

## 8. Administrative

### (a) Staff

(1) Fisheries Officers: A.M. Groat G.T. 111  
D.N. Meyers GT 11

(11) F.P.L. Babine river

(111) Three Guardian positions, Moricetown, Fort Babine, Donalds Landing do stream clearance, patrols, Indian food Fishery and spawning surveys.

### (1V) Comments and Recommendations

Satisfactory, except Fort Babine Guardian did not meet requirements efficiently, released two weeks early from job.

Desperately require Guardian position for Upper Bulkley - Morice river.

### Recommendations for 1973

Moricetown -	Four Months -	June to September
Fort Babine -	Fourmonths -	June to September
Donalds Landing	Six months -	May 15 to November 15.
Upper Bulkley	Four months -	June to September

### (b)(2) Equipment

(1) 2 - 4 wheel drive vehicles; one 1971 pick-up.  
one 1967 pannel.

1-inboard-outboard patrol launch.  
1-12 foot fibreglass dingy.  
1-22 foot, plank, lake work boat.  
1-24 foot, plywood, lake work boat.  
1-12 foot, aluminum car top boat.  
1-18 foot, aluminum river boat.  
2-2 wheel, boat trailers.  
1-65 H.P. outboard with jet attachment.  
3-40 H.P. outboards  
1-20 H.P. outboard  
2- 18 H.P. outboards.  
1-6 H.P. outboard.  
2-5½ H.P. outboards.  
2- power chain saws.

(11) Equipment extensively used during season. Again for 1972 the F.P.L. Babine river engine arrived late in August, add then a leg gave out, The leg was repaired and installed. In the meantime the smokercraft was used on the lake for a short period and a piston rod broke. This problem caused loss of patrols on the lake where long distances were involved. There was breakdown in the 40 H.P. outboards which added to problems.

(111) Replacement of 12 foot fibreglass dingy with 12 foot Aluminum boat. Additional 18 foot smokercraft and 65H.P. jet. B.C. Tel. Radio's for Donalds Landing Moricetown and Fort Babine Guardians either installed in cabins or private cars. House trailer to replace old cabin at Moricetown. Replacement of old international truck with ½ ton pick up or pannel.

## 9. Information Education and other Programs.

(a) Public relations visits were made to industry and other organizations particulary in regard to pollution. Information given to students on pollution, spawning channels, hatcheries and commercial fisheries. Information given to sportsman on closures and Fisheries Acts and Regulations.

(b) Work closely with other Fisheries Service Branches, Fisheries Research Board and Pollution Branch.

9. Information, Education and others Programs (cont.)

(c) Many contacts were made and co-operation given to:

Town councils  
Fish and Game Branch  
Government Agency  
Health and Welfare  
Department of Public Works  
Department of Forestry  
Department of Transport  
Canadian National Railways  
Department of Indian Affairs  
Water Board  
Canada Pension Plan  
Rod and Gun Club.

A.M. Groat  
Fisheries Officer.

Smithers, B.C.  
March 26, 1973.

Mr. V.H.B. Giraud  
Supervisor, Skeena District,  
Fisheries Service,  
Prince Rupert, B.C.

Annual Narrative, Babine-Morice, 1972

1. General Discription Of Sub-District.

The Babine-Morice is a largesub-district situated in the interior of District # 8, B.C. To the North and East, approximately two hundred miles inland from the coast of British Columbia. Situated approximately between, just above the fifty seventh degree North latitude and just above the fifty four degree North latitude, and between one hundred twenty six degrees and one hundred twenty eight degrees West longitude. The sub-district comprises approximately Twenty five thousand square miles. The town of Smithers lies centrally in the sub-district, a small remote village of approximately thirty nine hundred people. The main industries being, logging and lumbering, mining, and tourism during the summer.

Babine Lake, situated in the Eastern portion of the sub-district is the largest fresh water lake in the Province of B.C., approximately one hundred miles in length with an average width of approximately two miles, the lake lies in a South-East North-West direction. Morice lake lying to the South and West is the second largest in the sub-district.

Houston situated forty miles South of Smithers is the second largest town in the sub-district. Other villages and towns namely: Topley, Cranisle, Telkwa, and smaller places such as Forestdale, Topley Landing, Pendleton Bay, Quick, and outlying farmers making up a white population of approximately 12,500 for the sub-district. Indian population, bands at Moricetown, Fort Babine, Topley Landing is given at 1,400 people.

The Canadian National Railway serves the sub-district with the main line through to Prince Rupert. P.W.A. serves the area with scheduled air service, T.P.A. with charter flights, and Okanogan Helicopters Ltd. with charter flights. Coachways Bus Lines supply bus service to the area.

The sub-district has some 2800 miles of rivers and streams, which consist of the Skeena river drainage above the Kispiox river and the Bulkley drainage above the Suskwa river, and includes the upper portion of the Copper river.

Within the sub-district there are sixty six spawning streams, the major ares being the Babine river, Upper Skeena and the Morice river, The Babine river, Babine lake and tributaries provide ninety percent of the sockeye spawning ground of the Skeena river system.

2. Fisheries

- (1) Commercial Fisheries - Nil  
(2) Sport Fisheries (Tidal waters) - Nil

Sport Fisheries (Non-tidalwater)

a. Provincial Angling Licences sold in sub-district.

	Canadian	Non-Can (Minor)	Non-Can	Short Term	Total
1972- 3004	128	535	364		4031
1971 - 2168	159	570	332		3229
1970 - 2397	141	553	338		3429
1969 - 2201	130	509	407		3347
1968 - 1946	253	408	236		2843

## 2. Fisheries (cont.)

(2)

### b. Estimated Sport Catch

	<u>Cohoe</u>	<u>Springs</u>	<u>Jack springs</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>
1972 -	1541	900	470	1280
Est. 1971 -	564 figures available	404	562	543
1970 -	1030	782	854	1038
1969 -	2350	475	525	300
1968 -	1597	800	1307	1457

The 1972 non-tidal sport fishery was unfavorable due to high water in early season until mid August. At Moricetown and upper Morice river high water prevailed throughout June and July on springs, August and September, coho and steelhead were favorable:

Moricetown - Coho 91- coho jacks 145 - Springs 65 - jack spring 120 - steelhead 75.

The remainder of the catch was spread out over the remainder of the sub-district.

1972 - 34,000 man days of effort were spent in the sub-district on salmon sport fishery estimated at \$ 675,000 by resident and non-resident, based on \$ 15.00 per day for resident and \$ 25.00 per day for non-resident.

### c. Closures

Morice river -Lamprey cr. to Morice lake - by regulation.  
 Fort Babine to Nilkitkwa river - by regulation,  
 Babine river - by regulation.  
 Morice river - by regulation.  
 Fulton channel - by notice.  
 Pinkut channel - by notice.

### d. Gear restrictions.

Morice river, Babine river and their tributaries, and Moricetown Canyon have a gear restriction on the use of roe. Babine river and Moricetown Canyon have a gear restriction of no angling from boats in the river. Babine river has a bag limit of one steelhead per day.

## (3) Indian Food Fishery

	<u>Catch in pieces</u>								
	<u>Place</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>jack Spring</u>	<u>St'hd</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972	Babine	17,234	50	0	0	25	0	200	17,309
	Moricetn	702	482	215	0	683	0	228	2,082
1971	Babine	22,950	140	50	0	300	0	5	23,445
	Moricetn	185	300	309	0	255	0	54	1,103
1970	Babine	20,048	140	400	0	125	0	200	21,364
	Moricetn	844	648	329	0	728	0	211	2,760
1969	Babine	17,293	130	20	0	65	0	30	17,508
	Moricetn	516	755	481	0	485	0	75	2,312
1968	Babine	19,146	0	0	0	47	0	0	19,204
	Moricetn	840	2046	227	0	1017	0	160	4,790
1967	Babine	18,992	29	18	0	72	0	1	19,112
	Moricetn	598	1216	180	0	1608	0	111	3,715
1966	Babine	18,652	137	8	0	149	0	6	18,952
	Moricetn	2,442	2571	465	0	1233	0	418	7,129

In the Skeena at Kisgegas permits are usually issued and accounted for by the Terrace sub-district. Usually there are three families fish Kisgegas however there was no report of food fishery in that area for 1972.

For the Morice -Babine sub-district 90 permits were issued for a total of 102 families.

Fort Babine Indian Band list indicates a population of 859

## 2. Fisheries

### (3) Indian Food Fishery (cont.)

people. This covers the whole Babine lake area and not the actual people at Fort Babine. There are approximately 30 families living in or around Fort Babine which live there all year round. Fishing is done by means of gillnet on a four day week. 6 P.M. Sunday to 6 P.M. Thursday was changed this season on request by the Chief Councilar to open period, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday to allow working people out of Burns Lake a chance to fish on the week ends.

The closure for food fishing for springs at the counting weir boundary extensions were applied to cover one and one half miles above the weir to one half mile below in interest of light run of chinook salmon, effective September 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1972. 1971 closure was one half mile above weir and was not sufficient to keep the fishery off the spawning areas.

Moricetown Band list indicates 530 people living in and around the village. Fishing is done by gillnet from the Suskwa river to just below the estuary of Trout creek, with 6 to 10 nets being used. The remainder is by dipnet or gaff operating in the Moricetown Canyon at the falls area. This year fishing was again on a split week, open monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, closed Thursday and Sundays. This may have to be changed for 1973 to the 9 P.M. opening and closing due to hardships on the older people attempting to remove and set nets at midnight during the dark hours and the danger of falling in the fast water. It will also give the gaff fishery a little break on Sunday for a couple of hours fishing.

### 3. Spawning Summary

#### (a) Salmon

(1) The Babine river and tributary streams in Babine Lake are the main sockeye spawning areas for the Skeena river watershed. 95% of the Skeena sockeye spawn in this area. The Upper Skeena, Ms Morice, Nanika and Upper Copper rivers have minor stocks of sockeye. Water levels during the spawning season, normal with adequate water in most streams. Above average snowfalls during 1971-72 winter caused flooding in the spring of 1972. Babine Lake levels were highest on record, slow cold spring did not cause flashfloods and no spawning areas were washed out, some flooding occurred on the Bulkley river in upper reaches, the Morice river was high to August.

#### Sockeye

Sockeye counted through weir on Babine Lake by Fisheries Service personnel this season totaled 938,827 composed of 681,045 large sockeye, 258,682 jack sockeye, 3,598 coho, 32,116 pinks, 0 chum, 671 large spring, 1,191 jack spring, 41 steelhead.

Brood years: 1967 - 603,000 large and 29,300 Jack sockeye.  
1968 - 605,400 large and no jacks listed.

Pinkut channel, very good return of early sockeye for total of 93,000 made up of 57,000 large in channel and 16,000 in river, remainder 20,000 jacks counted into system.

Fulton channel by September 14<sup>th</sup> only had 110,553 large with 40% counted in, however a surge of fish moved in late and the channels were filled, estimated at 210,000 large with 40% jacks.

Other systems in order Pierre-Twain-Morrison-Grizzly are minor producers with the upper Babine at Fort and lake taking remainder.

#### Cohoe

Estimated 13,964 spawned in sub-district streams, brood year

3. Spawning summary (cont.)Cohoe (cont.)

1969 produced 16,500 escapement.

Pink

Estimated 35,544 spawned in area of these 32,166 spawned in Babine river. This was a very low return from a 1970 spawning of 169,600 of which 166,000 spawned in Babine, an all time record for Babine River.

Chum

No chum recorded in the area except 1 chum counted at the weir on Bear river. 1968 no chum recorded.

Chinook

Estimated 12,848 springs for sub-district broken up 8,500 Morice, 671 Babine, #125 Bear, 2 Sustut, 550 remainder of area. Brood year: 1967 19,000 and 1968 fair. remains low return.

(11) Weather conditions and water levels.

The winter of 1971-72 which effects run off water for spring of 1972 turned very cold with temperatures dropping to 40 degrees below zero in January 1972. Heavy snow falls commenced late October 1971 with a high of 32.3 inches in February 1972. Water content was at its highest throughout the cold period October 1971- march 1972. Recordings of rain, snowfall and temperatures are taken at the Smithers Airport.

Summary of Temperatures and Percipitation

October 1, 1971 - September 30, 1972

<u>Month</u>	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>- Rainfall</u>	<u>- Water content</u>	<u>Temperatures</u>		
				<u>- high</u>	<u>- low</u>	<u>- average</u>
October	7.5	1.04	1.66	64	06	37.8
November	22.6	.43	2.19	49	06	29.2
December	29.7	----	2.22	42	-33	7.4
January	28.0	.32	2.04	41	-40	5.0
February	32.3	tr	2.17	41	-16	16.7
March	18.9	.87	2.29	52	-09	31.7
April	6.3	.31	.75	57	18	35.6
May	- -	.24	.24	87	26	49.5
June	- -	2.87	2.87	78	35	52.6
July	- -	2.72	2.72	88	37	59.4
August	- -	.82	.82	83	33	58.0
September	1.7	2.21	2.36	81	25	46.7

(111) Fry Salvage

Nil.

(b) (1) Herring

Nil.

4. Environment / Multiple water uses.(A) Pollution

B.C. Railway passing along the Bear Lake and river caused considerable pollution particularly to Azuklotz creek and lake with situation from run off water on their grade. Bridge building over the Azuklotz creek at time of migrating salmon caused further distress as they were using the creek as a road bed for equipment. Along the Bear river right of way clearing some trees reached the river and eventually a series of mud slides, of which one temporarily blocked the Bear river. Action was taken and a Guardian was moved into the area to observe and report further pollution problems.

Pacific Inland Resources Ltd. sawmill at Telkwa near the Bulkley river embankment, fine sawdust and fly ash was reaching the river from their tee-pee burner. They have been warned against major build up of sawdust on the ice over the winter months.

Bulkley Valley Forest Products completed a smokeless burner this year which took some of the load off the main Tee-Pee burner. They to were warned against sawdust reaching the Morice river over the winter months.

Bradina Mine at Owen lake were milling ore throughout the 1972 season. no problems with their settling ponds or pollution to Owen lake occurred this season.

There were no problems with Granisle or Noranda mines on Babine lake during the season, although Noranda has progressed to a point where more inspections will be taken in 1973. Both these mines have fuel storage facilities and tanks near the shore line of Babine lake. None of these tanks have cement sumps around them and any spills will seep through the gravel and come up in the lake. These tanks are potential dangers.

Good liaison with B.C. Hydro and Highways kept problems to a minimum. Forestry operations particularly debris requires constant patrols of cutting areas.

(B) Industrial development.Noranda Mines

Commenced production in 1972, ore is ferried across Babine lake via truck and hence to Topley via their new road to Granisle road and Topley Landing Topley road. They have a spur line on the C.N.R. near Findlay creek and Bulkley river where they load ore to Box cars.

Bradina Mine

In production 1972, ore is carried to Houston in large green plastic containers and loaded on flat cars, shortage of these containers they empty them at Houston on a covered stock pile.

Bulkley Valley Complex

Conditions improved under the new owners Northwood Pulp and Paper during 1972, conditions slowly improved for Houston.

British Columbia R.R.

Road bed reached the Sustut river by end 1972, laying of R.R. tracks were approximately 20 miles South of Takla Landing by end of year. They are behind as tracks were to reach the Sustut by February 1973.

Other Mining operations - Nil for 1972

Sawmills

(B) Industrial DevelopmentSawmills (cont.)

Two new mills partially completed by 1972 - Fink Sawmill and Pacific Inland Resources Ltd. located on Tatlow Road just outside Smithers.

Other

At Village of Smithers a new shopping centre neared completion and a new Provincial Building was started, strikes by labour during 1972 retarded completion of new structures and will be finished and operational in 1973.

(C) Obstructions and Diversions.

The Bulkley river above Houston many log jams in the river occurred due to spring flooding. Most serious was along the C.N.R. approximately 12 miles south of Houston almost washed out the railway bed for half mile. There was thought given to diverting the river back into its channel, removal of some of the debris by C.N.R. personnel and fall rains the river went back into its original channel by itself.

B.C. Railway diverted and channeled Azuklotz creek, they were to notify the Smithers office 3 days in advance of work, there was no notification given, they simply channeled the creek above their railway right of way with a bulldozer.

Beaver dams continue numerous throughout streams particularly Morrison, Talho, upper Bulkley. Babine lake streams the guardian pulled them out to assist upstream migrants; see attached list page 7.

(D) Gravel Removal

Gravel removal orders are in effect for Bulkley river and tributaries along with Morice river and tributaries, only one permit issued to Pacific Inland Resources Ltd., at Telkwa to remove a bar, however high water prevented any operation this year.

(E) Logging operations.

Bulkley Valley Forest Products still control most of the southern portion of the sub-district, East of Babine lake on the south and west of the lake including Morice river area.

Pacific Inland Resources are the second largest mill at Telkwa and Tatlow road out of Smithers operate in the Telkwa Valley and Fulton lake area.

Groot Sawmill (Former Dielman Planer Mill) are building up their production on Tatlow road.

Fink Sawmill a new mill on Tatlow road did not operate in 1972.

Pacific Inland Resources a new mill on Tatlow road did not operate 1972.

Small Mills Snake road, moved to Highway 16 toward Moricetown and operated in 1972 for local orders.

(1) Area Forestry cut for 1972 (Forestry figures)

Hazelton	3105 acres cut	12,305,475 CF
Smithers	2224 acres cut	9,004,824 CF
Houston	4331 acres cut	18,287,297 CF



(7)

Stream clearance, obstruction removal list 1972

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>obstruction</u>	<u>Equipment used</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
June 27	6 Mile cr.	Log jam	Hand	J. Wall	25.00	1	
" 28	4 Mile cr.	" "	"	" "	25.00	1	
" 29	Twain cr.	" "	"	" "	25.00	1	
" 30	Pierre cr.	" "	"	" "	25.00	1	
Sept. 13	Buck river	Beaver dam	"	A. Groat	25.00	1	
" 25	Bulkley R.	" "	Powder	A. Groat			
" 24	Twain cr.	" "	Hand	F. Wall	50.00	1	F. Wall blaster required.
October 25	Bulkley R.	" "	powder	J. Wall	25.00	1	
				A. Groat			
				F. Wall	50.00	1	F. Wall blaster required.
Sept. 30	Bulkley R.	Logs	Heavy equip.	C.N.R.	10,000.00	14	Contractor for C.N.R.
Oct. 15	Findlay cr.	Logs and debris	" "	C.N.R.	2,000.00	3	" " "
					<u>12,175.00</u>	<u>21</u>	

4. Environment, (Multiple water use. (cont.))(F) Water Licence applications

1972, processed 31 water applications.

(G) Placer Mining

Nil for 1972, one water licence for a hydrolic show on Buck creek showed up, this will involve a long look to prevent silting and gravel deposits in Buck creek if it matures.

5. Trends in the Fishing Industry

Nil.

6. Enforcement(a) Commercial

Nil.

Sport

Nil.

Indian Fishery

Nil.

(b) Trends Re: Closed seasons

Sport Fishermen fishing for trout on Babine lake in August and September are molesting sockeye salmon in streams for eggs to fish off smaller streams estuaries for trout. A trend toward closure for fishing with roe on Babine lake is in the making for period August - September inclusive. This is becoming a problem with the influx of more tourists and people on the lake.

More Force on the Indian food fishery is becoming apparent. Buying and selling fish from Fort Babine to whites is more obvious each year. At Moricetown this practise is minor depending on the strength of guardian.

(c) Patrols to tourist lodges in outlying areas and fishermen assembly areas on rivers, talks with lodge operators and posted notices are maintained throughout season, good liaison with the Fish and Game officer for area keeps problems fairly under control.

7. Predators

(a) Sea Lions - Nil.

(b) Hair seals - Nil.

(c) Bear Grizzly and Black

Bears numerous on streams 9 Grizzly taken by sportsmen this year as reported by Fish and Game. 5 male, 3 female and 1 juvenile. 10 Black Bear reported taken, 8 males and 2 females.

(d) Grayfish - Nil.

(e) Killer Whale - Nil.

(f) Other.

Eagles and crow numerous on spawning streams Mergansers heavy throughout, sea gulls and ducks light.