

Box 200  
Wrangell  
February 25, 1963

Mr. John W. O'Connell, Mayor  
P.O. Box 960  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Sir:

As sport fish biologist for your area, the proposed covering of Swan Lake outlet has been submitted for my comment. I hope my tardiness in replying has not caused any problems. I have just returned from vacation and this is my first opportunity to answer.

I find nothing wrong with your plan of either covering or culverting this stream. The use of this water by migrating fish is small. The plan does present a problem however, which is the subsequent effect this will have on the resident trout population in Swan Lake. To explain, a fish will not enter a dark (covered) waterway unless forced, therefore, no salmon or "sea run" trout will be entering the lake. Up to this time salmon have furnished food in the form of fry and fertilization by decomposing in the waters of Swan Lake. The elimination of these factors may induce a portion of the resident trout to leave the lake. To reduce this possibility, I will request you include in your plans a fish barrier at the lake outlet which will prevent the loss of resident trout. This need not be an expensive structure, just a simple but permanent screening device. — No! No!

I would like to tell you that I conducted a survey of Swan Lake this past summer and found it contained one of the finest cutthroat trout populations I have encountered in Southeast Alaska. I sincerely hope the potential recreation offered by these fish will add to your plans for the city of Sitka.

Sincerely yours,

*Roger D. Wadman*  
Roger D. Wadman  
Fishery Biologist

cc: Alex H. McRea