

Dall I
104-10-005

A. Schmit

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

11/1/76

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Room 208, 415 Main St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

October 28, 1976

Mr. Darrel Enger
U.S. Forest Service
Box 2278
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Dear Mr. Enger:

A cursory field survey of the Essowah Lakes system on Dall Island was conducted on September 16 and 17, 1976 with U.S.F.S. and A.D.F.& G. personnel. Lower and Upper Essowah Lakes were test netted with variable mesh gill nets and all major streams were walked and mapped except Essowah Pt. Creek (104-10-25) draining into Essowah Harbor and Bar Creek (104-10-15) draining into Upper Essowah Lake. Minnow traps were also set in each stream surveyed.

The Essowah Lakes and Harbor area is very scenic and lies within a half bowl drainage. Mountains rise in excess of 1900 feet to feed the lake system that drains directly into the Pacific Ocean. The outer coastline accentuates the scenic quality of the area.

Access to the lake can either be accomplished by boat from Prince of Wales Island from Craig or Hydaburg. Essowah Harbor could be used as an anchorage area for small pleasure boats. Other access would be by aircraft.

The entire lake and harbor complex can be explored by canoe. Recreational potential is limited to the lakes area. Saltwater and its related aquatic habitat is pre-dominant in Essowah Harbor and lower Essowah Lake.

Sport fishing would be most productive off each stream mouth and at each lake outlet and inlet (interconnecting areas).

Adult coho salmon, sockeye salmon and cutthroat trout were collected in Upper Essowah Lake. There were only saltwater species captured in Lower Essowah Lake except for one adult coho salmon. Spawning pink and chum salmon were noted in Parrot Creek (104-10-10). Sport angling off the mouth of this creek could produce pink and probably adult coho salmon.

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The major sport area based on fish observed and net captured would be in Upper Essawah Lake.

Excellent coho, sockeye and cutthroat trout angling could be expected during this surveys corresponding time period in the Upper Lake, especially in the area of Bar Creek and Lily Pad Lake Creek (104-10-20).

Commercial Fishery

All streams surveyed were noted to possess immature or mature salmonids (chum, pink, coho and red salmon) and would be considered important to the overall area's spawning and rearing habitat. Previous surveys conducted that add further credance to this survey is reported in A.D.F. & G. Technical Data Report No. 23; Revised Anadromous Stream Catalog of Southeastern Alaska, Appendix D-District 4, Volume I. Pages 10-31. Further information may be available in older Federal stream publications.

Wildlife

Harbor seals were noted in both lakes with the largest population (11) observed in Upper Essawah Lake.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Siedelman
Area Mgmt. Sport Fish Biologist

CC: D. Stewart
S. Haavig
A. Schmidt
J. Valentine
R. Wood: