



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
7600 Sand Point Way NE BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070
Pribilof Project Office

23 November 1999

Ms. Debbie Bourdukofsky
P.O. Box 107
St. Paul, AK 99660

Re: Bulldozer Removal from Lake

Dear Ms. Bourdukofsky:

At the last RAB meeting in Anchorage, I informed the members of the potential removal of the former Bureau of Commercial Fisheries bulldozer located in the lake near the Coast Guard LORAN station. NOAA is willing to remove the bulldozer, however, the agency seeks input from the community through its RAB members. In the early summer of 1999, the bulldozer was almost completely covered with water. By late summer the bulldozer was exposed, as in the photo below. However, the bulldozer is sunk in the lake bottom up to the top of its tracks; it lies approximately 150 feet from the shoreline. These conditions raise the following concerns:



The removal of the bulldozer by dragging it across the lake bed will leave a visible scar in the lake's rooted aquatic vegetation, While this scar will likely heal itself with time, the scar may present an aesthetic distraction to this



popular tourist bird watching area. The ultimate decision for the removal of the bulldozer lies with the landowner, Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX). However, NOAA and TDX are interested in the opinions of the various St. Paul RAB members and the community to assist in making the most appropriate decision. NOAA is seeking responses to the following proposals (please sign the line next to the option you prefer, or write in other suggestions on line 4, below)

I believe NOAA should:

1. remove the bulldozer by dragging it through the lake border.
2. remove only the metal down to the lake bottom. _____
3. leave the bulldozer in place. _____
4. consider the following option (proposed by the recipient of this letter). _____
(Continue on reverse of page if you need more space.)


If any member is unfamiliar with the site, NOAA encourages the member to visit the site. NOAA is willing to accompany any members to the site, if appropriate in resolving this matter. Any visit should be coordinated with all interested members for the most efficient use of time.

NOAA would appreciate any response, including an expression of no opinion, within 30 days of the date of this letter, to enable NOAA to take advantage of the frozen ground over which to move heavy equipment in the event the decision is to remove part or all of the bulldozer. Alternatively, this issue could be discussed at the St. Paul RAB meeting to be held in February, 2000.

If RAB members and community residents decline to comment, then NOAA will work out a solution to the problem with the landowner, TDX.

To express your views, please call me at (206) 526-4560; fax your response to me at (206)526-6865; or mail your comments to me at the above address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


for
John A. Lindsay
Pribilof Project Manager

cc: Richard Legatski, NOAA Legislative Affairs
Robert Taylor, NOAA DARC

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