

(1)

Situk Lake

Situk Lake is a _____ acre lake on the Yakutat forelands 13 miles N.E. of Yakutat. It is part of the Situk River system.

The lake can be reached by a ~~trail~~ 5~~0~~ mile long trail starting \approx 150 yds S.E. of the Situk river Bridge on Highway 10 out of Yakutat. Also ~~the~~ float planes and helicopters can land at the lake.

There are two cabins on the lake. One cabin is maintained by the Forest Service and is located about 100 yards ~~to the~~ S of the main inlet. The other cabin is an old trapping cabin on the North end of the lake. The Forest Service ~~to~~ cabin has a skiff available. ~~to~~ Tent camping is probably best along the shore west of the outlet.

Situk Lake and river system has resident rainbow trout Dolly Varden, sculpins and sticklebacks. ~~Rearing~~ king salmon, ~~chum~~ silver salmon ~~and~~ sockeye salmon and steelhead are also present. Pink Salmon ~~and~~ chum salmon are also present in the system. Rearing king salmon, silver salmon, sockeye salmon, and steelhead are found in the system.

Fish numbers in the Situk system are hard to enumerate closely. Fairly good counts conducted at Situk weir and by walking ~~the~~ Mountain stream and Situk river above the weir and by floating the river below the weir indicate ^{averages} sockeye escapements of 80,000 to ~~100,000~~ ^{138,000} in recent years and king escapements of \approx 1400 in recent years. Coho escapements are about 16,000 - 20,000 per year.

Forest Service cabin has a 4500 ideal for chilling beverages & keeping food (200/12) out front.

(2)

Pink ^{estimates} counts ~~through the weir~~ have been as high as 800,000 in 1980 to 38,000 in 1971.

Chum ~~run~~ runs are very small with estimates of only ~~8,000-10,000~~ ³⁰⁰⁻⁴⁰⁰ fish annually.

Steelhead runs are composed of both spring and fall run fish. No accurate counts or guesstimates of numbers of steelhead are available but it is definitely under 3,000 fish.

The resident fish populations of Situk lake are not known but they are assumed to be small. Only ~~Only~~ one ~~Rb~~ DV was sampled from Situk Lake proper and no ~~at Rb~~ were sampled there. Approx. 200 8-24" rainbows were present in the outlet one afternoon that weren't there 3 hours earlier, so we assume these are lake fish that drop into the outlet to feed on occasion. Reports from local people indicate that rainbows and DV are present at the ~~inlet~~ outlet at certain times, but none were observed during our surveys.

Most of the king spawning takes place in Situk River from Situk lake to the weir. A few kings spawn in Mountain stream, and a few below the weir.

The sockeye spawning is concentrated in Situk Lake, Mountain Lake, Situk River at Situk Lake outlet, and Mountain Stream between the two lakes.

Silver salmon seem to spawn throughout the Situk system.

A lot of Steelhead spawning takes place ~~mostly~~ between

Situk Lake and the weir, but many of the spring fish spawn from the weir down to the tidally influenced portion of the river.

Pinks and ~~chums~~ are spawning throughout the system, mostly in the lower river.

Fishing in Situk Lake is mainly at the outlet for rainbow trout + sockeyes and at the inlet for sockeyes and some rainbow and Doll's Varden fishing.

Delete) Fly fishing with dark nymphs is very effective. Single salmon eggs or yarn ~~was~~ also effective.

Other recreational opportunities available at Situk Lake include ~~bird~~^{animal} watching, backpacking and hunting, and ~~water sking~~. When the sun is shining, Situk Lake is hard to beat for just laying back.

Situk Lake was surveyed June 2-6, 1980. The weather was sunny and warm with variable wind conditions.

Surface water temperatures varied from 14.5-15.0°C, and the water temperature at the bottom (21 m) was 9.0°C.

Bathymetrics, Hach tests, secchi reading, plankton tows, dredge sampling and temperatures were conducted on the lake. Twenty-four hour surface skimming drift nets were set on three inlet streams.

Large numbers of emergent coho and sockeye fry were present in the main inlet, the lake and the outlet. Numerous fingerling and smolt coho were also noted. One chinook salmon smolt was taken in the outlet. The outlet also provided excellent angling for resident rainbows to 450 mm in length. The rainbows examined were either immature or spawned out. Some Dolly Varden were also taken.

Situk Lake is fairly shallow and has a high percentage of littoral area compared to most Southeast Alaska lakes. This is probably a major reason for the warm temperature and a factor in the productivity of the lake.

Aquatic vegetation was just starting to grow, so no samples were taken.

Numerous blackfly and mayfly larvae were noted in the outlet of Situk Lake.

Situk River was surveyed by helicopter on June 5 from Situk Lake to the road bridge.

Steelhead redds were very abundant in the lower 2 miles, but little evidence of spawning was noted closer to Situk Lake.

There are two inlets of significance on Situk Lake, Mountain Stream draining Mountain Lake and Inlet No. 3 on the northeast side of the lake. Inlet No. 3 is short, coming off of a mountain, but the lower part is well used by salmonids and ursids.

The lake water level was about 6 inches above ^{normal} late summer levels, according to the charter helicopter pilot that flew us out.

There did not seem to be many resident fish present in Situk Lake, ~~while we were there.~~