David Lonzarich
Associate Professor,
Department of Biology

Summer Movements of Juvenile Coho Salmon, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Under Variable Stream Flow Conditions

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We describe here the distribution of juvenile coho salmon and the effects of summer flooding on their movements in a small Lake Superior tributary. Conducting repeated snorkeling surveys in the Onion River, WI, we documented large fluctuations in abundance over a 60-day survey. Focusing on fine scale changes in distribution, we uncovered three general movement patterns. The first was associated with floods, which drove fish downstream. The second was upstream recolonization during intervening periods of low flow, and the third was small-scale movement within reaches. Movement of the type and magnitude described may have impacts on the social hierarchies and the relative fitness of young salmon.