Town Lake
F&E0

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Town Lake (Chitina) - Fish die off.

Received report of fish dead in numbers at Town Lake (Chitina) on 8/30/79.

Investigated report on 9/1/79 as follows: Water temperature at 18" depth = 60°, DO measurement 11-12 ppm at 2 ppm under bright sunlight. Most dead fish were longnose suckers with grayling and small sculpins swimming about freely. Dead fish were well distributed along lake shore and definitely not concentrated near the inlet.

Initial report must have been 8/28± with direct association to a long sunny period with very warm days followed by a rapid cloud over and cooling (approx. 8/26-27). It appears that low 0_2 levels, particularly in the vegetation area contributed to the fish die off but nothing conclusive. Temperatures were still high but 0_2 up also by 9/1 survey.

Lake has significant vegetation over essentially the entire lake bottom with some reaching the lake surface (15-20% of lake), thus ideal for 0_2 starvation during a cloudy period following extended sunny weather. Maximum lake depth is reported at 21' but very little can be that deep.

Due to logistics problems it was not practical to send in refrigerated fish that were in any way fresh.