

August 2, 1963

Mr. Richard Brown
P. O. Box 156
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have finished analysing the fish we recovered from Lower Deway Lake and I know you will be interested in what was found. I will put this information in table form for easier reading.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Eastern Brook Trout	19 15/16"	3lbs. 13 oz.	5th summer
Eastern Brook Trout	9 14/16"	6 oz.	4th summer
Eastern Brook Trout	9 10/16"	5 oz.	4th summer
Eastern Brook Trout	7 1/16"	2 oz.	3rd summer
Eastern Brook Trout	6 12/16"	2 oz.	3rd summer
Eastern Brook Trout	6 10/16"	2 oz.	3rd summer
Eastern Brook Trout	6 9/16"	1.5 oz.	3rd summer
Eastern Brook Trout	6 9/16"	1.5 oz.	3rd summer
Dolly Varden	8 2/16"	2.5 oz.	5th summer
Dolly Varden	7 3/16"	1.5 oz.	5th summer
Dolly Varden	6 12/16"	1.5 oz.	4th summer
Dolly Varden	6 8/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
Dolly Varden	6 2/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
Dolly Varden	6 0/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
Dolly Varden	5 10/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
Dolly Varden	5 3/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
EB T X DV	7 8/16"	2 oz.	5th summer
EB T X DV	7 6/16"	1.5 oz.	5th summer
EB T X DV	5 12/16"	1 oz.	4th summer
EB T X DV	5 3/16"	.5 oz.	4th summer

The EBT X DV are eastern brook trout that have crossed with Dolly Varden. The large eastern brook was undoubtedly the result of the fish adopting cannibalistic ways. The next largest "brookie" was also found to be feeding on fish. All other fish were found to be feeding on insect material. All fish were healthy and not parasitized to any extent.

Now to discuss various management practice adaptable to the lake. First considered is rehabilitation (removing existing fish) of the lake. This must be ruled out for several reasons which I would like to explain. First, as a State Agency, the Department of Fish and Game works in conjunction with other State Agencies and vice versa. In some instances there is a "conflict of interest" between the different water uses which must be resolved by determining which policy will be the most beneficial to the general public.

As you have determined by now, such a situation exists concerning Lower Dewey Lake. With the fact in mind that this lake is utilized as Skagway's water supply; I visited the Department of Health upon returning to Juneau. At this meeting were myself, the District Sanitarian and the Regional Health Officer.

The Department of Health stated they are definitely opposed to any work or improvements of a recreational nature on the Dewey Lake watershed. This is based on the belief that any work done on the lake or watershed would attract increased numbers of people to the area. They fear someone with a communicable disease, such as amoebic dysentery, which is not removed by chlorination but requires filtration, may utilize the watershed and consequently pass this infection to the general public. Since a public water supply is classed as the highest beneficial use and Skagway does not have a filtration plant, it appears there is no possibility of us rehabilitating the lake in the near future.

From a biological standpoint, to improve the existing fishery would be quite a chore. If rainbow trout were to be planted with any hope of success; the lower lake, upper lake and all tributaries supporting fish would have to be treated. Even with this accomplished there is no guarantee; only a possibility that the four pound brook trout would be surpassed by the rainbows. The next best management would be to reduce the Dolly Varden population. This can be done by encouraging anglers to retain these smaller fish instead of returning them to the water to "let them have a chance to grow". They will not grow to any degree. The reduction of the

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"Dollies" will provide increased area for the brook trout to grow, however.

The brook trout currently inhabiting the lake are showing a good growth rate. A ten inch fish entering its fourth summer is not up to hatchery standards of course, but it compares favorable with other wild brook trout growth of the State.

I have not given up the possibility of planting rainbows in the Skagway area. There are still the lakes of the Taiya Valley, Goat Lake and perhaps even Icy Lake. As things stand now, however, direct management of Lower Dewey Lake is not possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the excellent cooperation extended to me on my recent visit. I'll be back soon to check the other lakes and to collect a cup of coffee I have coming.

Sincerely,

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND GAME

Roger D. Wadman
Fishery Biologist

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Kalen
Norman Blank
Alex McRea
District Sanitation Engineer, D.P.H.