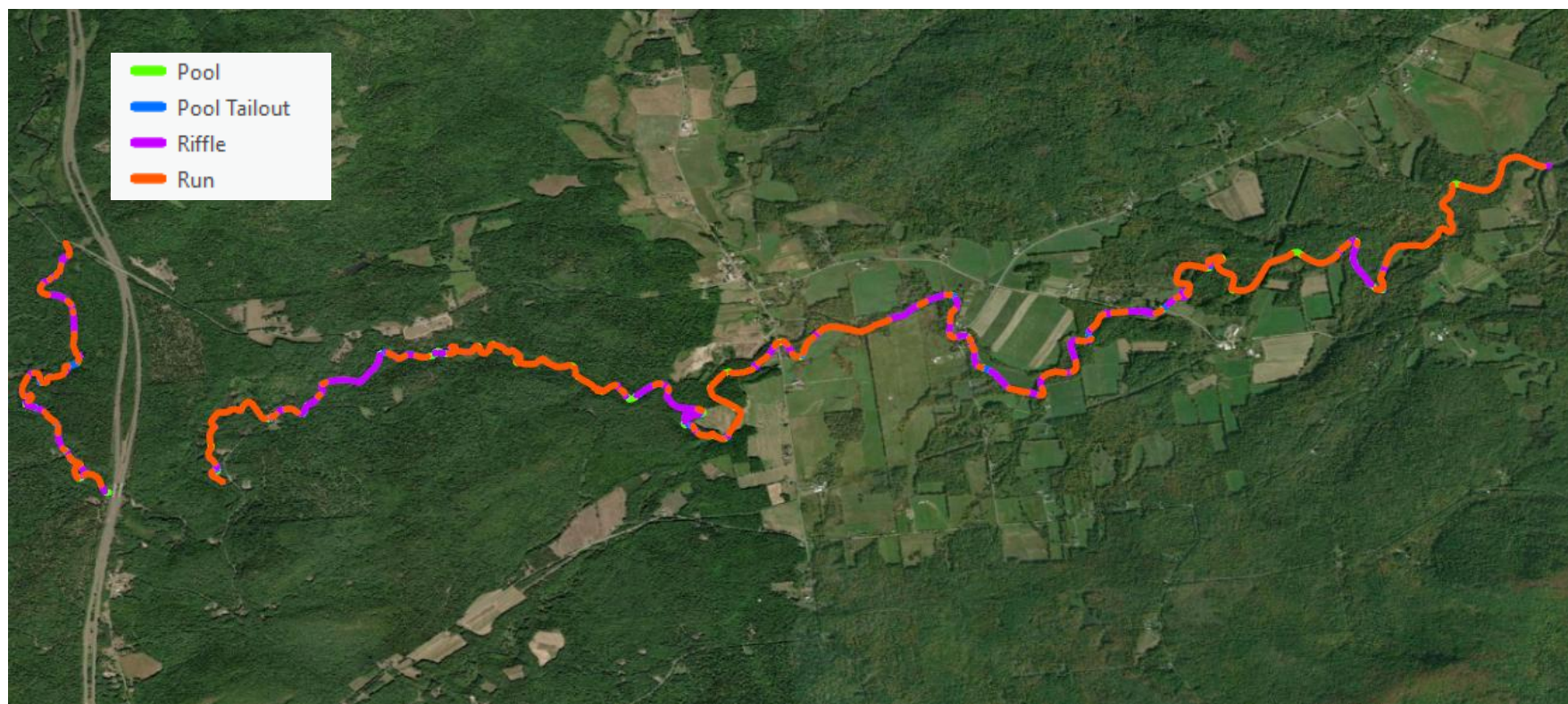
Habitat Surveys

- 2024/2025 – North Branch Boquet River
- 2026 – Putnam Creek
- Start at point furthest upstream and walk downstream
- Divide stream into units
 - Riffle, Run, Pool, Pool Tailout
- Record mean and maximum depth, substrate composition, stream width, different cover types
- Categorize each unit as optimal, suboptimal or poor habitat for different salmon life stages



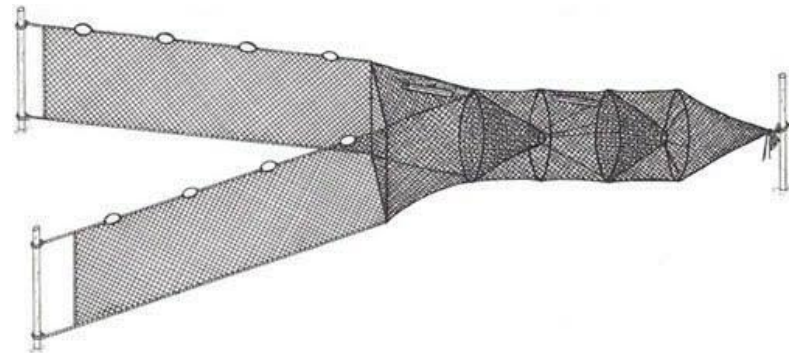
Habitat Survey – North Branch Boquet River

- 12.8 miles of river
- Lack of landowner access permission prevented completion of Reach 1
- High percentage of run and riffle habitats

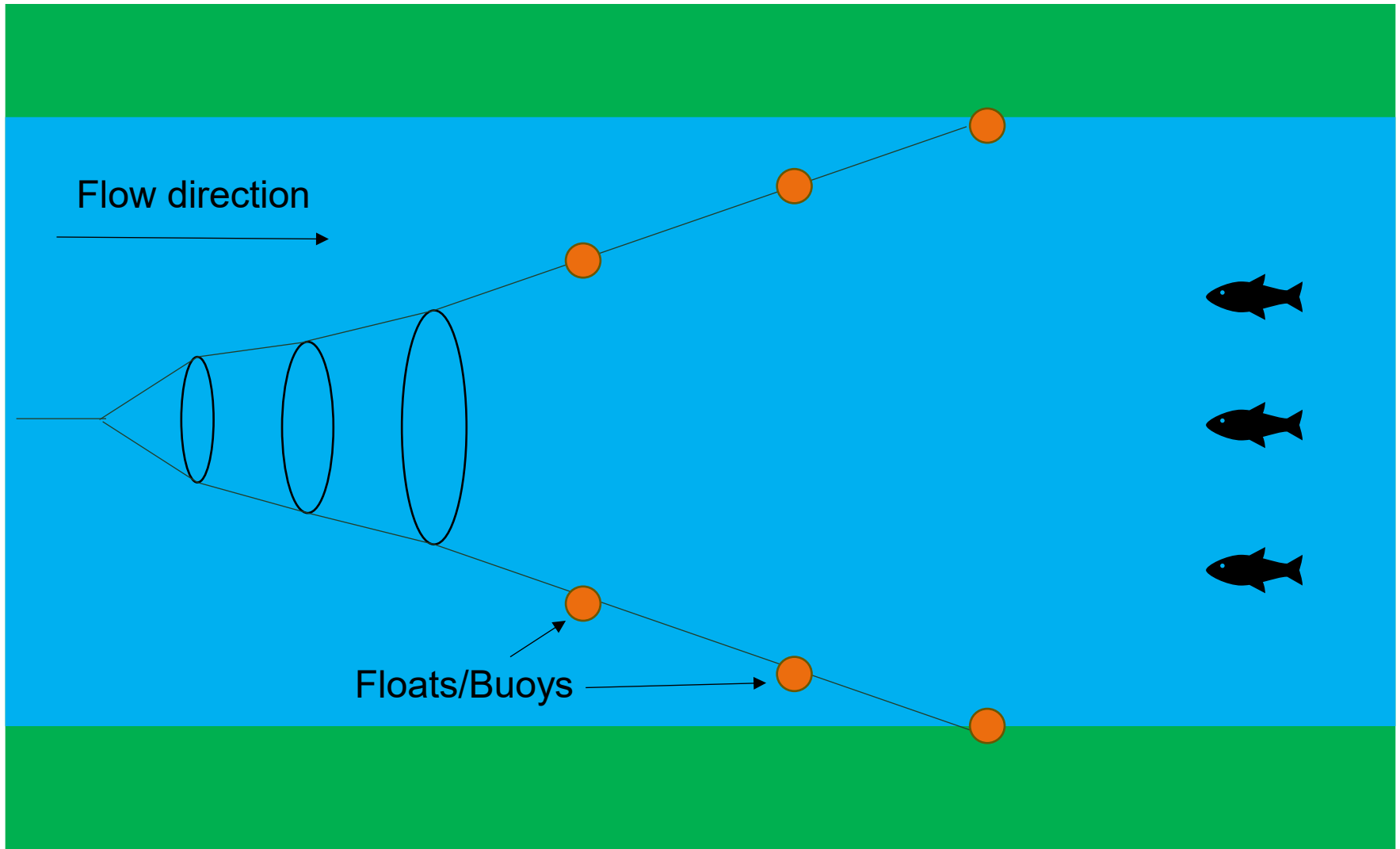


Adult Salmon Sampling

- Hoop/fyke nets deployed on Ausable and Saranac River from September – November
- Sex, total length, weight, lamprey wounds, ventral abrasions + genetic sample
- In 2025:
 - Ausable:** 42 salmon
 - Saranac:** 69 salmon
- Lapse in federal appropriations – October 1st through November 12th



Adult Salmon Sampling

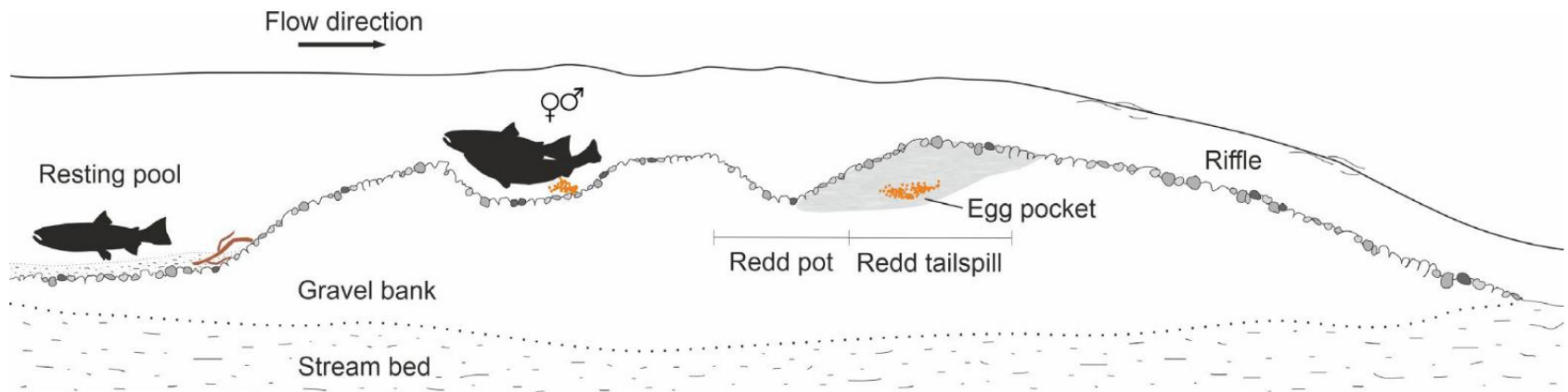


Adult Salmon Sampling



Redd/Spawning Surveys

- End of October through the beginning of December
 - Water cools to preferred spawning temperature and salmon begin constructing redds
- Walk downstream and mark redds on GPS + redd measurements
- 2025 Redd Surveys
 - **Boquet River:** 153 redds found during 2025 surveys (99 below Willsboro Cascades)
 - **Saranac River:** 120 redds



Redd/Spawning Surveys



Above: Pair of spawning Atlantic Salmon on a redd in the Saranac River, NY

Left: USFWS Technician standing next to Atlantic Salmon redd in the Huntington River, VT