

Sitkoh Cu. File

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Ed Jones
Fishery Biologist
Division of Sport Fish
Petersburg

DATE: May 20, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 747-5355

FROM: Art Schmidt *AS*
Fishery Biologist
Division of Sport Fish
Department of Fish and Game
Sitka

SUBJECT: Sitkoh Steelhead Fishery

I'm using this memo to convey my thoughts and impressions on Sitkoh steelhead this season. As nearly as I can figure, there were no fish in the creek on April 10, but by April 13 large numbers of fish had entered the lower river. This first entry occurred right after a rain. Fishing pressure was pretty heavy by the latter part of April. One angler whom I had told to go over actually caught 11 fish on April 28 (he had never steelhead fished before).

On the week of May 3 there were hundreds of fish in the lower river according to Eric Jordan, a recognized expert.

Frank Van Hulle and I walked the system from lake to salt water on May 17 and counted 143 fish. This was the largest run I have ever seen in Sitkoh.

I have heard rumors of renegade fishermen taking out 7-10 fish at a time. I suspect this could be true as Fish and Wildlife Protection didn't go over until too late in the season.

There are a number of irate steelhead fishermen who are going to propose a hook and release fishery for Sitkoh next year.

I heard a rumor today that some outfit from Juneau bought Chatham Cannery for \$325,000 and plans to develop condos or apartments.

cc Van Hulle ✓

R *REVIEW* *J*
MAY 23 1983

SPORT FISH DIV.
REGION I

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Art Schmidt
Area Management Biologist
Sport Fish Division
Sitka

DATE: September 18, 1986

FILE NO.: Sitkoh Cu File

THRU:  TELEPHONE NO.: 465-4270

FROM: Frank Van Hulle
Regional Supervisor
Sport Fish Division
Douglas

SUBJECT: Sitkoh

Av Gross talked to the Commissioner about possible hook and release regulations for Sitkoh Creek. I talked to Mr. Gross this morning and was able to get a better idea of what his concerns were and gave him my ideas.

Basically, his concern is that additional fishing effort (from lodges at Angoon, and Kelp Bay along with his operation and the people of Sitka and Juneau) will deplete the Sitkoh steelhead population. I explained that we probably don't have a biological problem at Sitkoh, but that increased effort can certainly be expected to change the nature of the existing fishery.

Most of the things Mr. Gross talked about were more of an enforcement nature than biological (i.e., over bag limits of both steelhead and cutthroat trout).

It seems to me that his concerns are valid and that we should address them in at least 3 different ways.

1. Sitkoh Lake system should be given specific attention in the remote area fisheries plan that we put together for the Sitka area.
2. This system should also be considered in the Juneau area plan as many people from here fish Sitkoh.
3. We should probably try to get a better idea of this current effort at Sitkoh Creek for steelhead and cutthroat trout. (I think we already have good escapement counts... don't we?).

Mr. Gross has offered us free board in one of the cannery cabins anytime that we want to do work in this area. We probably should take up on this and monitor/enforce the fishery this spring. A second thought along that line would be to contact the Forest Service cabin user sometime in mid-summer.

Mr. Gross felt that the run was very poor this year. Mecum fished the system with several friends and had poor fishing. Mike Dean (Commercial Fisheries Division) also reported poor fishing. I don't know what kind of luck Sitkoh anglers had this year, but I do feel we should probably figure on some work in the area this spring.

cc: Mark Schwan