

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Roger Wadman
Region Supervisor
Sport Fish Division
Juneau

FILE NO:

DATE : March 15, 1968

FROM: Larry J. Heckart
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Sitka

SUBJECT: SWAN LAKE

Some progress is being made on this Swan Lake business. The driving forces appear to be the Sitka Sportsman and Sitka Lions Club.

These groups made a proposal at the last City Council meeting to:
1) dredge the lake for a source of topsoil material, and to subsequently "deepend and make the lake more suitable for sport fish";
2) to put in sand beach areas for swimming; and 3) to establish park and picnic facilities around the perimeter.

Since it is still in the proposal stage, it is hard to predict what will actually develop. We were, however, quoted as saying we would restock with "trophy sport fish".

I talked to Sitka Mayor, Dick Eliason, concerning some of the problems to be encountered, what I thought we could develop in the way of a sport fishery, and some of the limitations. Primarily I wanted to indicate that we might be more competent than private individuals to develop a fishery and to ensure we will be informed as things develop.

The Mayor assured me that we would be consulted as the planning progresses. I think that we will have their cooperation in any development affecting the present or future fisheries.

He also indicated that it would be possible for the city to raise the lake level approximately one foot if we desired. This could apparently be accomplished without raising the tempers of the surrounding property owners.

It seems that at this time the feeling is for the development of a local sport fishery. Rainbow appear to be the desired species.

In my opinion, if the lake is excavated and then raised, we should be able to rehab and restock with rainbow. It would depend somewhat on the way the dredging is performed, but I think we could hold an over-wintering rainbow population following this work.

I've indicated to the Mayor that we will cooperate, even with the lake excavation which could affect the present fish population, and consider a rehabilitation and restocking program.

At least, at long last there seems to be some effective consideration of development for the lake.

I'll keep you informed as things develop.