

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Walter Kirkness, Commissioner

Division of Sport Fish
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southeastern Region
Support Building
Juneau, Alaska

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SKAGWAY RESERVOIR TO RECEIVE SPORT FISHING BOOST

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has plans to give sport fishing in the Skagway area a helping hand this summer, Regional Sport Fish Supervisor Roger Wadman said today. Lower Dewey and Icy Lakes, which are the domestic water supply for Skagway, are scheduled to be rehabilitated in late June, and restocked with rainbow in the fall, Wadman said. The Biologist said rehabilitation is simply removal of the unsuitable existing fish population by chemical means, and subsequent replacement with a more suitable species. In the case of Lower Dewey Lake, the existing fish have reproduced so abundantly that there are more fish than there is food to feed them. The result of this overpopulation is numerous fish so small they are considered to be stunted by sportsmen and fisheries biologists alike, Wadman said.

Within the next few weeks, the lake will be treated with a fish eradicant called rotenone. This is the same substance South American natives have used for centuries to capture fish for their larder, Wadman said. It affects fish in such a manner that it prohibits them from extracting oxygen from the water which results in their demise. It is harmless to all warm-blooded animals and humans.

As the lakes involved form the municipal water supply for Skagway, the Department of Fish and Game has worked in close co-operation with the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare, the City of Skagway and the Skagway Power and Telephone Company, Wadman said.

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The Department of Health and Welfare has studied the fish eradication plan to insure protection of the public health. The City of Skagway and the Power and Telephone Company have agreed to the program being undertaken in their public water supply.

The biologist said that he expects the lake to be ready for re-planting in about two months after rehabilitation. The lake will then be stocked with fast growing rainbow trout. He said the rainbows are expected to reach a size that will attract recreational anglers by the fall of 1967. Periodic stockings of rainbow will continue until it has been determined that natural reproduction is successful.

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