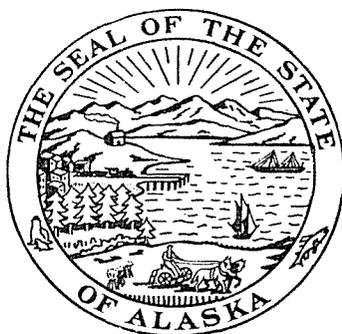


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STATE OF ALASKA

William A. Egan, Governor



ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS, 1969 - 1970

FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION PROJECT F-9-2

SPORT FISH INVESTIGATIONS OF ALASKA

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Wallace H. Noerenberg, Commissioner

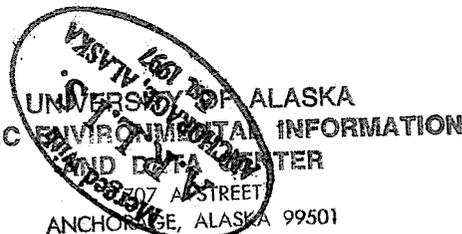
*Alaska* DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

Rupert E. Andrews, Director

Howard E. Metsker, Coordinator

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## INTRODUCTION

This report of progress consists of Job Segment Reports from the State of Alaska, Federal Aid In Fish Restoration, Project F-9-2, "Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska".

The studies reported herein are investigations evaluating the sport fish resources of the state. Recreational and other impacts on the fishery resources necessitates a continuous endeavor of ascertaining facts and knowledge of the fisheries. The 24 jobs reported on are of a continuing nature. The investigations are composed of 11 projects involved with the inventory and cataloging of the sport fish waters of the state, sport fishery creel censuses, and access. Fish species that received special investigational effort include: Dolly Varden, anadromous fish, grayling, sheefish, whitefish, pike, char, and salmon. The information gathered from the combined studies provides necessary background data for a better understanding of management problems and constitutes a basis for necessary future investigations.

The subject matter contained in these reports is incomplete, and the findings and interpretations subject to re-evaluation as work progresses.

## RESEARCH PROJECT SEGMENT

*State:* Alaska

*Project No.:* F-9-2                      *Name:* Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska.

*Job No.:* 18-G                              *Title:* **Investigations of Alaska's Public Fishing Access Requirements.**

*Period Covered:* July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970.

## ABSTRACT

Land ownership information was obtained from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and borough land offices. Public recreation classification action by the State of Alaska provided access to one stream, one lake, and increased the amounts of access to two lakes.

An intensive review was made of 201 requests for access sites submitted to the State Division of Lands from 1960 to 1965. One hundred fourteen were still on the status maps, 33 were closed out as no longer needed, 9 top-filed upon by boroughs, and 19 applications were held up by the State land agency and were subsequently selected by boroughs. Twenty-six applications are being closed out as they are in conflict with private entries and other reasons.

Thirty-six Reserve Use Applications were requested, and 29 were obtained from the State Division of Lands, providing access to 16 lakes and 6 streams. Rights-of-way from the State land agency were obtained along 15 streams in the Anchorage and Fairbanks regions. Requests for access to waters within the Open-to-Entry areas were rejected.

The Burma Road court case against a group of homesteaders resulted in favor of the State and provided continued access for hunters and fishermen. An opinion by the Alaska Attorney General clarified the otherwise vague section line dedication laws.

Public Land Order 4582 held up all land action with the Federal government. A final attempt to use the provisions of 44LD513 for trail dedication was rejected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Requests for access sites were submitted to borough governments which are proceeding with limited land management programs.

Negotiations continued with two private landowners for public access routes.

Action by the Tetlin Village Native Council may set a precedent for limiting access to fishing waters located within Indian reservations.

Waters within the Anchorage-Matanuska Valley subregion were cataloged and recorded in the electronic data processing system. The statewide catalog presently consists of 5,211 entries.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the project of investigating Alaska's public sport fishing access requirements.
2. Continue and intensify the electronic data processing of water, land, and limnological information.
3. Particular effort should be made to assist and advise boroughs and other local governments concerning public access requirements.
4. Initiate a program to purchase access lands.
5. Test the Attorney General's Section Line Right-of-Way opinion.
6. Intensify field investigations within Bureau of Land Management "window areas".

## OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate potential recreational fishing areas in the public domain, State-selected lands, borough grant lands, and private lands.
2. (a) To make recommendations for the classification of lands for public fishing access purposes.  
(b) To make recommendations to appropriate land agencies for programs and practices which would enhance and protect the fishery resources in areas suitable for multiple land use.
3. To continue a program to record and catalog all lakes of the entire state.

## TECHNIQUES USED

Information concerning biological and limnological characteristics on waters studied was obtained from survey forms and file cards maintained by the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. Fishery information was also obtained while working with Sport Fish staff biologists using standard biological field survey methods.

Ownership information concerning land surrounding lakes and streams was obtained from public records at the Alaska State Division of Lands and the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Land status was obtained from borough offices in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks, and Palmer. Federal and State land records were inspected periodically for the occurrence of changes in land ownership.

The locations and surface areas of lakes located within inventory areas were obtained from U.S. Geological Service 1:63,360 scale maps. Lake acreages were obtained for surveyed lakes from the lake survey forms at the area Sport Fish Division field offices. The grid method was used for determining the acreage of the unsurveyed lakes.

Increased development and utilization of land has resulted in the need for more definitive locations of access points. It is difficult to locate and describe requested or obtained access sites due to the lack of ground control, the scale of existing maps, and vertical photography.

A program of methodically photographing lakes in critical areas was established during this report period. Photo flights were taken when ground contrast was high and lighting was good. Approximately four oblique black and white photos were taken of each lake with a Rolliflex 120 camera. Photos of the lakes were taken at several angles; the altitude of the airplane depended upon the size of the lake.

Proof sheets were subsequently made and representative 8 x 10" prints made with one copy filed at the area Sport Fish Division office and another copy in the Access office. Property lines and names of property owners were superimposed on the photo for ease in identifying the access situation. Flights to determine techniques were made in the Matanuska Valley and along the clam beach access points on the Kenai Peninsula.

The use of Electronic Data Processing for the storing, manipulating and reporting of water data and shoreline land status was continued during the report period. Source documents were prepared in the Access office. Cards punched at the State of Alaska Electronic Data Processing center in Anchorage were processed on the 360 Model 40 located in the Juneau EDP center.

## FINDINGS

### Public Recreation Classification

The State Division of Lands classified 4,552,846 acres of land for various uses during calendar year 1969. Public recreation accounted for 27 acres.

Public access to Lake Orbin, on Kodiak Island, and Deep Creek, an important salmon fishery stream on the Kenai Peninsula, was obtained with public recreation classifications. Big and Wolverine lakes in the Matanuska Valley, which also received public recreation classification, had sufficient access from prior land action.

The Division of Lands is also classifying the requested parcels of land as "Resource Management" or "Reserved Use". Such classifications effectively set aside land for public use but do not suggest that the development usually found in "public recreation" areas will take place.

**TABLE 1** Public Recreation Land Classification Orders Issued by the Alaska Division of Lands, 1969.

| <u>No.</u>        | <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Area</u>    | <u>Acres</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 629               | 4/28/69     | T28S R20W SM    | Lake Orbin     | 13.13        |
| 630               | 4/29/69     | T 2S R14W SM    | Deep Creek     | 44.38        |
| 51 (Amendment 4)  | 5/17/69     | T17N R 4W SM    | Big Lake       | 0.01         |
| 407 (Amendment 1) | 1/05/70     | T18N R 3E SM    | Wolverine Lake | 17.46        |
|                   |             |                 | Total          | 74.98*       |

\*A discrepancy exists between the Division of Lands Annual Report figure and that obtained by reviewing the four land classification orders.

The State land agency occasionally reclassifies land to meet the changing needs of the users of Alaska's land. The Department of Fish and Game was not informed of any changes through reclassification in status of sites which had been previously requested from the Division of Lands.

### Reserve Use Applications

Requests for proposed public access sites, which would be located on State land, go to the State Division

of Lands in the form of a request for Reserve Use classification. The uncomplicated form requires only the aliquot parts description, general location, and the name and agency requesting the site. A land ownership map of the site and surrounding land entries usually accompanies the request.

The State land agency reviews the request, assigns a case number, draws the parcel boundary on the land status books, and notifies the requesting agency that the request is acknowledged. The request remains on the books as an application until classification takes place. The Division of Lands does not classify parcels until a land-use plan has been prepared and reviewed by the various sections within the land agency. The land plan around a lake usually consists of substantial amounts of lakeshore for public recreation. Easements for utilities and roads are included within the plan to accommodate not only present developments, but also those of adjacent areas which may be developed for recreation in the future.

The final order which classifies the parcels of land for private and public recreation is then issued. Boundaries and exact location of the requested access site are usually adjusted to conform to access road locations, terrain and other features which became known while the field survey was conducted. The Division of Lands contacts the Sport Fish Access personnel for permission to relocate or adjust the site boundaries if such changes are significant.

The Reserve Use Application procedure was initiated for Department of Fish and Game use in 1965. Requests by the Access staff to the Alaska Division of Lands during the 1959 to 1965 period were made primarily to classify lands for access and public recreation if the lands had been selected, or to select and so classify if the particular parcels of land had not been selected. No action was taken on the requests until 1965, at which time requests were put on the land status books as Reserve Use Applications.

Reserve Use Applications applied to sites requested from 1959 to 1965 were inspected in the State land records for validity. Two hundred one applications were reviewed; 114 of these are on the State land records and are serving the desired purpose of indicating to State and local land agencies that public access is needed at that particular point.

Thirty-three of the original applications had been closed out prior to 1969 as access was insured by Public Recreation and Reserve Use classifications or other Reserve Use Applications.

The delay of the Division of Lands in acting upon requests made in 1962 resulted in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough selecting 19 of the sites in their 1964-1965 selection program. This was prior to the Reserve Use Application being granted to the Department of Fish and Game in 1965.

Six of the original Reserve Use Applications have been "top filed" by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and three by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Four applications in conflict with private entries were closed out. The remaining 22 applications are in the process of being adjusted or amended.

Thirty-six Reserve Use Applications were requested and 29 were obtained from the Division of Lands during this report period. The 29 RUA sites are located on 16 lakes and 6 streams (Table 2). Five of the remaining applications were turned down because the waters were contained within areas classified for Open to Entry. The Division of Lands stated that the process of changing the classification or removing the desired site from the Open-to-Entry classification was extremely involved and expressed reluctance to initiate this action. Two of the applications were processed by the Division of Lands after borough selections had been received for those parcels of land. A request was submitted to the Alaska Division of Lands to cancel one of those applications which was on Hock Lake.

Amended descriptions were submitted to the Alaska Division of Lands for the enlargement of ten existing applications (Table 3). Six other previous applications were amended to conform to the changes in status maps used by the Division of Lands (Table 4).

TABLE 2 Reserve Use Applications Requested and Obtained, 1969.

| <u>ADF&amp;G No.</u> | <u>Water</u>              | <u>Location</u>       | <u>ADL No.</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 293                  | Seventeen Mile Lake       | T19N R 3E Sec. 19 SM  | 45375          | 05/05/69    |
| 3541                 | Sevenmile Lake            | T 8S R 7W Sec. 7 FM   | 46405          | 06/10/69    |
| 506                  | Deadman Lake              | T13N R20E Sec. 23 CRM | 46423          | 06/13/69    |
| 3546                 | Diamond Lake              | T16N R 4W Sec. 5 SM   | 46572          | 07/02/69    |
| 625                  | Trapper Lake              | T27N R 6W Sec. 14 SM  | 46965          | 08/06/69    |
| 670                  | Byers Lake                | T31N R 5W Sec. 36 SM  | 47110          | 08/19/69    |
| 3542                 | Fourmile Lake             | T18N R15E Sec. 8 CRM  | 48284          | 10/28/69    |
| 269                  | Delyndia Lake             | T17N R 5W Sec. 2 SM   | 48808          | 10/27/69    |
| 1057                 | Lake Creek (Bulchitna L.) | T21N R 9W Sec. 3 SM   | 49200          | 11/25/69    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 12 SM  | 49536          | 12/15/69    |
| 5207                 | Bench Lake                | T20N R11W Sec. 7 SM   | 49535          | 12/15/69    |
| 822                  | Packers Creek Lake        | T 4N R15W Sec. 8 SM   | 50295          | 03/06/70    |
| 5320                 | Unnamed Lake              | T25N R 6W Sec. 35 SM  | 49889          | 01/27/70    |
| 5394                 | Unnamed Lake              | T28N R 6W Sec. 26 SM  | 49888          | 01/27/70    |
| 5208                 | Parker Lake               | T23N R 7W Sec. 36 SM  | 50109          | 02/13/70    |
| 755                  | Fish Creek                | T18N R 7W Sec. 36 SM  | 50130          | 02/13/70    |
| 4085                 | Alexander Creek           | T18N R 8W Sec. 35 SM  | 50129          | 02/13/70    |
| 817                  | Lockwood Lake             | T19N R 7W Sec. 9 SM   | 50128          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T19N R12W Sec. 3 SM   | 50127          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T19N R12W Sec. 4 SM   | 50139          | 02/13/70    |
| 640                  | Yentna River              | T20N R 8W Sec. 27 SM  | 50126          | 02/13/70    |
| 5210                 | Eight-Mile Lake           | T20N R10W Sec. 6 SM   | 50131          | 02/13/70    |
| 818                  | Moose Creek               | T24N R 6W Sec. 9 SM   | 50132          | 02/13/70    |
| 5211                 | Bunco Lake                | T28N R 7W Sec. 2 SM   | 50133          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 12 SM  | 50134          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 26 SM  | 50135          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 34 SM  | 50136          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 35 SM  | 50137          | 02/13/70    |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River        | T20N R12W Sec. 13 SM  | 50138          | 02/13/70    |

TABLE 3 Enlarged Reserve Use Applications, 1969.

| <u>ADF&amp;G No.</u> | <u>Water</u>          | <u>RUA No.</u> | <u>Location</u>      |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1051                 | Fish Lake No. 1       | 26709          | T21N R 9W Sec. 6 SM  |
| 640                  | Yentna River          | 26912          | T22N R11W Sec. 16 SM |
| 562                  | Deshka River Airstrip | 26981          | T23N R 6W Sec. 4 SM  |
| 562                  | Deshka River          | 26979          | T24N R 6W Sec. 15 SM |
| 878                  | Schneider Lake        | 26984          | T24N R 8W Sec. 14 SM |
| 818                  | Moose Creek           | 26700          | T25N R 6W Sec. 30 SM |
| 669                  | Blair Lake            | 27129          | T28N R 5W Sec. 3 SM  |
| 819                  | Neil Lake             | 26712          | T21N R 6W Sec. 9 SM  |
| 617                  | Skwentna River        | 26911          | T21N R12W Sec. 35 SM |
| 617                  | Skwentna River        | 26892          | T21N R12W Sec. 26 SM |

TABLE 4 Amended Reserve Use Applications, 1969.

| <u>ADF&amp;G No.</u> | <u>Water</u>      | <u>RUA No.</u> | <u>Location</u>      |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 562                  | Kroto Creek       | 26347          | T21N R 6W Sec. 28 SM |
| 695                  | Flathorn Lake     | 26367          | T16N R 6W Sec. 18 SM |
| 757                  | Figure Eight Lake | 26365          | T14N R 7W Sec. 12 SM |
| 3524                 | Middle Lake       | 26369          | T15N R 5W Sec. 27 SM |
| 755                  | Fish Creek        | 26715          | T17N R 6W Sec. 13 SM |
| 1053                 | Fish Lake Stream  | 26710          | T22N R 9W Sec. 32 SM |

#### Streambank Rights-of-Way

Access to lakes and streams within State-owned lands is occasionally insured with a Right-of-Way permit issued by the Director of the Division of Lands. Rights-of-Way activity on State land has been limited to submitting applications for rights-of-way along important streams.

Initially, a streambank right-of-way on sport fishing streams located on State land was provided for under the provisions of Director's Order No. 74 issued in 1964 by Roscoe Bell, former Division of Lands Director. The order called for a 10-foot easement along the banks of streams for pedestrian ingress and egress. Director's Order 74 applies only to land being disposed of by the State. Many entrymen applying for a parcel of land under the provisions of the Open-to-Entry legislation were unaware of the policy and that such a restriction might be placed upon their patent. The tenuous nature of the order left the possibility that the easements may not be entirely permanent.

Considerable effort was expended in locating important streams within the Open-to-Entry areas. Application was made for formal right-of-way which would be entered into the land status plats and handled as a formal land action. Nine streams in the Anchorage region (Table 5) and six in the Fairbanks region (Table 6) received rights-of-way.

The Open-to-Entry land filings proceeded at such a fast pace that specific requests could not insure continued access routes. A formal request was made to the Director of the Division of Lands for a right-of-way 100-feet wide along all streams in the area classified for Open to Entry. The additional right-of-way width was primarily intended to furnish a suitable access site at the inlet and outlet of each lake. Entrymen on the land determine their location relative to the corner stakes of his neighbor, completely oblivious to the exclusions to the Open-to-Entry lands which may be drawn on the status books in the land office. The request for the additional easement was not granted by the State land agency.

#### Road and Trail Rights-of-Way

##### Burma Road:

A court case which may have great impact upon the continued accessibility of pioneer type roads and trails was initiated in 1969. The Lands Project of the Game Division worked with the State Attorney General's office in legally retaining an access road in the Susitna Valley for public use.

Homesteaders living along a roadway, locally called the "Burma Road" extending south and west from the Big Lake area near Wasilla erected and locked several metal gates to prevent public use of the road during the moose hunting season in October. On October 21 the State of Alaska filed a complaint for injunction to have the barriers removed. On the same day, the Superior Court issued a Temporary Order restraining

**TABLE 5** Streams with Pedestrian Rights-of-Way Obtained Along Both Banks in the Anchorage Region, 1969.

| <u>ADF&amp;G No.</u> | <u>Stream</u>              | <u>Location</u> | <u>ADL No.</u> | <u>Right-of-Way<br/>Width in Feet</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 890                  | Peters Creek               | T25N R 8W SM    | 46745          | 10                                    | 7/24/69     |
|                      |                            | T26N R 8W SM    | 46746          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T27N R 8W SM    | 46747          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T24N R 9W SM    | 46991          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T24N R 8W SM    | 46990          |                                       |             |
| 4130                 | Martin Creek               | T26N R 8W SM    | 46748          | 10                                    | 7/24/69     |
|                      |                            | T27N R 8W SM    | 46749          |                                       |             |
| 3552                 | Chunilna Creek             | T26N R 4W SM    | 46750          | 10                                    | 7/24/69     |
|                      |                            | T28N R 4W SM    | 46751          |                                       |             |
| 527                  | Slana River                | T13N R 9E CRM   | 46770          | 10                                    | 7/25/69     |
| 5290                 | Byers Creek                | T30N R 5W SM    | 46992          | 10                                    | 8/07/69     |
|                      |                            | T31N R 5W SM    | 46994          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T31N R 4W SM    | 46993          |                                       |             |
| 724                  | Troublesome Creek          | T30N R 5W SM    | 46989          | 10                                    | 8/07/69     |
| 747                  | Coal Creek                 | T15N R13W SM    | 49728          | 50                                    | 1/06/70     |
|                      |                            | T16N R13W SM    | 49728          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T17N R13W SM    | 49728          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T17N R14W SM    | 49728          |                                       |             |
|                      |                            | T18N R14W SM    | 49728          |                                       |             |
| 1010                 | Talachulitna River         | T17N R11W SM    | 49796          | 50                                    | 1/12/70     |
| 1733                 | Hock Lake to Susitna River | T17N R 5W SM    | 49855          | 50                                    | 1/28/70     |

the homesteaders from blocking the roadway until a hearing was held. A hearing was held on October 30 with the court ruling that the State had failed to prove that the roadway was public and an order was made dissolving the Temporary Restraining Order.

The trial, which began on November 17, involved testimony from the homesteader defendants who were having problems with vandalism. They were also tiring of the disinterest shown by public officials in maintaining the road. Witnesses for the State verified the construction of the road by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and public use of the road from 1953 to 1959 and later, thus creating a public road before the surrounding land was homesteaded. In February, 1970, Superior Court Judge C. J. Occhipinti decided in favor of the State in keeping the road open.

**Section Line Right-of-Way:**

The Alaska Attorney General handed down an opinion concerning Section Line Dedications for the

**TABLE 6** Streams with Pedestrian Rights-of-Way Ten-Foot Wide Along Both Banks in the Open-to-Entry Area in the Fairbanks Region, 1969.

| <u>ADF&amp;G No.</u> | <u>Stream</u>          | <u>Location</u> | <u>ADL No.</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 356                  | Goodpaster River       | T 9S R12E FM    | 46753          | 7/25/69     |
|                      |                        | T 9S R11E FM    | 46752          |             |
|                      |                        | T 9S R13E FM    | 46754          |             |
|                      |                        | T 8S R13E FM    | 46755          |             |
| 365                  | Big Salcha River       | T 5S R 5E FM    | 46756          | 7/25/69     |
|                      |                        | T 5S R 6E FM    | 46757          |             |
|                      |                        | T 5S R 7E FM    | 46758          |             |
|                      |                        | T 4S R 7E FM    | 46759          |             |
|                      |                        | T 4S R 8E FM    | 46760          |             |
|                      |                        | T 4S R 9E FM    | 46761          |             |
|                      |                        | T 3S R 9E FM    | 46762          |             |
| 23                   | Shaw Creek             | T 7S R 9E FM    | 46763          | 7/25/69     |
| 528                  | Little Tok River       | T13N R11E CRM   | 46771          | 7/25/69     |
| 353                  | Delta Clearwater River | T10S R13E FM    | 46772          | 7/25/69     |
| 224                  | Chatanika River        | T 2N R 4W FM    | 46768          | 7/25/69     |
|                      |                        | T 3N R 2W FM    | 46769          |             |
|                      |                        | T 3N R 3W FM    | 46765          |             |
|                      |                        | T 2N R 5W FM    | 46766          |             |
|                      |                        | T 3N R 1W FM    | 46767          |             |
|                      |                        | T 2N R 3W FM    | 46764          |             |

construction of highways. This opinion may assist in gaining access to lakes which are surrounded by private land but bisected by a section line.

Opinion No. 7, issued in December of 1969, was an answer to a request by the Director of the Division of Lands for a clarification of the profusion of statutes, opinions, and court decisions which are concerned with the existence of a right-of-way for construction of highways along section lines in the state.

The opinion stated that each surveyed section in the state is subject to a section line right-of-way for construction of highways. Stipulations require that land be owned by, or acquired from the Territory (or State) of Alaska at any time between April 6, 1923 and January 18, 1949, or at any time after March 26, 1951, or it was unreserved public land at any time after March 21, 1953. Investigations will be conducted to determine which lakes may be provided with access by the use of this opinion.

**Kenai River Boat Launch Site:**

A site on the Kenai River which had been classified for public recreation at the request of the Access staff encountered a severe littering problem during the summer of 1969. This situation usually occurs when land is set aside for public use, with the intent that the site is needed and, if sufficiently utilized, development and maintenance would be provided in the future.

The Kenai River site problem was alleviated when an adjacent landowner requested a lease on the parcel of public land. A five-year lease was granted with the provisions that the lessee would provide needed maintenance but allow public use in exchange for using the site for his boat rental business. The lease price in this instance was nominal.

#### Point Campbell Lake:

A request was submitted to the State Division of Aviation to exclude a Point Campbell lake from the fenced area of the new supersonic transport runway at the Anchorage International Airport. A corresponding request was made to the Greater Anchorage Area Borough to assume the maintenance of the lake area if it became available for public use. The Borough had not considered Point Campbell Lake, which produces fine rainbow trout, as having recreational potential because the lake was too deep and cold for swimming. Assurance to the Borough that the Department of Fish and Game desired to continue management of the lake caused them to re-evaluate the lake and include it in their long-range planning.

#### Land Agencies

##### Federal:

Research was continued to determine the possibility of a federally financed project using the provisions of 44LD513 to dedicate trails on federal land. The survey data obtained in the last report period in a joint project with the Game Division was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They, in turn, were to submit this data to the Bureau of Land Management for dedication. This particular technique, which subsequently failed, was the last possibility for the Access project to dedicate trails on federal land.

Public access sites on several lakes in the headwaters of the Skwentna River were requested by the Sport Fish Division management biologists. A survey of the land ownership revealed that the lakes were on federal public domain land and open to settlement. Provisions of Public Land Order 4582 ("Super Freeze") prevents the transfer of title from the federal government to state, borough, or private ownership. The lakes are, however, becoming encircled by "squatters" who are utilizing the area until the Native Land Claims are settled, the freeze lifted, and the land disposed of. A multiple-use classification by the Bureau of Land Management is needed to protect this key area in the foothills of the Alaska Range.

##### Matanuska-Susitna Borough:

The Access staff submitted four requests to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to set aside or otherwise dedicate water-oriented sites for public access. Requests for sites on Rabideaux Creek, Peters Creek, and Jewel Lake were not acted upon. The request for a 7.8-acre site on Carpenter Lake was not only favorably acted upon but also enlarged to 40 acres.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough requested the Division of Sport Fish to assist their planning and zoning commission by submitting a report on the recreational potential of the Lake Louise area.

What appeared to be a communication problem which may also exist with other local governments, was brought out in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Resolution No. 69-34 entitled: "A Resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Concurring in the Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendation that no Additional Rights of Way or Lands be Granted to the State of Alaska Until Assurance is Given by the State of Alaska that it will Provide Parking, Sanitation and Camper Facilities, or Other Required Appurtenances, Necessary to Accommodate the Public at Recommended Public Sites or on Rights of Way."

A Policy Statement was subsequently drafted by the access project covering the history of the access

project in Alaska, its basic philosophy and goals, and how its programs related to those of local government. It was edited and reviewed by the Division of Sport Fish.

The Division of Sport Fish requirement of "public access" to lakes is not specific as to the public agency managing the land or how much land is needed to provide the access. The policy statement encouraged local governments to manage the small parcels of land for recreation and the Division of Sport Fish would manage the fish in the lakes and make recommendations to the local governments concerning the suitability of particular waters for sport fish production.

#### Kenai Peninsula Borough:

A request was directed to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for an indication as to what their policy would be toward public access sites to the lakes on the Kenai Peninsula. The Borough gave assurance that they will reserve land around lakes having recreation potential.

#### Greater Anchorage Area Borough:

The Public Works Department of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough requested from the Division of Sport Fish a report on the existing and potential fisheries within the Borough. Lack of time has delayed indefinitely any large scale input by the Access staff.

#### Access to Private Lands

##### Private Grants of Right-of-Way:

Negotiations continued with private landowners for an access route to upper Bonnie Lake. The principal landowner involved is reluctant to grant an easement because public tendencies do not restrict passage to the granted access route. He had experienced difficulty with snow-machine operators running randomly over his property.

An adjustment in the access site on Echo Lake is also being negotiated. The landowner has given tentative approval to the change which was needed due to the realignment of the Palmer Highway.

Investigations were conducted on eight access routes to the Cook Inlet clam beaches. Public accessibility status is being determined for the roads and the hiking trails which are almost exclusively on private lands and are being surveyed for exact location. Twenty landowners are involved in the access route program and will be contacted for easements when details concerning maintenance and funding for improvements can be worked out.

##### Indian Reservations:

Action by the Tetlin Village Native Council in October, 1968, in closing the Tetlin Reservation to public hunting and fishing, caused sportsmen to become more concerned with pending Native Land Claims. The village council voted to charge fishermen \$5 a day for the privilege of fishing on the reservation. Fees for each day of big game hunting and additional fees for animals bagged were also initiated.

The 570,000-acre Tetlin Indian Reserve was established by Executive Order 5365 in 1930. In 1939 the Secretary of the Interior approved the constitution and by-laws of the Tetlin Village. That constitution granted the native village authority to control the use of the reservation lands. There is no indication that the ordinance is enforced with anglers having to pay the stated fee.

## Electronic Data Processing

A Fishery Technician was employed for one month to work exclusively on sorting information from various sources and putting the pertinent data on EDP source documents. Approximately 2,268 waters within the Anchorage-Matanuska Valley and Susitna west-side subregions were cataloged. The source documents were submitted to the State EDP center in October for key punching and the results were available the following April. The statewide catalog presently consists of 5,211 entries.

Boundaries of subregions were refined and the complete program presented to the Division of Sport Fish staff meeting in September. The access data processing program was also presented to the State Water Resource Board annual meeting in Juneau.

A new source document was designed and put into operation. The previous form contained the information on one water per page. The revised form enables entries for 20 waters to be recorded per page. Condensing the space enables more data to be stored in less area, and since the water catalog entries are listed in increments of 20, the sorting and pre-card punch manipulating is simplified.

The newly expanded data processing system at the State Division of Lands was reviewed for a possible collating of data contained within their system and the access system. Both systems utilize Township, Section, and Meridian for locating the concerned resource.

A plan was formulated for expanding the use of EDP in sport fish research and management by utilizing the framework of the existing access catalog to store biological and limnological data. The data processing program necessarily should be responsive to the needs of the staff biologists to be successful.

The availability of an IBM 2495 interface for the 360 computer would enable every Fish and Game office having a Magnetic Tape Selectric Typewriter (MTST) to provide inputs into the storage media via the MTST tape.

## DISCUSSION

A primary role of the public access to sport fishing project is not only recommending to various land agencies the parcels of land to be used for fishing access and other recreational pursuits, but also to maintain a record of past recommendations and determine current status of each. The task of reviewing the Reserve Use Applications was a formidable one due to the large number of applications, single applications containing sites on several waters, and continually changing land ownership patterns.

A limited amount of time was spent on the Electronic Data Processing program which will become increasingly important as the number of lakes researched becomes greater.

The low priority placed on the access data processing program indicated by the five-month lag between cards punched and final output could virtually destroy the program. The rapidly changing land ownership patterns will eventually call for a data processing program more quickly responsive to the staff. The distance between the access staff and the computer and programmers also tends to create confusion and delay. For optimum response and flexibility, the lake catalog program should be handled by the State EDP center in Anchorage or a private service company also in Anchorage.

The trend of the Department of Natural Resources toward large recreation areas may cause the public to lose the use of many existing roadside access points. The State Department of Highways must assume more of the roadside maintenance to insure the continued suitability of small pulloffs and access points.

The review of Reserve Use Applications indicates a reasonable number have fulfilled the intended purpose of holding the site for access until the land could be classified or retained in some other form for public use.

The reluctance of the Department of Natural Resources to accept Reserve Use Requests for sites within the Open-to-Entry classified areas or the 100-foot easements on streams will very likely create access problems in the future. The Division of Lands is beginning to reap the problems created by the ill-conceived Open-to-Entry program allowing random and haphazard land entry. "Claim-jumping", top filing, and stream destruction are becoming commonplace as entrymen scramble for the "free" land. The 10' and 50' wide easements obtained along several of the key streams will alleviate a few of the access problems in those areas. A test of the section line ruling will have as great an effect on access as the monumental Burma Road case.

The practice of granting short-term leases of public recreation sites to private entrepreneurs to enable them to conduct boat rentals and to provide other services to anglers in exchange for keeping the site well maintained and open to the public may be the solution to a vexing problem of public use with no maintenance.

Areas of high recreational and scenic value are still open for indiscriminate use and entry. The lifting of the "super freeze" may cause an even larger rush of entries into the public domain than is being done at present by squatters. Large-scale multiple-use classifications for federal lands are needed to insure highest use and eventual orderly development.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough action on Carpenter Lake is indicative of foresight shown by a local government in preparing for the eventual increase in outdoor recreation space needed by the increasing Anchorage area population. The Borough Assembly dedicated 40 acres of high quality shore frontage in response to the access staff's suggestion that 7.8 acres would be needed for public recreation. The access staff continued to send requests to the Borough chairman asking the planning and zoning commission and Borough Assembly to set aside various parcels of land for public access and recreation. Unfortunately, it appeared that the Department of Fish and Game was attempting to gain control of the land from the Borough or dictate to the Borough how to use the land that it had selected.

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