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MEMORANDUM**State of Alaska** 102 60-87

TO: Robert H. Armstrong
 Sport Fish Division
 Juneau
 Dept. of Fish and Game

DATE : September 11, 1974

FROM: Donald L. Siedelman *DLS/vm m.d*
 Sport Fish Division
 Ketchikan
 Dept. of Fish and Game

SUBJECT: Tributary to Karta River System

In reference to the Karta River survey by the Forest Service and I, we surveyed the creek draining into the interconnecting stream between Upper Salmon Lake and Karta Lake (Lower Salmon Lake) on August 29, 1974 starting at 0850.

We started by looking at an area in the upper stream above the rapids. In this area there were no fry observed though spawnable gravels did exist. The water temperature was 10° C at 0850. (Approximately 2 miles below head of creek and above rapids.)

Flew back down to where the first lake is on the stream and started surveying from this point to the outlet. I did not map this area, but there was an excellent pool-riffle ratio until the last 500 yards where there were rapids and falls. Water temperature in this area was 11.5° C at 0915. There were many (very abundant) coho fry in creek area. Most fry were "0" check with maybe 10-15% "1" check. About two-thirds way down stream we observed 10-15 adult coho in a pool. Young of the year fry were rippling water along the rocky shallow shore the entire length of the creek from lake area (start and above) to rapids area.

Observed redds (appeared to be) in certain riffles that could have been steelhead.(?)

Saw deer and bear tracks on creek area.

At the start of the rapids there is a stair stepping rapids of perhaps 15-20 feet in length. Water in creek was low, but fish in traverse area, but could do with more water.

There was another falls below this rapids area of about 3 feet in height with an excellent holding pool at base. No real obstacle to salmon. This falls is just above foot bridge for trail from saltwater to Anderson Creek. From bridge to interconnecting stream, it was about 40 yards. Water temperature at bridge was 12.0° C at foot bridge at 1045.

Saw one adult Caddis fly larvae.

Interconnecting stream temperature was 17° C.

I would assume that this stream could provide coho and steelhead spawning.

There were no chum or pink salmon observed in area though they may have been in Karta River which was not surveyed.

On August 28, 1974, we were tagging eagle trees and were on Lower Salmon Lake (Karta Lake). I surveyed one small tributary stream above Flagstaff Creek. It is a typical SE Alaska coho fry rearing stream. At 1500 the stream was 8.5° C.

Could be a spawning stream for coho but I doubt if there is enough water on the riffles for spawning. Creek altered from 1 foot to 2 feet wide with 2 or three pools 3-4 feet wide. Mapped this stream somewhat until I observed fresh water on the rocks from a dripping bear so stopped survey at this point about 500 yards upstream.

A small stream below this stream was also checked. It was 11.5° C. and also had coho fry.

Both small streams were "0" check and "1" check.

The main tributary stream to the interconnecting stream has no name. It should be surveyed this spring for steelhead and late this fall for coho spawners.

CC: A. Schmidt.

STREAM DRAINING INTO INTERCONNECTING STREAM BETWEEN UPPER
AND LOWER SALMON LAKE. KARTA RIVER DRAINAGE

Set a net in the small lake at the midpoint of the stream draining into the interconnecting stream between Upper Salmon and Lower Salmon (Karta) Lakes on August 29, 1974 at 1610. Lake water surface temperature was 71° F or 21.7° C.

Net was pulled at 0820 on the 30th. Water surface temperature was 18° C. The weather was excellent - sunny and clear - probably the reason for the high water temperatures.

The variable mesh net (1"-4") catches by panel are as follows:

1st Panel (1") 45 coho fry. All in the 100-125mm range. Sampled two.

119mm = 2 check with plus growth

118mm = 2 check with plus growth

Appears that these fish are real hold overs or the beaver dams at the outlets are a block to these fingerlings when they are ready to go to sea.

Cutthroat trout (one) 235mm female immature (not spawned this spring) Age 4+.

2nd Panel Two cutthroat trout

230mm female. Maturing (will spawn this coming spring, 1975)
Caddis fly larvae in stomach. 4 years of age.

253mm female. Immature (could have spawned this spring) had
2 cottids in stomach. Did not see a reabsorbed egg in fish.
Age 5 years.

All fish were aged from scale readings.

This lake is rather small and could provide fishing from shore, but cannot be landed into with an airplane.

Net fished 10 minutes over 16 hours in this lake. Net was set off shore looking up lake about midway up on the left side.