

520/1000
September 13, 1968

11-50-44
Mr. Al Kessler
Box 62
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

Dear Sir:

This letter is in reference to your request to do some channel diversion work in Lake Creek adjacent to the property and residence of Mr. Leo Jones, Loop Road.

An inspection trip was conducted by our staff on September 10, accompanied by John McGrath, Department of Highways, engineer for the Lake Creek Bridge and Loop Road construction job. It was noted that Lake Creek was eroding the west bank into Mr. Jones' property due to the angle of the stream at this point. However, Mr. McGrath contended that this erosion was not due to channel changes caused by recent bridge construction, which occurred downstream. It was the opinion of both parties that channeling the flow by bulldozer or backhoe to the far side of the stream bed would only be a temporary measure, as high water would soon push the stream flow against the bank in question.

Our department cannot authorize construction equipment in the stream at this time of year due to the extensive salmon egg deposition in Lake Creek adjacent to and downstream from Mr. Jones' property. The resulting stream diversion and the sedimentation occurring downstream would probably cause serious mortalities. Our recommendation is that you remove the snag and brush in the stream bed upstream from the eroding bank, which appears to be instrumental in diverting stream flows. This can be accomplished by chain saw and yard line. The bank in question may be retained by sand bags for the time being.

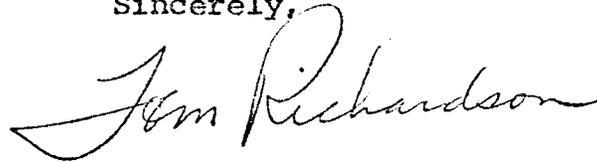
Mr. Al Kessler

-2-

September 13, 1968

We have no objections to your conducting some stream channel diversion work next spring after the gravel in Lake Creek is devoid of eggs and larvae, preferably after May 15. At this time a more permanent retaining wall such as rip-rap fill or log piling could be constructed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Richardson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Richardson, Area Management Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries

cc: Roy Rickey
Ben Hilliker
Roger Wadman ✓

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

KEITH H. MILLER, Governor

May 1, 1969

Mr. Al Kessler
P. O. Box 62
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

Dear Mr. Kessler:

This letter is in reference to your request to rechannel Lake Creek adjacent to your home on the Loop Road. This work consists of removal of snags and channeling the water flow to the far side of the stream bed and involves a cat operation in the stream. Riprap will also be dumped along the streambank adjacent to your home and driveway to prevent further erosion of your property.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no objections to this proposed work provided that operations do not commence prior to May 20, at which time the gravel should be devoid of pre-emergent salmon fry. Otherwise, considerable mortalities to the red salmon run in Lake Creek could result due to the potential sedimentation and physical disturbance to the gravel.

We realize that you are extremely concerned about the danger to your home and driveway if the stream suddenly rises to flood stage. However, we are equally concerned about the detrimental effects of such work if it is done prior to fry emergence. We therefore feel that May 20 will be the earliest possible date to commence this work.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas H. Richardson
Area Management Biologist
Commercial Fisheries Div.

cc: Roy Rickey
Ben Hilliker
Ed Huizer
Roger Wadman ✓
Ed Wightman

THR:cb

STATE OF ALASKA

KEITH H. MILLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SUPPORT BUILDING - JUNEAU 99801

May 6, 1969

501.103

Mr. Al Kessler
P. O. Box 62
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

Dear Mr. Kessler:

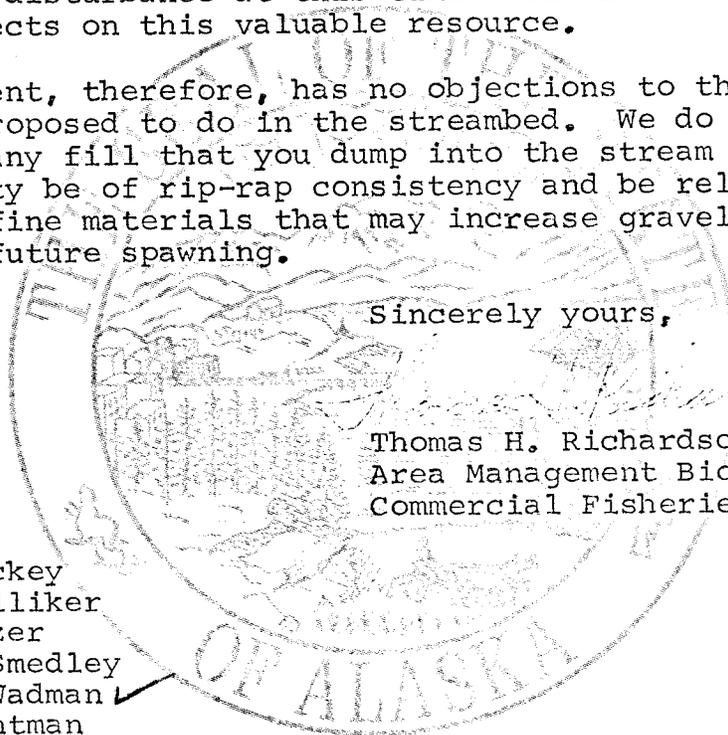
Because of the severity of streambank erosion to your property adjacent to Lake Creek, one of our research staff inspected the stream site on Saturday, May 3, and sampled the gravel for salmon fry density. No live fry were collected, thus indicating that gravel disturbance at this time would not have any direct adverse effects on this valuable resource.

Our Department, therefore, has no objections to the cat work which you proposed to do in the streambed. We do request, however, that any fill that you dump into the stream adjacent to your property be of rip-rap consistency and be relatively free of dirt or fine materials that may increase gravel sedimentation and impair future spawning.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas H. Richardson
Area Management Biologist
Commercial Fisheries Div.

cc: Roy Rickey
Ben Hilliker
Ed Huizer
Steve Smedley
Roger Wadman ✓
Ed Wightman



MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Tom Richardson
Area Management Biologist
Juneau

FILE NO:

DATE : May 6, 1969

FROM: Mike McHugh
Fishery Biologist
Juneau

SUBJECT: (Auke) Lake Creek sampling

In accordance with your instructions of May 3, Lake Creek was sampled on May 4 to determine the abundance and condition or development of salmon alevins present in the stream, in conjunction with the request by Al Kessler for permission to re-route the stream which was removing his real estate at an alarming rate.

The stream was subjected to hydraulic sampling similar to that used for determining identical information on pink salmon. The rate of sampling was approximately three times as high as the statistically accepted rate for determining population density of pink salmon, attempting to overcome any possibility of missing a fish population.

The sampling was started 20 feet downstream from the bridge and continued at 100 foot intervals to 520 feet downstream from the bridge, with a total of 20 samples taken and covering an actual area of 40 square feet.

No alevins or live eggs were taken, although 361 dead eyed eggs were recovered; 9 dead eggs per square foot being the population density.

After discussing this finding with you on the AUKLET by radio, I told the lady at Kessler's house that you had given permission to divert the stream flow to the other side of the present channel, but that you would not permit the use of any fill other than clean rock.

Incidentally, a report by a local resident indicates that there was a severe washout of eggs when the stream flooded last fall; that a "big pile" of eggs had accumulated in a hole in the stream. Whether the lack of live alevins observed in the sample taken is the result of this flood or of out-migration is entirely conjectural on my part.

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Tom Richardson
Area Management Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau

FILE NO:

DATE : May 16, 1969

FROM: Mike McHugh
Fishery Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau

SUBJECT: (Auke) Lake Creek Diversion

On May 12, I was instructed by the Regional Supervisor to check on a report of a bulldozer being in Lake Creek. This was, of course, the Kessler project and it was being taken care of about as you had instructed.

To enable the dozer, a D6, to get a straight push across the stream, it was necessary to level out part of the Alder growth across the stream from the house. I felt that this was probably not exactly what you'd had in mind for the project, as a couple yards of topsoil got into the stream in the process. However, there was no way that I could see to get the job done with a bulldozer without cutting into the opposite bank, and compared to the other churning around in the stream this was not a major source of downstream sediment.

After banking up the streambed gravel in the washed-out area adjacent to the house, he pushed some old stumps into the depression adjacent to the cut bank and then pushed more gravel up over the stumps. There was no introduction of soil into the stream as a result of this operation.

The channel was straightened out for the entire length of the property and should provide no further difficulty if there are no problems with blowdowns or stumps coming downstream.

One minor source of mortality was noted after it had already occurred, but one that would bear watching in any future stream-bulldozer activities which may come up. During an early stage of the operation a small pool was formed on one of the banks slightly downstream from later dozing. About thirty mixed Coho, Sockeye and Dolly Varden were found dead in the mud after the pool went dry during later diversion.

I walked the stream clear down to the lake, and found no other indication of mortality.

It would seem to me, after watching part of the operation, that a cleaner job could have been done by using either a front-end loader or a dragline. I'm sure that both equipment availability and cost would be important considerations, but the possibilities should be thoroughly explored when similar propositions are encountered in the future.

When I re-checked this afternoon, ^(5/14) the rip-rap had not yet been put in. I will keep a periodic check on the operation to observe any obvious discrepancies.

*Coho in re-form
1967 7 Spawners, +
ramped from 38 to 69 mm.
Sockeye were from 128
Spawners - all link new ink.*