Yukon Placer Fish Habitat Suitability Map - Big Creek Watershed (Category A)

In this fish habitat classification system, the suitability of fish habitat is determined by considering watercourse gradient, the proximity of streams to the routes used by Chum, Sockeye for spawning and migration, and water quality. The classification is intended to provide a descriptive framework for assessing the potential for fish habitat to be affected by human activity, but the predicted habitat features and conditions may not be present in streams already affected by placer mining.

For this reason, the Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining includes a "Previous Development" designation. It will adjust the classification of streams that are currently mined, or were mined in the past.

On this map a grey, black or purple buffer surrounding a stream represents reaches that have been affected by placer mining. A grey buffer indicates current activity, a black buffer shows where placer mining occurred in the past, and a purple buffer describes extensive development. The coloured line immediately within a buffer deposits the habitat suitability that would be predicted if mining had never occurred on the stream. The coloured line in the very centre reveals the habitat suitability ranking that will be assigned to the reach, taking the Previous Development designation into account.

It should be noted that while the Previous Development designation applies to placer mining activity on streams that may not have been properly restored, all future restoration work must achieve the standard required for the predicted (or higher) habitat suitability classification.

Areas of Special Consideration
Areas within watercourses that contain ecologically or culturally important features or aquatic resources or provide significant, critical linkage to upriver habitats that have not been designated as Areas of Special Consideration. These areas may include significant species and/or areas which directly support subsistence, traditional, commercial or sport fisheries. Areas of Special Consideration may be established for anadromous or non-anadromous species of fish. At a minimum, Areas of Special Consideration include spawning areas and migration routes for chum, Sockeye and sockeye salmon, as well as spawning areas for rainbow trout, bull trout and Dolly Varden.