

*Redoubt Lake File*

# NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM

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July 3, 1986

Don W. Collinsworth  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commissioner Collinsworth:

At the June 13, 1986 meeting of the Northern Southeast Regional Planning Team (NSERPT), staff members of the F.R.E.D. Division presented a proposal to annually plant 1 million chinook salmon fry into Redoubt Lake near Sitka starting this July. The NSERPT agreed to hear this project proposal, discuss it and make a recommendation to you based upon its biological and management merits.

After considerable discussion, more than half a day's work and three motions the NSERPT recommends to the Commissioner that the Redoubt Lake chinook stocking project be allowed as a one year planting experiment followed by a close evaluation of the performance of the chinook in the lake and a critical evaluation of the harvest opportunities upon the returning adults.

Attendent with this recommendation is a need to protect the existing sockeye salmon run in Redoubt Lake and to allow researchers and managers an opportunity to evaluate the results of the on-going lake fertilization program by the strength of the sockeye runs in the 1988-1990 period.

The discussion prior to the vote on the first motion centered around the protection of the existing sockeye run in Redoubt Lake and the possibility that a terminal net fishery would severely impact the diminished sockeye run. Although it was recognized a salmonid rearing potential presently exists in the lake, members of the Team supporting this motion felt the problems and threats from sockeye/chinook interactions in the future were too severe and would preclude a program of this magnitude.

1) The first motion presented by Dennis Eames (seiner) and seconded by Karl Johnson (gillnetter) read: "The NSERPT opposes the (chinook stocking) project as presented for the reasons of harvest management difficulties and the potential for impacts upon the resident sockeye salmon. Furthermore the RPT recommends the chinook salmon plants be replaced by coho or sockeye plants into Redoubt Lake."

Vote: Three for and three against; tie vote

The discussion prior to the vote on the second motion centered around the smolt evaluation criteria necessary to determine the worth of planting the lake a second year (in 1987). Insufficient biological data on the rearing chinook will be available in August, 1986 to determine whether or not to take eggs for another fry plant in 1987. An amendment to the motion to

*J. Van Hulle*

disallow a terminal net fishery on the returning chinook salmon was not carried. The Commercial Fisheries Division representative (Dave Cantillon) felt that changing conditions and the need for flexibility in harvest management schemes would necessitate some kind of net fishery to harvest the chinooks, especially if they were to be blocked from entering the lake.

2) A second motion presented by Dave Cantillon and seconded by Earle Johnson (troller) read: "The NSERPT recommends approval of the (chinook stocking) project for one year only, with continued evaluation of the rearing chinook salmon."

Vote: Three for and three against; tie vote.

The project was reconsidered in the afternoon and the discussion quickly turned to the previously made point that sockeye would be endangered by any harvest upon returning chinook. It was the feeling of one fisherman team member that once chinook adults have been produced at Redoubt Lake the political process would not allow the plants to be "stopped." Therefore, this project has a built-in fishery conflict and harvest management problem and that it was the duty of the NSERPT to recommend against any project with built-in management problems of this magnitude. Motion number three was presented at the end of this discussion as a means of reaching a compromise among the NSERPT.

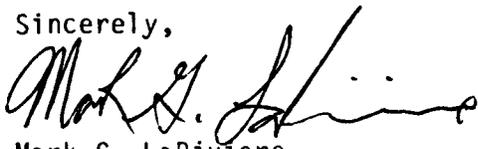
3) Dennis Eames presented a motion, seconded by Earle Johnson that read: "The NSERPT recommends support of the (Redoubt Lake) chinook stocking project for a one year (one time only) plant with an evaluation of the results of fish growth and smoltification in the lake and an evaluation of the extent of the harvest management conflicts resulting from returns from the stocking prior to any restocking with chinook salmon."

Vote: Motion carried 5-1.

The best estimate of the F.R.E.D. Division staff present at the meeting was that a one time only plant of 1 million chinook fry into Redoubt Lake would result in a return of 3000 to 9000 adults spread over three years. At this level of return it was felt the harvest management conflicts could be resolved without severely impacting the sockeye and allow managers and project personnel a chance to see how returning chinook adults could be dealt with to minimize any impacts upon the sockeye adults.

A recommendation for this project was one of the more difficult issues the NSERPT has dealt with this past year and through this letter hopes to convey the basis for the recommendation ultimately forged in this assembly process.

Sincerely,



Mark G. LaRiviere  
Regional Planner