

MEMORANDUM**State of Alaska**

TO: Mike McHugh
Sport Fish Division
Juneau

FROM: Larry J. Heckart ^{LJH}
Mgt.-Research Coordinator
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Anchorage

DATE : June 19, 1973

SUBJECT: Swan Lake Rehab

Sorry to be so long answering your memo. I've been on both annual leave and somewhat extended travel status following my return.

First, I'm glad to hear the lake has been something of a success. I've heard from various people that fishing hasn't been too bad.

As far as a partial rehab is concerned, I don't know of any such attempts up here. I really question that it would be worth it.

I suspect the rehab failed (in terms of a 100% kill) because of 1) fish may have survived in some of the peripheral swamp areas, and/or 2) some of the tributary headwaters (muskegs) weren't completely treated. As a guess, I'd go with number two!

Why not ignore the rough fish (in this case Dolly Varden) until there is a natural decline in angling success, and then re-treat the lake completely. The cost of a total rehab doesn't amount to much.

Also, in lieu of what we now know, I'd treat the lake in late September or early October (or just prior to freeze-up). A late-season treatment allows the swamps, muskeg areas, etc., to freeze prior to de-toxification, and lessens the chance of fish survival in these areas.

A late fall treatment would leave the lake toxic for a far longer period (all winter up here), further minimizing the chance of a miss.

We are now treating all our lakes just prior to freeze up, at an approximate 1 ppm concentration, and figuring on detoxification in late spring. Then we restock in June or July.

In the case of Swan Lake, I'd be tempted to re-stock with the Ennis Montana stock. They grow rapidly and should be a "dandy" in Swan Lake.

So much for my thoughts! If you'd like to discuss this further, give a shout, as there are some other considerations regarding the period of detoxification.