FINAL REPORT

MIDCOAST RAPID BIOASSESSMENT

Grant Agreement 98-109

Submitted by

The MidCoast Watersheds Council
344 SW 7th Street
Newport, Oregon 97365

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DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Rapid bioassessment is a "quick and dirty" method of evaluating juvenile fish distribution and abundance. By conducting uncalibrated snorkel counts, a large geographical area can be surveyed for a relatively small sum. Existing salmon data is primarily limited to fall and winter spawning surveys. Information regarding the distribution and abundance of juvenile salmonids was non-existent for most streams.

The rapid bio-assessment project was developed to fill an important data gap in the MidCoast watersheds. This project is designed to survey juvenile Coho Salmon in their summer rearing habitat. The study creates a snapshot of current conditions, showing us where summer rearing is occurring at a time when the habitat is far from fully seeded. The MidCoast Watersheds Council views the Rapid Bioassessment as a mechanism to increase our ability to prioritize watershed restoration efforts. For the long term this project establishes a baseline for evaluating future population densities and the effects of restoration projects.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROJECT

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

This project was conducted with a local independent contractor, and a major in-kind contribution from ODFW. Volunteers were not used.

LIST OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS

ODFW: Mary Holbert managed the project and has worked to enter the data into GIS layers for mapping and analysis.

USDA: Diane Rainsford at Siuslaw National Forest is mapping the data onto the USFS's densified, routed stream layer. This will allow much greater accuracy in locating sites of fish occurrence, and more precise comparisons to future surveys

MATERIALS AND METHODS

See attached report from the Contractor.

PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

The contractor contacted all landowners whose lands were entered for this survey. All those who wished have received results of the surveys on their streams. We believe that this has greatly raised landowners' awareness of the importance of their own property to Coho Salmon. We believe this has already led to expressions of interest in restoration projects.

RESULTS

See attached report.

PROJECT ACCOUNTING

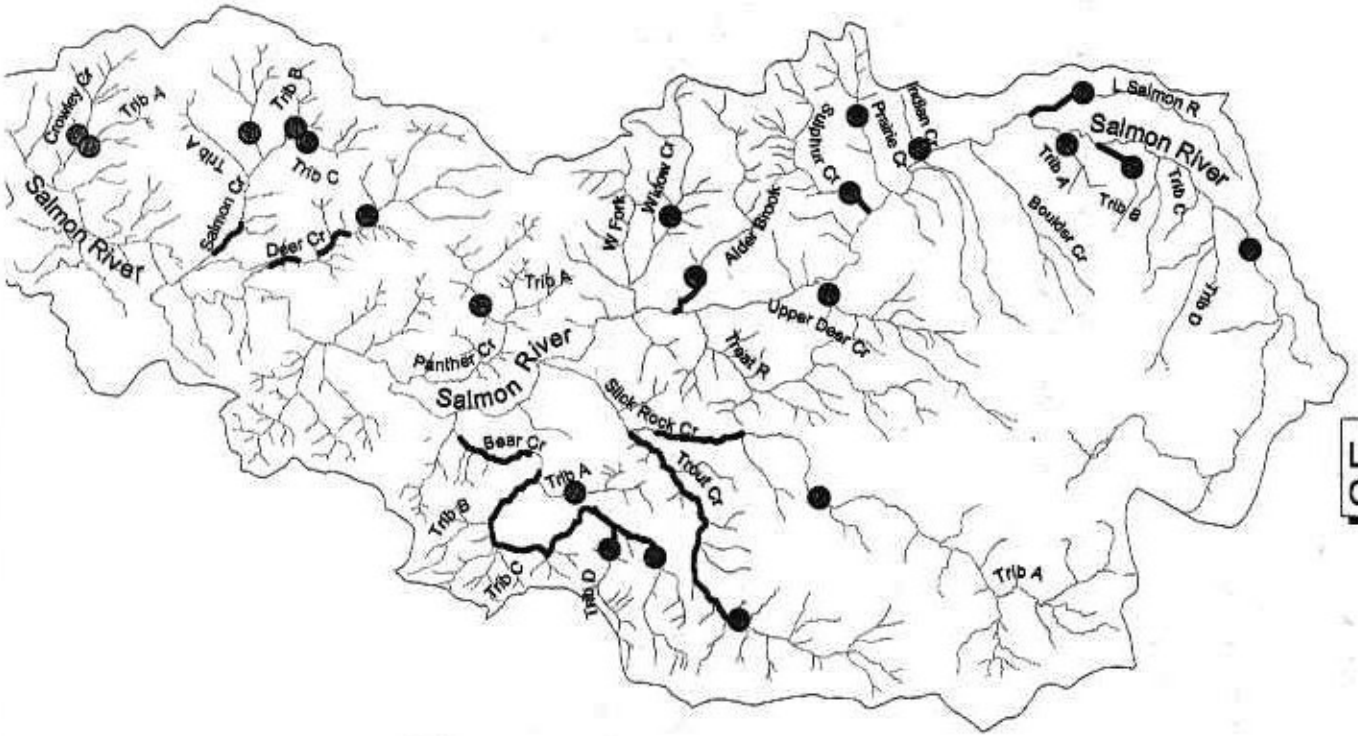
A copy of the final accounting of the GWEB grant funds is attached.

The match funding is as follows:

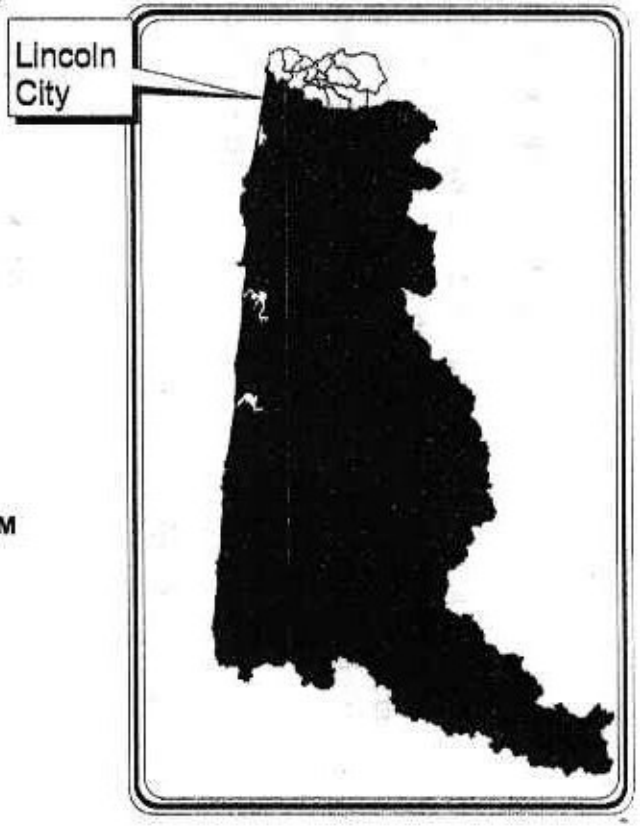
Source	Activity	Status	Value	Total	
ODFW (Mary Holbert)	Project Management	Done	5000		
ODFW (Mary Holbert)	Data analysis	Continuing	20,000		
				25,000	
USFS (Diane Rainsford)	Densified Stream Layer	Done		10,000	10,000
				35,000	

Note: In addition, the MidCoast Watersheds Council has devoted $5,500 of administration funds to support the Densified Stream Layer and the mapping of the Rapid Bioassessment data onto that layer. This greatly increases the value of the data to our ongoing Watersheds Assessment project (grant 98-106). This sum is not included in the above summary because much of that money came from administration collected on other GWEB/OWEB grants.

Salmon River 1998
Juvenile Coho Distribution



Oregon's Midcoast



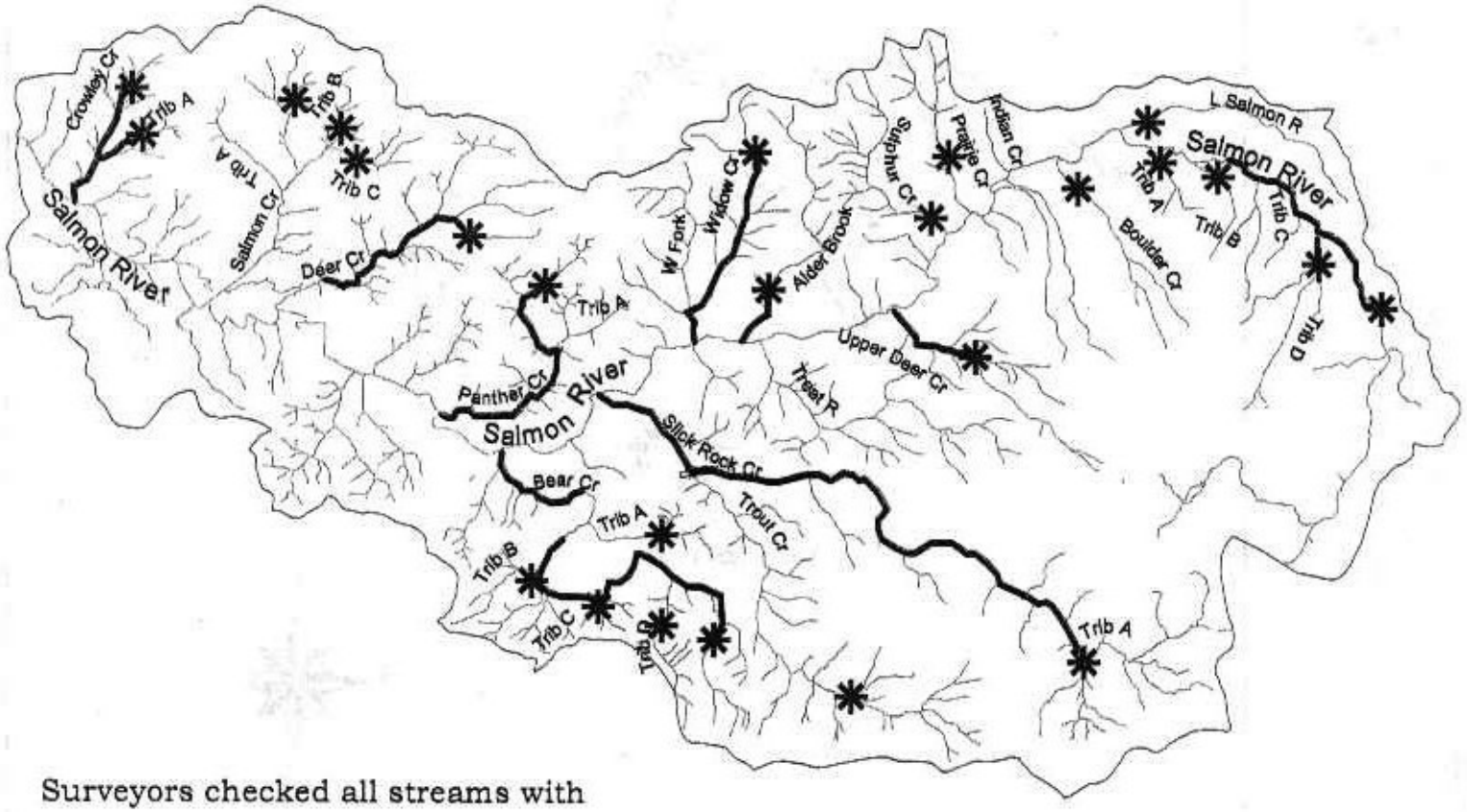
The focus of the 1998 rapid bioassessment in the Salmon River was to delineate the distribution of winter steelhead. The presence and abundance of other salmonids, including cutthroat trout were assessed during the survey. Surveys ended two pools beyond the last observation of juvenile steelhead or coho.

End of Coho

Observed Median Coho Density>0.3\sqM

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

Salmon River 1998
Juvenile Steelhead Distribution



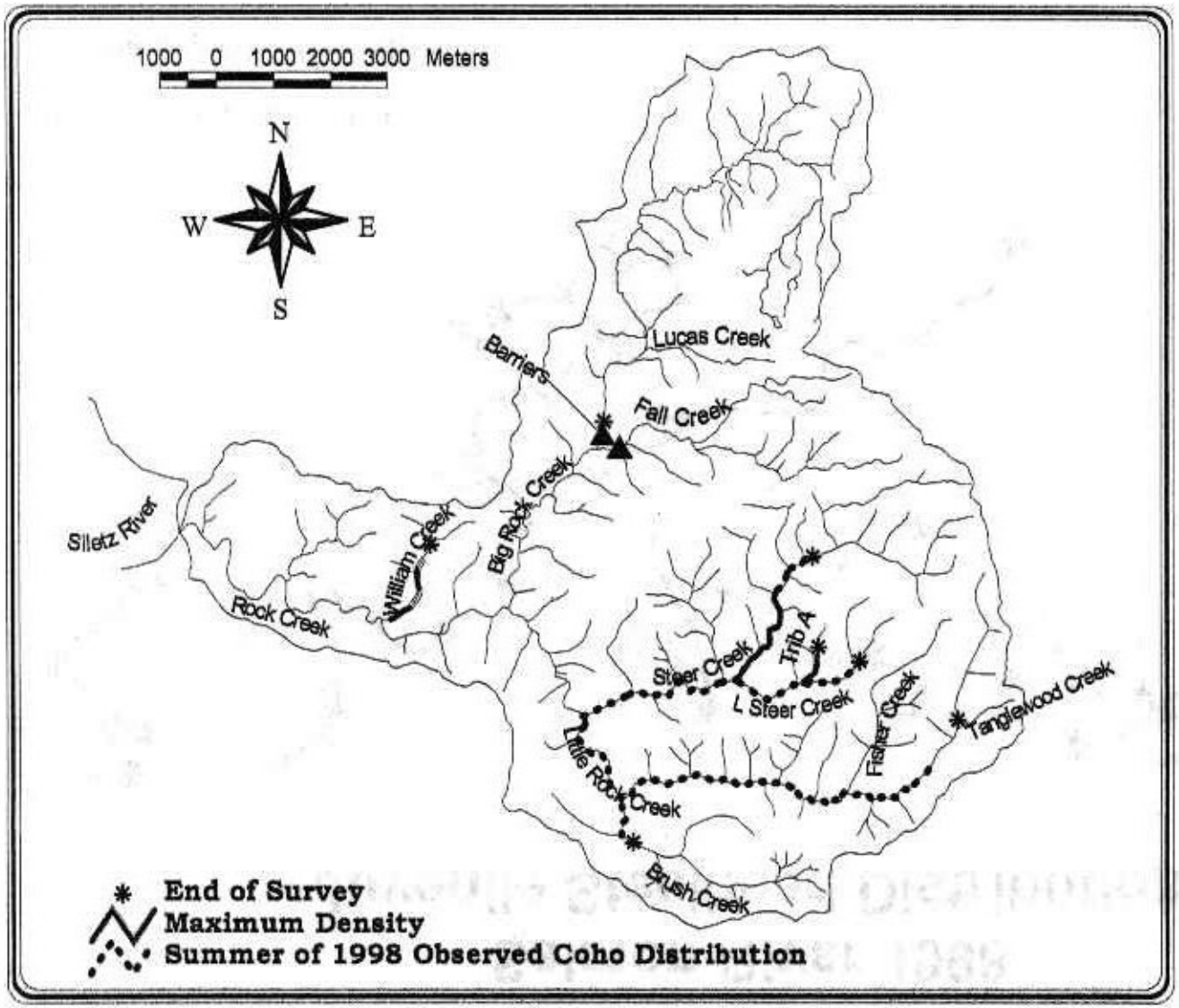
Surveyors checked all streams with habitat suitable for anadromous fish. Identifiable juvenile steelhead or coho were not observed in streams which do not have an end of survey symbol

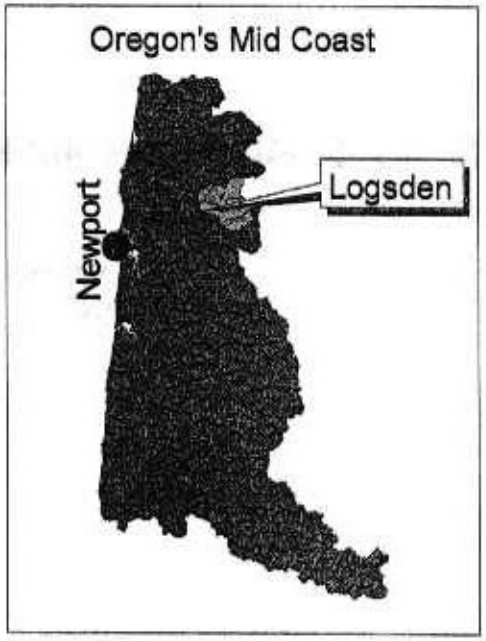
3000 0 3000 6000 Meters

End of Steelhead

Observed Median Steelhead Density >0.1/sqM

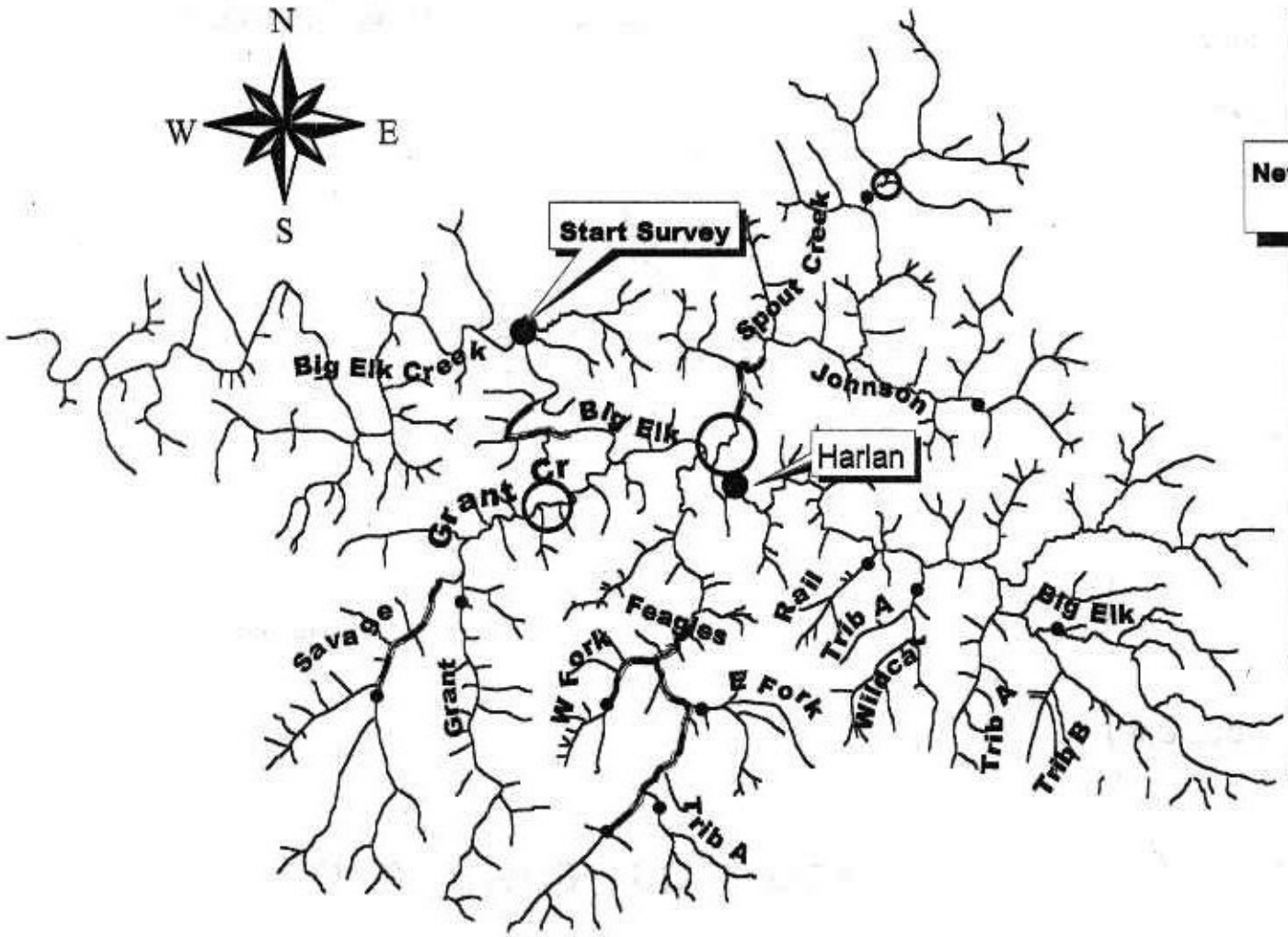
Siletz River
Rock Creek Basin
1998 Rapid Bioassessment



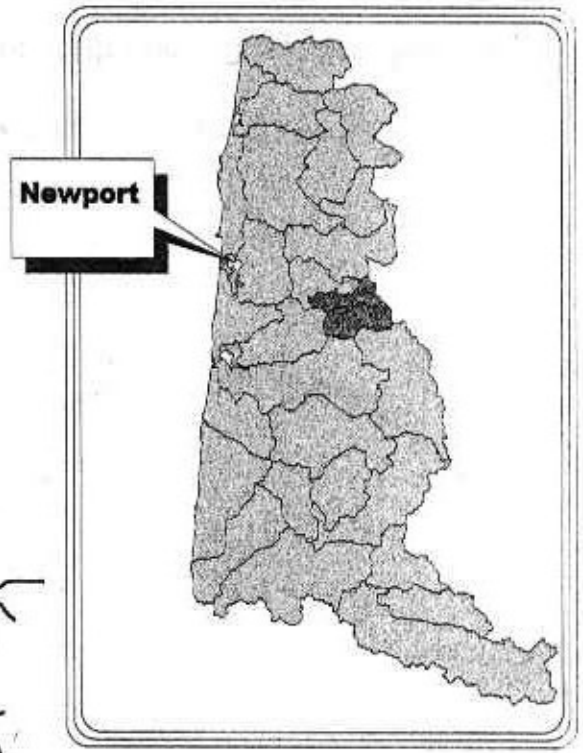


- The area designated "Maximum Density" had a median density of 0.7 coho/sqM in William and Steer Creeks, 0.4 coho sqM in Trib A. No other areas surveyed in the basin exceeded a median density of 0.3 coho/sqM.
- A total of 12 coho were observed in Big Rock Creek and Rock Creek, with median density of 0.01 fish/sqM.
- All tributaries were sampled

1998 Big Elk Rapid Bioassessment



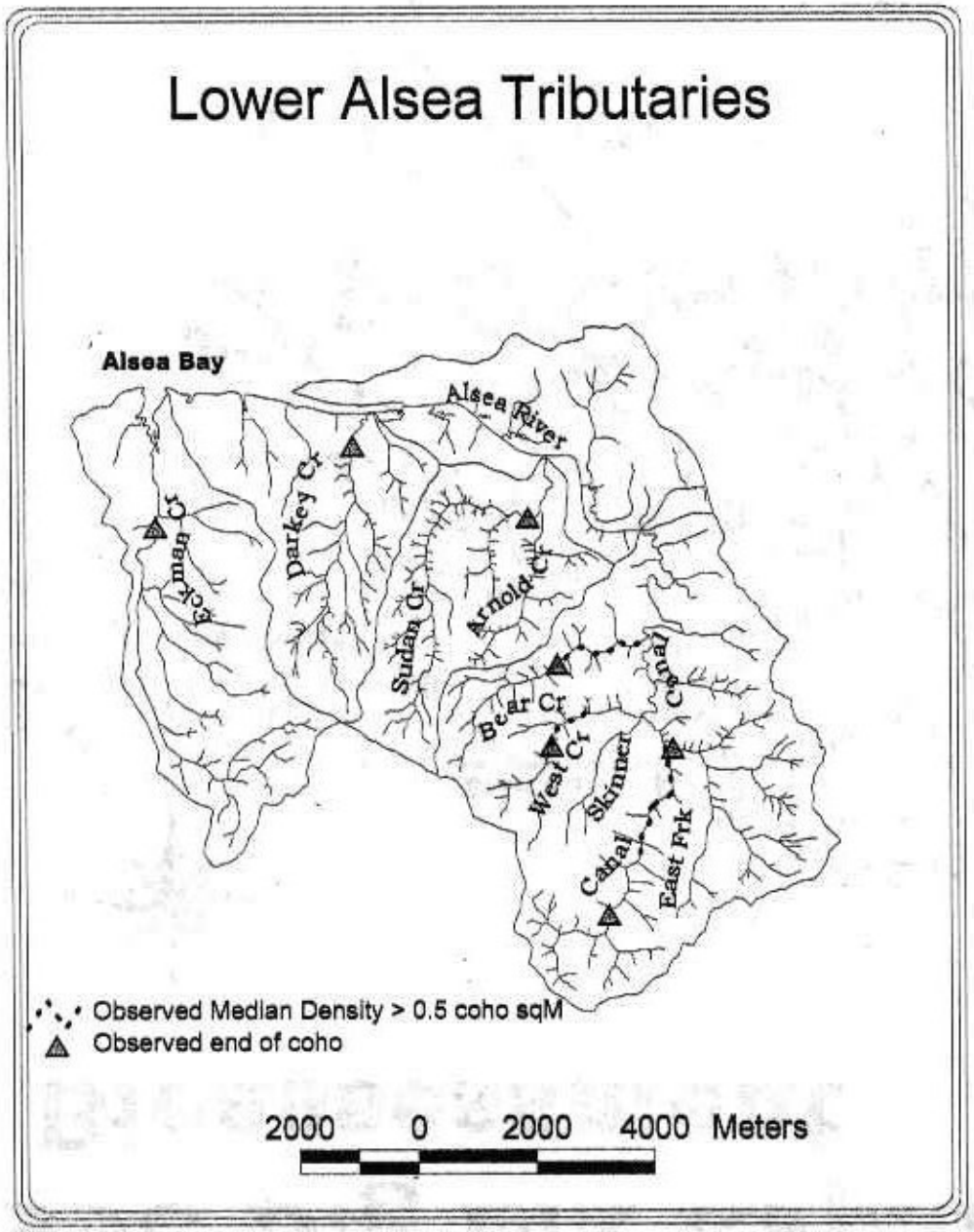
Oregon's Mid Coast



Median coho densities>0.5/MSq
Observed end of coho
Access denied; no data

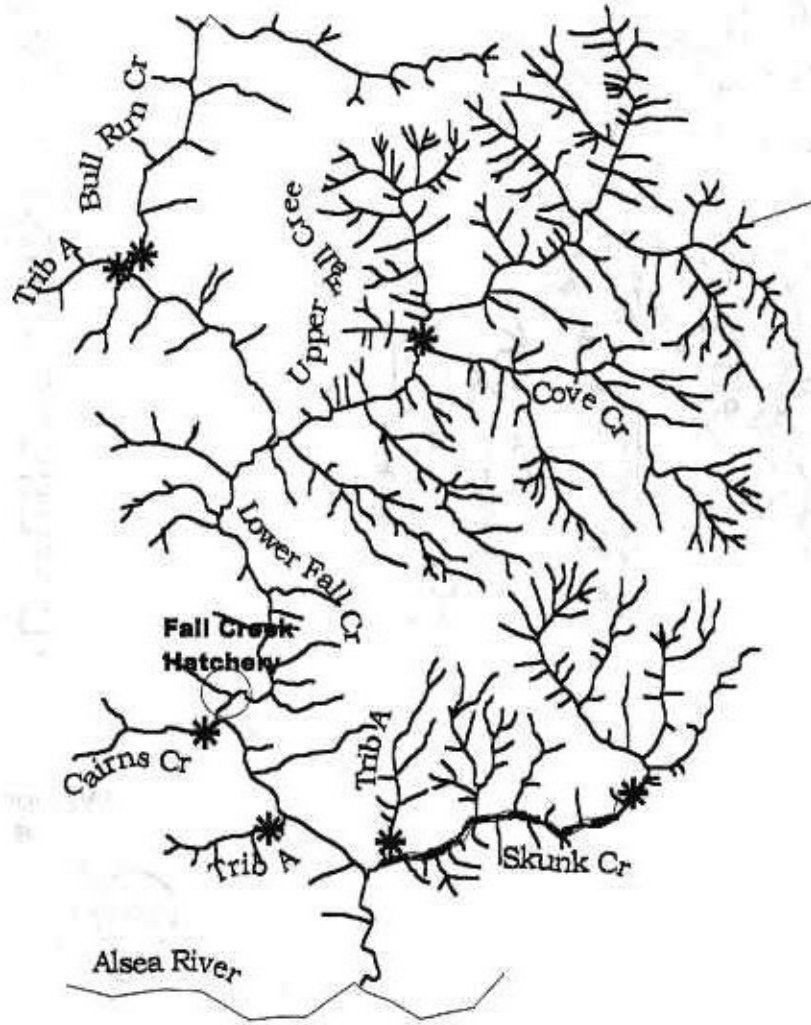
4 0 4 8 Miles

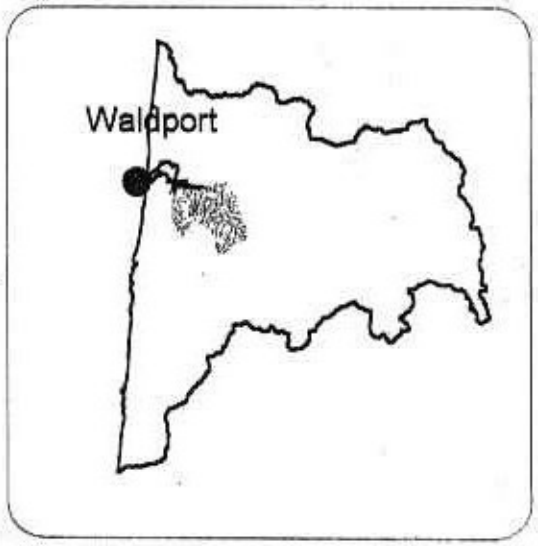
1998 Rapid BioAssessment



Snorkel surveys were conducted in every fifth pool. Survey ended when the end of coho distribution had been reached.

Fall Creek Basin
Rapid BioAssessment
1998

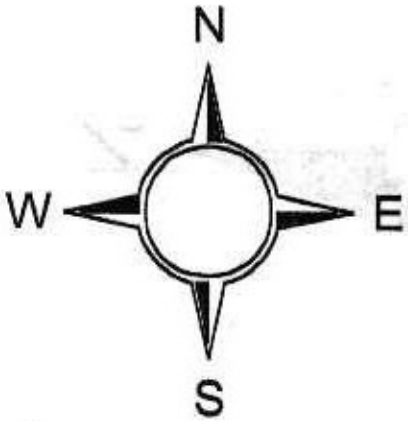




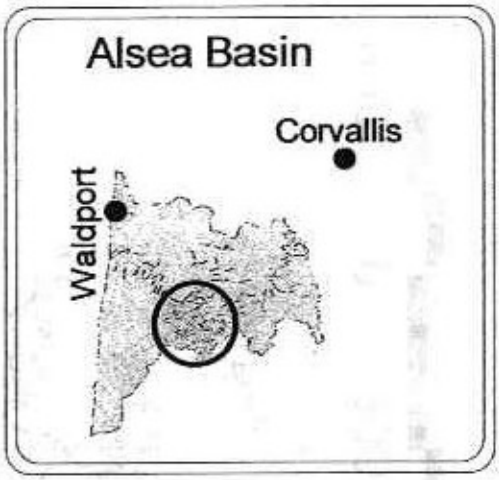
Observed coho density >0.5 /sq M

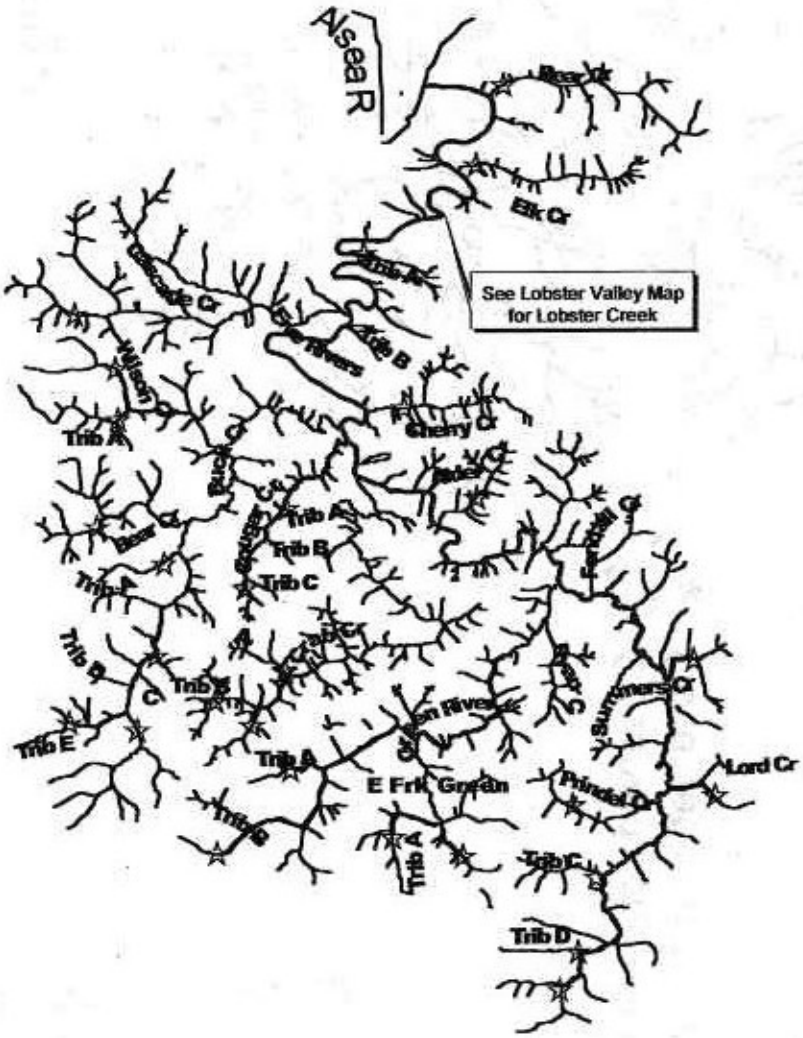
Observed end of coho

2000 0 2000 4000 6000 Meters



Five Rivers Subbasin
Alsea River
1998 Rapid Bioassessment

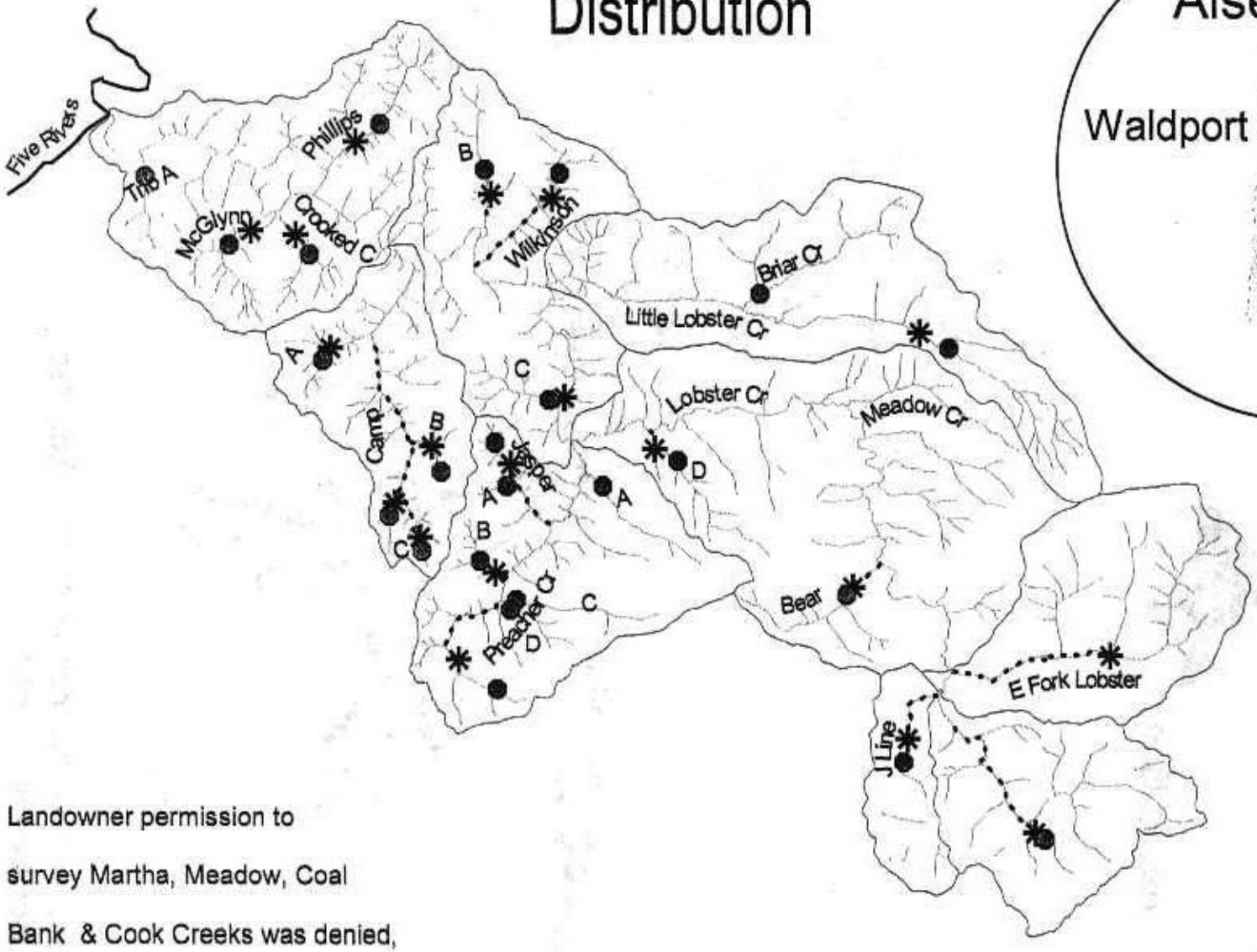




Five Rivers Mainstem
Observed End of Coho
Observed Median Density > 0.5 Coho/ M/sq

3000 0 3000 6000 Meters

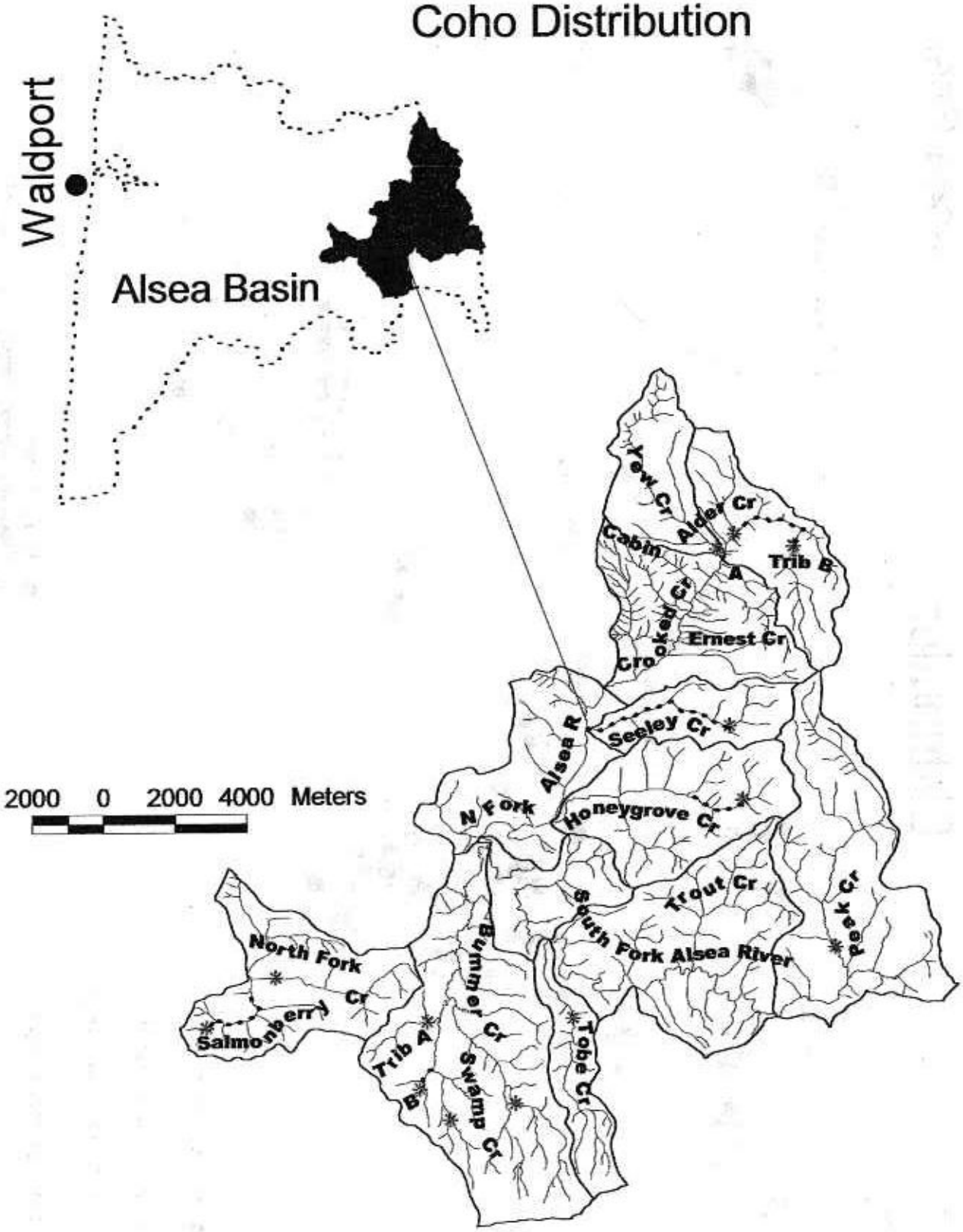
Lobster Basin Observed 1998 Juvenile Coho Distribution



Landowner permission to survey Martha, Meadow, Coal Bank & Cook Creeks was denied, therefore they were not surveyed.

- End of Survey
- Observed Median Density > 0.5 Coho/sqM
- Observed End of Coho

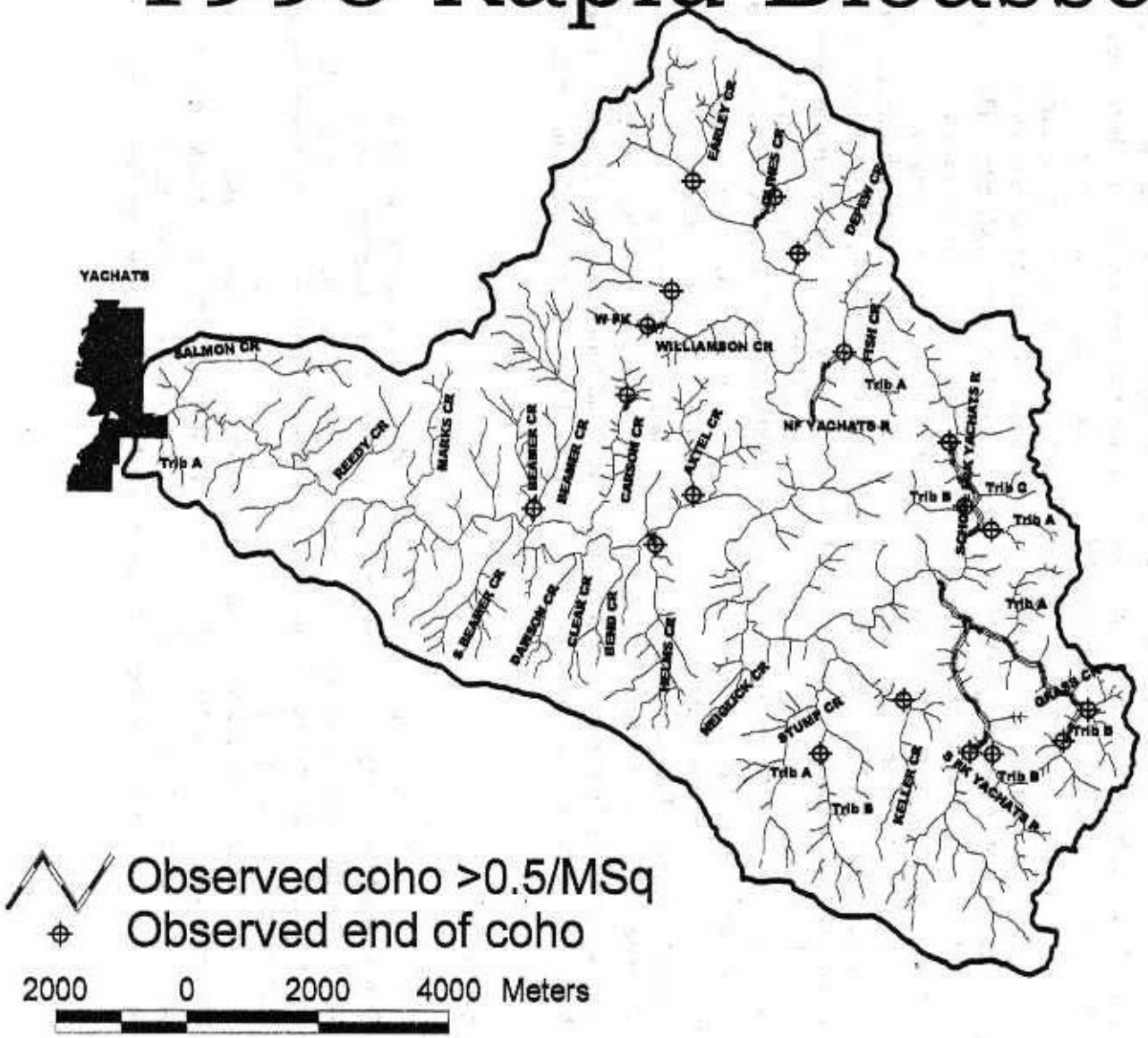
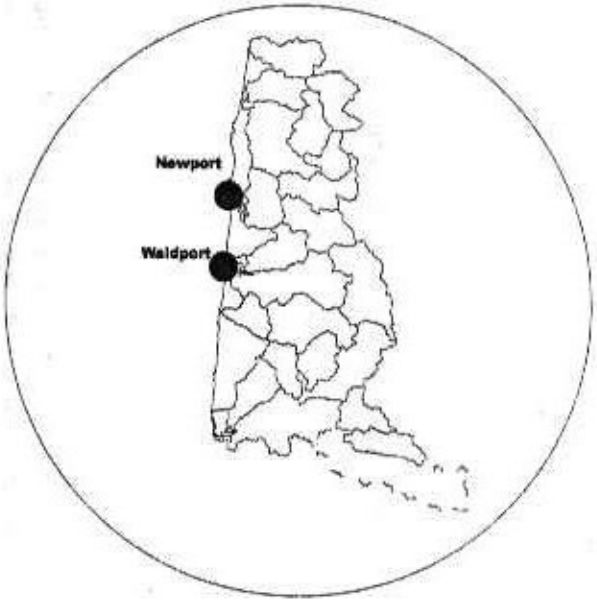
North & South Forks Alsea River
Rapid Bioassessment 1998
Coho Distribution



Observed median coho density > 0.5/ Msq

Observed end of coho

Yachats River
1998 Rapid Bioassessment



Oregon's Mid Coast