

806-07

Leader, Federal Aid, Juneau

January 24, 1952

Acting Regional Director, Juneau

**Experimental stocking of local streams with Eastern Brook eggs**

I have just had a personal call from Joe Sprague, a local man of long hatchery experience, who has just been corresponding with Delegate Bartlett and attempting to secure his assistance in obtaining Eastern Brook trout eggs for an experimental plant in Montana and McGinnis Creeks. Bob Bartlett, in turn, quite naturally advised Mr. Sprague to contact this office. Mr. Sprague was in the hatchery division of the Bureau of Fisheries a half century ago and he recalls that at that time the Federal hatcheries supplied trout eggs free of charge to qualified applicants. His hope now is that this Service might be able to furnish him 50,000 eyed eggs for subject venture.

Mr. Sprague is the man who stocked the Salmon Creek Reservoir in 1917 with Eastern Brook trout, obtained as eyed eggs from the Leadville, Colorado hatchery and raised to fingerling size in Mr. Sprague's own hatchery here in Juneau. The Salmon Creek stocking, as I recall from personal experience, was imminently successful in producing excellent fishing during the 1930's, but has since declined greatly under the combined handicaps of excessive winter draw-downs and deterioration of the original food supply. Mr. Sprague also stocked the Dewey Lakes above Skagway and Annex Lake with Eastern Brook, both of which were successful to an unknown degree. He also put a few fingerlings in the Treadwell ditch on Douglas Island and he claims that some descendants still are taken in Fish Creek even today.

As further background, Mr. Sprague was assisting the Alaska Department of Fisheries in some of their salmon culture experiments of the past year, but now rather bitterly claims that that association was quite unfortunate for him and he has severed all relations with the ADF.

I think Mr. Sprague's present request is putting the cart well ahead of the horse - and our Service would be willing to donate eggs free for stocking purposes only after careful investigation had been made to assure that the experiment had a reasonable chance of success. However, in view of the Delegate's interest in the matter, I think we should investigate a little farther to establish for both him and ourselves what our present policy should be in a matter of this kind. He is certain that the Territorial Sportsmen are mildly interested in his project and I believe that they probably would take a great deal of interest if they felt that our cooperation could be assured.

I think our best course of action at the present time would be to inquire of the Branch of Game Fish and Hatcheries what their thoughts would be on a request of this nature. We could use Delegate Bartlett's interest as a springboard for asking a question of this nature. Inasmuch as the D-J program would be the logical sponsor for any such activity, I wonder what Federal Aid would think of such a venture?

cc: Shuman  
Swanson

C. HOWARD BALTZO

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