



Alagnak

Aniakchak

Katmai

Kenai Fjords

Lake Clark

KATM: 2015 Spring Update

Nearshore Activities

In addition to our annual nearshore marine monitoring along the coast of KATM, our Changing Tides project kicks off this year! We are maximizing our field time along the KATM coast to complete the monitoring data collection as well as conduct collections of bivalves to be used for genetic and physiological analysis for the Changing Tides project. During this trip, our charter vessel will also provide support to our sea otter aerial survey crew. Sea otters in KATM were last surveyed in 2012. Results indicated a 22% increase in the population from 2008. We are anxious to see what this listed population's status is.

Freshwater Monitoring

The SWAN freshwater field crew will be based in King Salmon during the 2015 field season. In June and September, the crew will visit each of 4 temperature arrays in KATM to download data loggers and perform annual maintenance. The crew will also visit the outlets of Naknek Lake and Lake Brooks in June and September to measure discharge and install or remove water level loggers. In August, the crew will focus on monitoring core water quality parameters - temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, and turbidity - at 18 lakes by vertical profile sampling. These parameters also will be measured hourly at the outlet of Naknek Lake from June through October. Additionally, the crew will be conducting 2 short-term projects in KATM: one to quantify drivers of mercury in resident lake fish, and another to measure water temperature in habitats used for sockeye salmon spawning and rearing.



Intertidal algae survey along the Katmai coastline. Photo: NPS



Water quality monitoring at Hallo Glacier Lake, KATM. Photo: NPS

Spruce Woodlands

Widespread spruce beetle activity has damaged older forests in KATM, but young spruce are doing well. High seedling counts south of Lake Brooks suggest an ongoing expansion of spruce woodlands near western treeline. In August, the SWAN vegetation crew will survey roughly 20 spruce woodland sites near Naknek, Nonvianuk, and Tony Malone Lakes. Overstory and understory measurements will provide information on stand condition, and continuous soil temperature and relative humidity measurements in the stands will provide data on the conditions conducive to growth.

2015 SWAN Field Plans in Katmai

All dates are flexible and subject to change based on weather and other conditions

May

Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring
Dates: May 6-8
Contact: Tammy Wilson

Freshwater Monitoring
Dates: May 2-22
Contacts: Krista Bartz, Troy Hamon

Weather Station Maintenance - Fourpeaked, Coville, Pfaff Mine, Three Forks
Dates: May 17 - June 6, exact days TBD
Contacts: Peter Kirchner, Chuck Lindsay

June

Nearshore Monitoring / Changing Tides / Sea Otter aerial surveys
Dates: June 29 - July 8
Contact: Heather Coletti

Freshwater Monitoring
Dates: June 6 - July 6
Contacts: Krista Bartz, Troy Hamon

July

Freshwater Monitoring
Dates: July 25 - August 10
Contacts: Krista Bartz, Troy Hamon

August

Vegetation Monitoring
Dates: August 7 - September 3
Contacts: Amy Miller, James Walton

September
Freshwater Monitoring
Dates: Sept 1-11
Contacts: Krista Bartz, Troy Hamon

Recent Publications

Chuck Lindsay. 2014. Weather station maintenance in Southwest Alaska Network Parks: 2014 hydrologic year summary. NR Report.

