

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Roger Wadman
Regional Sport Fish Supervisor
ADF&G, Juneau

DATE : January 24, 1967

FROM: Bob Baade
Fishery Biologist
ADF&G, Ketchikan

SUBJECT: Reflection Lake

I checked out the handy sources of information requested in your memo of January 19 on Reflection Lake from the standpoints of the present status quo and how another shelter would effect it.

First, the lake is about 1100 acres located on the base of the Cleveland Peninsula above Short Bay and near Bell Island. The outlet is so steep in one pitch that I wonder at the ability of steelhead, sockeye and coho to get up it. But they do. In answer to your questions, I have the following:

1. The new cabin is to be located off the sandbar at the head of the lake which will primarily benefit aircraft anglers.
2. The general concensus of opinion is that there are fewer cohos at the bar the last few years than ever before. Commercial Fish has no surveys or number estimates. When they tried to wier it for eggs about 10 years ago, there was an estimated 400-500 fish. This may be as low as 100 now according to people who have fished it over the years.
3. The present estimated angler use is 150-250 angler-days per year. This is a check of 3 airlines. F. S. has no data.
4. The greatest period of angler-use is July 10 to Sept. 15 and motivated by coho.
5. The cohos are the main reason for anglers being there but they don't throw any cutthroat back.
6. There is no valid estimate of the increased use a cabin will generate. The Forest Service feels the use will increase considerably over what it is now.

The fish are usually heavily water-marked when they arrive at the bar and one source felt that the season should be closed on them before I could suggest it. This source also told of seeing 20-25 salmon lying about on the bar where they had been left by the anglers who didn't want them. Certainly closing the lake to salmon fishing would make an easier enforcement deal. This, plus the shortage of salmon, may justify the closure - if enforcement will make a case or two on it.

The cabin may well go at the outlet where the old Adirondack shelter is. This would facilitate hike-in-anglers as well as fly-in fishermen. Very few coho are taken by anglers at the outlet. It would still be in order to put a stake-out to keep all legal on the bar.

Trust this helps a bit on a "way-out" situation.

Bob Beade

RTB/md