

The system seems to be more fertile than most resulting in noticeably greater invertebrate populations including scuds. The lakes have good beds of nuphar in the shallow areas and there is enough Ceratophyllum and Vallisnaria to host a wintering trumpeter swan. There is no industrial use of the water at present or pollution as yet.

The Karta River watershed is in the K.P.C. timber sale. To log it would inflict extreme damage on the environmental balances now present and aggravate the depleted salmonid fish populations. Sport fishing is increasing which logging will not benefit.

Klawak Creek

Klawak Creek discharges into the inlet of the same name on the west side of Prince of Wales Island. The location fix of the mouth is N. Lat. 55°32'54" and W. Long. 133°2'30". The map reference is U.S.G.S. Craig (C-4) (C-3) (B-4) and (B-3). The stream originates as the outlet of Klawak Lake which spills at elevation 30 ft. and is of even grade to the tide one mile away. The cascade at the lake spill is 12 ft. high and passable to fish at all but extreme low water flows. The drainage area is 18 sq. mi. and the lake surface is 2750 acres. Flow is 30 c.f.s. nominal, 175 c.f.s. average and in excess of 10,000 in heavy runoff. The outlet stream may raise as much as 4 ft. The stream is paralleled by the road to Hollis and lies wholly within the Tongass National Forest. Stream bottom is gravel some of which is quite coarse with a scattering of boulders. There are 3 pools between the lake spill and tidewater but the connecting stretches are deep enough to harbor fish at all times. There is no barrier to migratory fish except that fish have trouble ascending the falls at the lake spill during extremely low water. Spawning area in the stream is excellent. The bank cover is spruce-hemlock forest and pristine. The watershed is typical Southeast Alaska of glacial origin and steep sided. Timber and muskeg areas end in alpine cover at 1800 ft. to the summit at over 3,000 ft. Fish using the system include pink, chum, silver and sockeye salmon, cutthroat, Dolly Varden, rainbow and steelhead trout, stickleback and cottoids. The system has supported a salmon cannery since early in the century. This has depleted the runs to a pittance of what it was in the beginning. There is some anachris and vallisnaria in the stream which winters a few trumpeter swan. There is no use of the water and no pollution except cannery and domestic in the intertidal zone.

The runs of fish in this system are greatly depleted by overfishing the salmon. A wier in the early 1930's operated by the F & W S recorded 1.5 million fish through. The count in 1969 was 67,000. The sockeye counts were 300,000 and 1,800 respectively. The system is probably one of the outstanding examples of nutrient mismanagement in Alaska.