

Smithers, B.C.
December 14, 1965.

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Prince Rupert, B.C.

Annual Narrative Report For 1965, Babine - Morice Area.
Conservation and Protection District # 6, B.C.

A. Trend of the several Fisheries.

- 1. Commercial Fishery - None at present.
- 2. Indian Fishery - The sockeye escapement to Babine Lake was very large and in good condition. The salmon escapement Past Moricetown was better than most years. All natives that fished during peak of runs caught adequate food supplies. Hot dry summer weather aided natives in the dry cure of their catch.
- 3. Sport Fishery - Good catches of trout were taken in all the favoured fishing spots. A very large coho escapement was the main attraction. The fall steelhead run arrived late and winter conditions reduced the usual fishing effort for them.

B. Fishing vessels.

- 1. Indian Fishery - Natives use home built river type boats powered by outboard motors. No change in the past year.
- 2. Sport Fishery - Most of the sport fisherman have their own boats. Rental boats are available at most lakes.

C. Development and changes.

- 1. Mines - Several mines in the area are doing considerable development work. Those most active are:
Granisle Copper Ltd. - Babine Lake.
Olimax Molybdenum Ltd. - Hudson Bay Mountain.
New Cronin Babine Mines Ltd. - Cronin Babine Mountain.
Madina Explorations Ltd. - Owen Creek.
- 2. Logging - Pulp interest is still very active in the area.
- 3. Construction - Road construction has been carried out during the season with the Bulkley Canyon section of highway # 16 the main point of activity. By the new year this section will be two lane, with plans to be hard topped next summer.
- 4. Fish - The first phase of the Fulton River spawning channel was completed this year. Fish Culture continue to make studies on the feasibility of streams in this area for possible spawning channel sites. Fish Culture stationed two men on Morrison Creek for a beaver control program.

D. Abusements.

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

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Narrative report,
L. J. Gelley,
Fisheries Officers
continued 2

G. Closed Seasons.

- 1. Indian Fishery. All closures on the native Food Fishery in the Babine Morice area were well adhered to.
- 2. Sport Fishery. The sport fishing regulations were complied with in all respects.

F. Prevention of illegal fishing.

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

H. Protection of waters frequented by fish.

- 1. Check of all logging operations on or near spawning streams.
- 2. Check of sawmills on sawdust and debris disposal.
- 3. Pre-spawning survey of spawning streams for obstructions, and corrective work done as required.

K. Conditions of fishways.

- 1. Moricetown. The Moricetown fishways require some bolts on the gates, some rocks removed, and some repainting on the metal-work where paint has chipped away.

I. Spawning conditions.

- 1. Water levels were low during the early sockeye run; however no losses in adults occurred. September rains corrected conditions in streams.
- 2. Sockeye. A moderate escapement (but better than expected) to all the main spawning streams. A good seeding resulted.
- 3. Spring. Escapement very small with light seeding.
- 4. Pink. Escapement moderate, seeding good.
- 5. Coho. Escapement heaviest in a decade, very good seeding.

J. Summary.

General seeding very good, the exception being springs which require a build up in available spawners. Present water levels, ice and snow cover, are adequate to protect spawning areas.

L. J. Gelley
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