

STATE
of ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Warner
Sport Fish
Juneau
Dept. of Fish and Game

DATE: August 21, 1979

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Donald L. Siedelman
Sport Fish
Ketchikan
Dept. of Fish and Game

SUBJECT: SSRAA - Whitman Lake

Concerning your memo dated August 3 requesting information on SSRAA's possible coho salmon release from Whitman Lake, the following is presented.

We had originally objected to a coho release in the Ketchikan area as did the planning team. We felt that this would create too many management problems. We did not wish to establish a special harvest area in the George Inlet area.

There are too many other salmon stocks passing through this area that would be intercepted if a special harvest area is established. Stocks destined to Upper George and Carroll Inlets would be intercepted.

The Mountain Point area is one of the most important local sport fishing areas. This area extends from Mountain Point to Herring Cove and is a land and saltwater fishery. The possibility of losing this as happened in Sitka is TOTALLY unacceptable to the sport users of this area.

Increased fishing pressures will occur within the open trolling waters by power and hand trollers thus competing directly with sport fishermen for fish and fishing areas.

Increased pressures will also occur on other wild stocks (king and coho) in the Revilla Channel and Nichols Passage area.

If SSRAA is granted a coho release and no special harvest area, a small section in front of Herring Cove Creek would probably be requested. This would again close a small sport fishing area.

The staff has spoken to other genetical and management problems that I care not to comment further upon.

Originally Bailey Bay was to be their release site. This would still be the best site as determined previously at one of the Task Force meetings. This release site would pass fish through all fisheries over a longer time frame and benefit more people. A special harvest area would exist, etc. for the harvest and hatchery needs. The ice or freeze-up reasoning is a crutch. Economics is the major reason.

CC: Donald M. Stewart