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United States Senate

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

June 5, 1969

Mr. Augie Reetz
Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game
Support Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Augie:

Swan Lake, in Sitka, Alaska, has great historic significance. Ice from the lake was shipped as far south as San Francisco for refrigeration purposes in the early 1900's. Presently, it has several feet of soil built up over the years and an additional layer of muskeg. I am informed that the oxygen content in the lake is reduced so severely in the winter that possible restoration of the lake as a source of sports fishing is highly questionable.

This problem has been discussed between the officials of Sitka and the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game. This summer, the State Fish and Game Department is going to experiment with some restocking of the lake. However, full utilization of the lake would necessitate a full scale redevelopment.

It is my understanding that in certain situations it is possible for the State Fish and Game Department to do such rehabilitation and then be reimbursed from the United States Department of Interior "Johnson-Dingle" funds up to a maximum of 75 percent.

I would greatly appreciate your views on this matter.

With best wishes.

Cordially,



Ted Stevens

United States Senator