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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
 INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JERRY T. VERKLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

June 20, 1969

Mr. Augie Reetz  
 Commissioner  
 Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
 Subport Building  
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

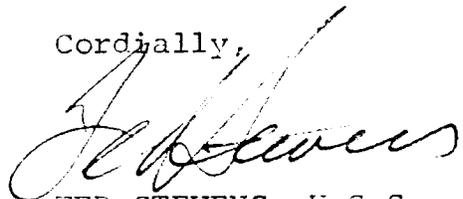
Dear Augie:

Attached is a copy of a letter I have received from Dr. Glasgow of the Department of Interior relating to Swan Lake in Sitka, Alaska.

I would greatly appreciate your comments on Dr. Glasgow's recommendations.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS, U.S.S.

Attachment



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 16 1969

Dear Senator Stevens:

This is in response to your letter of May 19 concerning Swan Lake in Sitka, Alaska, and possible sources for financial aid in restoring this lake.

We have been in communication with our regional office and Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning the project. Our information is that Swan Lake is a 25-acre lake near Sitka. It was treated by fishery biologists of Alaska Department of Fish and Game with rotenone on May 20, 1969, to remove unwanted fish populations. It will be restocked with small rainbow trout this year, and opened to fishing next year. This work was not done with Federal assistance, but was financed by the town of Sitka and the State. The Department of Fish and Game had been testing the lake water for dissolved oxygen content for some time, and the water appeared capable of supporting trout.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife administers two grant-in-aid fishery programs in which Alaska Department of Fish and Game participates. These are the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act (the Dingell-Johnson program), and the Anadromous Fish program (Public Law 89-304). Since Swan Lake is apparently a landlocked situation and anadromous fish stocks are not involved, the Dingell-Johnson program would be a more appropriate source of funds if the State were to seek financial assistance for the project. It appears, however, that from the fishery angle steps are being taken to restore the lake as a useful recreational area.

In view of the status of the fish rehabilitation project at the lake, as described above, we wonder if your reference to "full-scale redevelopment" of the lake concerns the provision of a fisherman access site and other recreational facilities, or to physical rehabilitation of the lake through dredging

From your description of the lake, it sounds as though dredging or otherwise changing the physical characteristics of the lake is needed. The problem of lakes growing old and gradually or

rapidly filling in is common in many parts of the country. The aging process is often speeded by the addition of nutrients from surrounding lands or from soil erosion in the watershed supplying the lakes. Dredging is terribly expensive in relation to the fishery benefits to be realized, and is usually of short-lived usefulness unless the problems of soil erosion and over-enrichment from the watershed are corrected. These are generalities, of course, and may not apply to the Swan Lake situation.

If other recreational facilities are contemplated in a full-scale redevelopment of the lake, assistance may be available through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Leslie L. Glasgow

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
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