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Inventory of Bulkley-Morice Coho Salmon (1998)

Prepared for : **Fisheries Renewal BC**

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Summary

A proposal was put forward by the Community Futures Development Corporation of Nadina and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to assess coho spawning in the fall of 1998. Initially the project was intended to provide population estimates by walking the spawning tributaries of the Bulkley-Morice watershed throughout the spawning period. Unfortunately, due to the lateness of the approval process the fieldwork did not begin until late October and missed the majority of the coho spawning.

Despite this, a number of streams were walked to document presence or absence of coho and to document GPS locations of coho redds found. This interim report documents the numbers and locations of coho observations during the 1998 stream walks.

Compilation of this information into a more comprehensive format will be done with funding provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This report will be completed in 1999/2000 and will incorporate other work carried out by DFO in 1998 to provide a better understanding of the distribution of coho spawners throughout the watershed.

Daily Data Records of Coho Observations

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 30, 1998

CREEK : Simpson Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 14, 1998

CREEK : Simpson Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 1

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 12

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.665' X W127 12.668'
N54 48.672' X W127 12.701'
N54 48.670' X W127 12.699'
N54 48.655' X W127 12.709'
N54 48.681' X W127 12.682'
N54 48.654' X W127 12.712'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 18, 1998

CREEK : Upper Kathlyn Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 1 (orange tag)

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 4

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 8

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.957' X W127 13.215'
N54 49.005' X W127 13.222'
N54 48.988' X W127 13.239'
N54 48.995' X W127 13.251'
N54 48.994' X W127 13.228'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : spawning appears to be finished.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 12, 1998

CREEK : Owen Creek (u/s from Morice River to beaver complex)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 1

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 11.968' X W126 51.409'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : could be a pink salmon redd.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 04, 1998

CREEK : Owen Creek (u/s from Morice River to beaver complex)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 1

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 11.968' X W126 51.409'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : good spawning habitat available.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 16, 1998

CREEK : Lamprey Creek (u/s from Morice River)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : low flows

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 04, 1998

CREEK : Lamprey Creek (u/s from Morice River)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : large cobble, poor spawning habitat.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 12, 1998

CREEK : Lamprey Creek (u/s and d/s of Bill Nye FSR)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : good spawning habitat, many beaver dams.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 05, 1998

CREEK : Lamprey Creek (u/s and d/s of Bill Nye FSR)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 13, 1998

CREEK : Shea Creek (d/s of Shea FSR)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 12 (one blue tag)

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 5

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 3

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 14.057' X W127 30.765'
N54 14.060' X W127 30.662'
N54 13.960' X W127 30.638'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : some predation by otter and eagles.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 06, 1998

CREEK : Shea Creek (d/s of Shea FSR)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 13

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 4

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 8

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 14.057' X W127 30.765'
N54 14.060' X W127 30.662'
N54 13.960' X W127 30.638'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : predators are removing coho.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 14, 1998

CREEK : Gosnell Creek (helicopter flight of system)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 80

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 6

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : difficult to identify.

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : most of the coho were in the vicinity of the Shea Creek confluence. Many appeared to be spawned out. Poor visibility.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 05, 1998

CREEK : Gosnell Creek (d/s from Morice West FSR)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 1

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 6

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : none taken.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : poor visibility in deeper pools.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 15, 1998

CREEK : McBride Creek (u/s from Morice Lake to beaver complex)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 04, 1998

CREEK : McBride Creek (u/s from Morice Lake to beaver complex)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 3

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : none taken.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : questionable redds.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 06, 1998

CREEK : Canyon Creek (from Bulkley River u/s to Snake Road)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 13, 1998

CREEK : Driftwood Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 1

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 50.897' X W127 09.286'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : large beaver dam about 1 km from river.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 02, 1998

CREEK : McQuarrie Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 03, 1998

CREEK : Richfield Creek (from Bulkley River to canyon)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 1

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 2

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : none taken.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 03, 1998

CREEK : Upper Bulkley River (from McQuarrie confl. d/s to Knockholt)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 18, 1998

CREEK : Upper Bulkley River (Richfield confl. d/s to Byman confl.)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 6

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 5

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 30.440' X W126 20.848'
N54 30.868' X W126 22.388'
N54 30.891' X W126 22.421'
N54 30.942' X W126 22.461'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : poor visibility due to poor light/ice.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 12, 1998

CREEK : Hubert Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 1

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 26.768' X W126 48.854'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : a lot of beaver activity and blowdown

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 12, 1998

CREEK : Newman Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS :

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 10, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (nursery d/s to Bulkley River)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 4

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 2

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 6

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 47.693' X W127 11.556'
N54 47.713' X W127 11.525'
N54 47.734' X W127 11.448'
N54 47.673' X W127 11.247'
N54 47.641' X W127 11.248'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : spawning is over.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 09, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (highway crossing d/s to nursery)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 5

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 8

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.329' X W127 11.820'
N54 48.300' X W127 11.082'
N54 48.485' X W127 12.175'
N54 48.519' X W127 12.163'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : spawning appears to be finished.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 09, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (lake outflow d/s to highway crossing)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 18

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.570' X W127 12.184'
N54 48.568' X W127 12.205'
N54 48.622' X W127 12.175'
N54 48.780' X W127 12.046'
N54 48.593' X W127 12.216'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : spawning appears to be finished.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 09, 1998

CREEK : Upper Kathlyn Creek (u/s of railway crossing)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 4

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 4

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 8

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.957' X W127 13.215'
N54 49.005' X W127 13.222'
N54 48.988' X W127 13.239'
N54 48.995' X W127 13.251'
N54 48.994' X W127 13.228'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : all coho observed were spawned out.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 30, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (nursery d/s to Bulkley River)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 18 (two orange tags)

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 6

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS :
N54 47.693' X W127 11.556'
N54 47.713' X W127 11.525'
N54 47.734' X W127 11.448'
N54 47.673' X W127 11.247'
N54 47.641' X W127 11.248'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : all coho observed were actively spawning.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 29, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (highway crossing d/s to nursery)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 6

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 4 (one tagged – orange # 00714)

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 4

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS :
N54 48.329' X W127 11.820'
N54 48.300' X W127 11.082'
N54 48.485' X W127 12.175'
N54 48.519' X W127 12.163'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : all coho observed were near redds.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 30, 1998

CREEK : Lower Kathlyn Creek (lake outflow d/s to highway)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 4

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 2

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 3

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.497' X W127 12.197'
N54 48.588' X W127 12.218'
N54 48.834' X W127 12.058'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : large redds.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 29, 1998

CREEK : Upper Kathlyn Creek (u/s railway crossing)

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 18

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 3

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 2

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N54 48.994' X W127 13.228'

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : most of these coho were holding in deeper sections of creek. Two live coho and two dead coho were near the spawning location.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : November 14, 1998

CREEK : Club Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 0

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : the creek is still very low.

COHO SPAWNER INVENTORY (1998)

DATE : October 29, 1998

CREEK : Club Creek

LIVE COHO OBSERVED : 0

DEAD COHO OBSERVED : 1 (just d/s of railway crossing)

COHO REDDS OBSERVED : 0

GPS LOCATIONS OF REDDS : N/A

OTHER OBSERVATIONS : the creek was very low and it is unlikely that any coho adults could migrate past the road crossing at this time. There are coho visible holding in Lake Kathlyn near the confluence of Club Creek.