

Regional Director, FWS, Juneau

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Robert Baade, FWS, Ketchikan

Lower Dewey Lake

The letter of Dan Thoe forwarded to me through Stan Fredricksen concerning fish going down the power diversion pipes is one of the aspects of that lake which I assumed was provided for. Reasonably, it is to be expected that fish will leave a reservoir through the outlet pipes unless screens prevent. Metal having a perverse tendency to corrode makes replacement of the screens periodically a decided necessity.

I am of the opinion that the Alaska telephone Company will do little unless debris threatens to plug the lines. When this happens, the intakes will be screened to prevent a second occurrence of such a plug. The company may be prevailed upon to put screen boxes over the intakes which will prevent debris plugs as well as fish migration.

Probably the lake was created as is to provide water and power. Fish come as an incidental benefit and certainly second in importance. How urgent one can get on forcing screens is questionable in that the outlet has no barrier to fish leaving the lake.

I think the lake will maintain a good population of fish with no screens. The urge to migrate is motivated to a greater or lesser degree on fish of a normally non-migratory nature by food shortages. Lower Dewey Lake may have periods when the natural food is low for the population of fish there causing migration out via the power or water supply intakes. I know that they go over the outlet.

It was recommended that the lake open to fishing this year and some of the population may be removed to ease the situation. This should be seen in creel checks. Screens over the pipe intakes should be, however.

ROBERT T. BAADE

cc: Stan Fredricksen

