

degree slope. The pipe was buried following the incident. The area was greatly disturbed and no vegetation is growing in the area.

MP 119.1, May 17, 1968: (Dezadeash Lake) This spill was considered to be the most significant in the 15 year history if the pipeline, an estimated 4000 barrels of diesel fuel were lost along the west banks of Dezadeash, some 600-700 feet above the shore. Soils in the area were highly corrosive which eventually weakened the pipe and caused the leak(s) to form. On the slope below the pipe trenches were dug to collect the fuel as it flowed down the slope which was pumped into barrels and burned. Strong prevailing winds caused the fuel to be transported across the lake. Straw was scattered over the water to absorb the oil which was collected and burned. A small clean up party was at the site for months to clean up any fuel. All vegetation in the immediate area of the spill was killed. Dead fish were piled up on the north shore of the lake.

Rod Tait- Haines Junction - Interview

He mentioned the numbers of dead fish at the north end of Dezadeash Lake after the spill and the quantities of straw used to mop up the fuel. He indicated that fishing is only recently been suitable at this lake.

Article : Whitehorse Star May 23, 1968.

The Whitehorse Star, Thursday

Pipeline Leak Pours Oil Into Lake

A break in the U.S. pipeline from Haines Alaska last week resulted in pollution of Dezadeash Lake by unknown quantities of diesel fuel oil.

Fisheries Officer John Summers told The Star the break was discovered Friday at Mile 129 on the Haines Road and pipeline officials were notified

immediately in Alaska. Repair crews were rushed to the scene from the Haines station and Tok Junction, and the line was cut off at Mile 135 and at Klukshu by the Alaskan crews, but oil was still seeping through the gravel by the lakeshore this week.

Frantic attempts were made

to divert the drainage and expert assistance has been promised by American officials in the nasty mopping-up process, but meantime, hundreds of water birds were getting soaked in the fuel oil and drowning in the lake. There was no evidence of dead fish on Tuesday.

Mr. Summers said the break was close to one of the best fishing spots in the Yukon, where the angler could stand on shore and cast for 20-pound trout.

Department of Public Works equipment from Yukon was also on the scene over the weekend, assisting in efforts to prevent further damage to the lake.

The fuel oil soaked the surface ice, which is now being blown to every part of the body of water.



THEY'RE BITING AT DEZADEASH. The Yukon are getting some nice catches these days with open and ice disappearing from the lakes. A couple of lake trout, one nine pounds and the other eight pounds caught on Saturday at Dezadeash Lake by Bill Matthews, D.P.W. crusher foreman in spin casting from the shore.

An additional article of interest appeared in the Whitehorse Star June 10, 1968. (See attached) where under the Forest Protection Ordinance it was prohibited to set any fires within the spill area and no overnight camping was allowed.

Ernie Kelly - Haines Junction - Interview

Mr. Kelly indicated that this section of the pipeline was replaced after the spill to remove the corroded pipe for a distance of about 13 miles.