

Smithers Sub./Dist.  
Dist. # 8, B.C.  
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Mr. J.W. Connor  
District Protection Officer  
Department of Fisheries,  
Prince Rupert, B.C.

Annual Narrative Report for 1967

A. Trend of the several Fisheries.

- 1 Commercial Fishery - None at present.
- 2 Indian Fishery - Natives had normal catches.
- 3 Sport Fishery - Had a very good season.

B. Fishing Vessels.

- 1 Indian Fishery - Home made river boats & outboard engines.
- 2 Sport Fishery - Bigger boats and larger engines.

C. Development and changes.

- 1 Mines - To date only Granisle Copper Ltd. is operating, Several others are doing exploration work.
- 2 Logging - Is very slow and trend appears to be for pulp operations on a large scale.
- 3 Construction - The new Smithers Bulkley River Bridge has been started. Some re-building has been done on Highway # 16. Forestry Service has extended several access roads.
- 4 Fisheries - New salmon counting Fences have been built on the Babine and Fulton Rivers.

D. Abusements.

- 1 Indian Fishery - None to my knowledge.
- 2 Sports Fishery - None to my Knowledge.

E. Closed seasons.

- 1 Indian Fishery - All closures on the Native food Fishery were well adhered to.
- 2 Sport Fishery - The Sport Fishing Regulations were complied with in all respects.

F. Prevention of illegal fishing.

- 1 All the main fishing areas patrolled.
- 2 Periodic foot patrols over spawning streams.
- 3 Use of aircraft for flights to remote areas.

G Protection of waters frequented by fish.

- 1 Inspection of all logging operations near spawning streams.
- 2 Inspection of sawmills for sawdust and debris disposal.
- 3 Pre-spawning survey of spawning streams for obstructions and correction work done as required.
- 4 Inspection of mine development and waste disposal.
- 5 Inspection of new road construction and efficiency of culverts.
- 6 Check on all water licence applications.

H Conditions of Fishways.

- 1 Moricetown Fishways - Maintenance work requested.

I Spawning conditions.

- 1 Water levels were low in the early sockeye streams, however no losses in adults occurred. Fall rains brought stream levels back to normal.
- 2 Sockeye - Babine Lake received a very good sockeye escapment, a bit light to the early streams and heavy to the late spawners, all other areas were very poor.
- 3 Spring - Both the Morice and Bear River had a good run of fine large fish. The Babine River run was very poor.
- 4 Pink - The Babine River had a moderate run but all other areas had very few.
- 5 Cohoe - A very good escapment to all areas and a good seeding.
- 6 Steelhead - Better than average but a heavy toll by Sport Fishery.

J Summary.

General seeding in main channels of streams protected by normal water levels. At present has adequate ice cover plus a very heavy snow cover.

*L. G. Gelley*

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Fishery Officer