

21040

Smithers, B.C.  
March 13, 1970.

Mr. J.W. Connor  
District Protection Officer,  
Department Of Fisheries And Forestry,  
109-417 West Second Ave.,  
Prince Rupert, B.C.

Annual Narrative, Babine-Morice Sub-District 1969.

1. General Description of Sub-District

The Babine-Morice is a large Sub-District lying in the interior of District # 8, to the north and east approximately 200 miles inland from the coast. Lying approximately just above the 57 degree N latitude and just above the 54 degree N latitude, and between 126 degrees and 128 degrees W longitude. The sub-district comprises approximately 25,000 square miles. The township of Smithers lies centrally in the sub-district; a small remote village of approximately 3900 people. The main industry being logging and lumber, with tourism during the summer months.

Babine lake lying in the eastern portion of the sub-district is the largest fresh water lake in the province of B.C., approximately 100 miles in length with an average width of approximately 2 miles. The lake lies in a SE/NW direction. The Morice lake lying to the south and west is the second largest in the sub-district, with Nanika & Kidprice to the south of Morice making up the watershed.

Other populated improved towns; Houston - a growing community due to a start on a large sawmill complex is the second largest community lying 44 miles south of Smithers, population approximately 600 rapidly increasing with a townsite being built for the Bulkley Valley Forest Industries and plans for a large shopping centre. Other villages and towns - Topley - Telkwa - New Hazelton and Hazelton making up the remainder for a population of whites in the sub-district of approximately 9000 and an Indian population of approximately 1389, taking in Topley Landing - Fort Babine and Moricetown. The Hazelton bands are reported on Terrace sub-district.

The C.N.R. railway serves the sub-district with a main line to Prince Rupert. Highway 16 runs through the area; completed blacktop highway with a new bridge crossing the Bulkley completed in 1969 situated approximately 1 mile upstream from the old bridge washed out in 1966 and temporarily replaced with a bailey bridge.

The sub-district has some 2800 miles of rivers and streams, which consists of all the Skeena river drainage above Hazelton, with the exception of the Kispicx river, and includes the upper portion of the Copper river.

Within the sub-district there are 66 spawning areas, the major areas being the Babine river, upper Skeena and the Morice rivers. The Babine river, Babine lake and tributaries provide 90% 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-Tidal Waters)

(cont, 2.)

2. (2) Sport Fisheries ( Non-Tidal Waters )

Provincial angling licences sold in Sub-District:

	<u>Canadian</u>	<u>Non-Canadian (Minor)</u>	<u>Non-Canadian</u>	<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Total</u>
1969- 2201	130		509	407	3347
1968- 1946	253		408	236	2843

Estimated catch:

	<u>Cohoe</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>	<u>Total</u>
1969- 350		1000	300	1650
1968- 1597		2107	1457	5161

The non-tidal sport Fishery catch in this area declined sharply, possibly partially due to the light spring run-off with a hot dry spell during the early part of summer, and partially due to smaller runs of salmon to the grounds.

Closures.Morice river - Seasonal closures.

Between Lamprey creek and Morice lake, from March 1 st to May 31 st.

Between Lamprey creek and Morice lake, closure to angling for salmon, from August 15 to September 30 th.

Babine River- Seasonal closure.

Between Fort Babine and the mouth of the Nilkitlwa river, closure to angling for salmon, from August 15 to September 20 th.

Gear restrictions

Morice river and tributaries have a gear restriction on the use of roe, or the possession of roe, or any compound of fish roe and oil while angling.

2. (3) Indian Food Fishery.Indian Food Fish Catch ( in pieces )

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Sookeye</u>	<u>Cohoe</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chums</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>St'hd</u>	<u>Total</u>
1969.	Babine	17293	130	20	0	65	30	17508
	Moricetown	516	755	481	0	485	75	2312
1968.	Babine	19148	0	0	0	47	0	19204
	Moricetown	840	2046	227	0	1017	160	4790
1967.	Babine	18992	29	18	0	72	1	19112
	Moricetown	598	1216	180	0	1608	111	3715
1966.	Babine	18652	137	8	0	149	6	18952
	Moricetown	2442	2571	465	0	1233	418	7129
1965.	Babine	18540	252	33	0	172	17	19014
	Moricetown	1501	3173	423	0	1413	177	6687

Skeena from Hazelton to Kispiox, permits issued and reported by guardian through Terrace office.

Skeena from Kispiox to Kisgegas, permits issued and reported by guardian through Terrace office. Verbal report from guardian that 3 families fished this area, 500 sookeye and 100 coho catch reported by one family.

The Indian Food Fishery in the Sub-district is a non-tidal Fishery. In the Babine area There is a band population of some 859 people. 43 food permits were issued for gillnets during the season. There does not seem to be any change in the trend or development of this Fishery.

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

In the Moricetown area there is some 530 people on the Band list. 46 permits were issued; 35 for gaffing 6 for gillnet and 6 for gillnet and gaff. As the surrounding country develops, this trend is for more and more natives from this band to have steady jobs during the spawning run and do less fishing. The majority of fish were taken by about a dozen of the permit holders.

Total salmon Food Fishery catch for the season was 19820 pieces. The most of the Fort Babine catch was smoked and dried. The Moricetown catch was mostly eaten fresh or frozen in home freezers.

The Fort Babine Fishery was open on a four day per week basis, from 6 P.M. Sunday to 6 P.M. Thursday. The Moricetown Fishery was open on a four day per week split basis, from 6 P.M. Sunday to 6 P.M. Tuesday and from 6 P.M. Wednesday to 6 P.M. Friday.

Recommendations:

Moricetown Fishery to continue on a four day split week for dip net and gillnet gear only. In reference to ruling made by Judge N.R. Young - Regina VS Allan Naziel, jigging and gaffing being one and the same thing - no permits to be issued for gaffing.

Permits to be issued from Smithers office (on Mondays) only.

3. Spawning Summary(a) Salmon

(1) The Babine river and rivers and streams flowing into Babine lake are the main spawning areas of the Skeena watershed. The season started with very low water levels, which seemed to delay the sockeye runs. Rains during August and September increased the levels in most streams giving salmon good passage.

Sockeye. During the spawning run 634,400 large sockeye were counted through the Babine counting fence. The counting fence is situated eight miles down stream from the outlet of Babine lake. This is a slight decrease from the brood year fence count of: 1964 - 650,000 and 1965 - 644,000. Approximately 287,000 of these sockeye spawned in the Babine river. The balance were distributed in the streams and rivers flowing into Babine lake. Fulton river and artificial channel spawned 149,000 and Pinkut river and channel 37,000. The Upper Skeena run of 7200 sockeye compared to 1964 - 7500 and 1965 - 2900 sockeye. The Bulkley-Morice run of 4000 is a decrease from 1964, 5500 and 1965 - 10,500 sockeye.

Cohoe. There was an estimated 16,500 coho escapement during the 1969 spawning season. The 1968 brood year escapement was approximately 17,000. The main areas of spawning being the Bulkley-Morice and the Babine river.

Pinks. Babine fence count of 75,000 pink salmon shows an increase over the 1967 fence count of 43,500. There were a few pink salmon scattered throughout the streams flowing into Babine lake but the main spawning took place above the Babine fence up to Nilkitkwa lake. The Upper Skeena run of 200 remains the same but the Bulkley system increased slightly with 3300 pinks compared to 1150 in the brood year.

Chinook. Estimated total of 9800 is a decline over brood years 1964 - 16,450 and 1965 - 10,700. The main spawning streams are the Babine river, the Bear river and the Morice river.

Total Spawning count for the sub-district:

Sockeye	-	645,600	Cohoe	16,500
Pink	-	78,500	Chinook	- 9,800

3. (a) Salmor (cont.)

(11) Weather conditions and water levels.

The snow fall during the winter of 1968 - 69 was below normal. Lake levels remained well below normal throughout the season. Late summer rains increased most rivers and streams to slightly above normal.

The fall and winter of 1969-70 was very mild with very little snow fall, but by the middle of January there was adequate snow coverage on the streams.

Summary of temperatures and precipitation from March 1, 1969 to February 28, 1970, from the D.O.T. records at the Smithers Airport.

	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>- rainfall</u>	<u>- Total Water content</u>	<u>Temperatures</u>		
				High	Low	Average
March	6.7"	.38"	.83"	42.3	-19.4	30.9
April	.2	1.24	1.26	50.3	-31.5	40.9
May		.28	.28	63.3	-37.7	50.5
June		.92	.92	76.7	-48.3	62.5
July		.60	.60	69.1	-46.1	57.6
August		2.63	2.63	63.3	-43.6	53.5
September		3.25	3.25	58	-41.6	49.8
October	Trace	1.73	1.73	50.4	-30.5	40.5
November	7.4	1.07	2.34	42.5	-32	37.3
December	12.9	.04	1.05	32.3	-22.2	27.3
January	14.5	Trace	1.09	18.4	-27.7	13.1
February	4.8	Trace	.39	38.7	-21.7	30.2
			<u>5.39</u>			

16.37"

(111) Fry Salvage.

Nil.

(b) Herring.

N/A

4. Environment, Multiple water use.

(a) Pollution.

The community development and construction of the Bulkley Valley Forest Industries mill complex at Houston were of some concern at the beginning of the year. Constant patrols by Fisheries Officers and one patrolman, plus public relations visits with management, Engineers, work forman, equipment operators and Village officials, kept pollution violations down to two minor incidences. These incidences were luckily discovered almost immediately and cleaned up within the hour.

The Northern Interior Forest Products Co. Ltd. burner at Telkwa was giving problems at the beginning of the year, but under pressure the company repaired the burner and eliminated most of the problem. There are still complaints about the burner from Telkwa residents. This mill is supposed to be phased out sometime in 1970.

Land clearing by individuals in the agriculture industry created a few problems, but these were cleaned up satisfactory.

There is considerable mining exploration in the area, which could be a cause of alarm in the future. To date there are only three operating mines in the area; Granisle Copper Ltd., on Babine lake, New Cronin-Babine Mine Ltd., and Forestburg Collieries Ltd.

Granisle Copper Ltd., on McDonald Island in Babine lake, have their settling pond in a bay contained by two causeways between McDonald Island and Starrett Island. Solids are contained for sixty

(cont.5)

ADDITIONAL TO ANNUAL NARRATIVE 1969 - Section 4. (c) Obstructions & River Diversions.

Corrective figures

BAKINE RICHIE- Sub-district, 1969.

Date	Place	Obstructions	Equip. used	Personnel	Costs	Days	Remarks	
July 31st	Upper Copper	2 log	3 beaver	Powder & hand	Meyers - Wall	50.00	1	
Aug 1st	Upper Copper		4 "	"	"	45.00	1	
Aug 9th	Owen Crk	1 log	4 "	"	Wall	25.00	1	
Aug 16th	Tseax River		6 "	"	Wall - Mont	150.00	2	Tseax Mass sub-dist.
Aug 16th	Bulkley River	4 log	2 "	"	Wall	20.00	1	Wages only
Aug 23rd	Owen Maxiam		4 "	"	Wall	75.00	4	Perow & Luck river incl.
Aug 30th	Bulkley River	2 houses	8 "	"	Groat Meyers	75.00	3	Wall, Tobagan & Luck Crk.
	Owen Crk.	2 log	2 "	"	Wall	25.00	1	Wt. ending.
Sept 6th	Owen Maxiam	2 " 1 hus	8 "	"	" Meyers	50.00	4	Bulkley falls obst.
Sept 13th	Owen Bulkley		16 "	"	"	100.00	4	
Sept 27th	" "	1 log	1 "	"	"	30.00	2	6 mile East Topley.
Oct 4th	" "		4 "	"	"	50.00	2	Perow
Oct 11th	Kispiox		9 "	"	Meyers Parent	100.00	2	Wall blasting
	Tobagan		1 "	"	Wall Meyers	25.00	1	Stop off from Kispiox.
Oct 15th	Upper Copper	1 house	8 "	"	Meyers wall	50.00	1	
Oct 16th	Silvern Willow	1 hs 1 log	9 "	"	"	100.00	2	
Oct 17	Canyon Crk		3 "	"	Wall	35.00	1	Upper
Oct 17	Bulkley Upper		3 "	"	"	50.00	1	
Oct 18th	Knockholt	1 log	3 "	"	"	50.00	1	Bulkley River
Oct 19th	Upper Copper	2 hs 1 lg	17 "	"	Meyers wall	125.00	2	Incl Silvern & Willow
Oct 25th	Luck Bulkley	2 log	1 "	"	Wall	25.00	1	
Oct 31st	Bulkley		1 "	"	"	25.00	1	
Totals	17 log jams	- 7 beaver houses	- 117 beaver dams		\$1505.00	39		

*A.M. Groat*  
 A.M. Groat,  
 Fishery Officer.

## 4. (a) Pollution (cont.)

days retention in this pond. A second pond is to be constructed adjacent to the present pond.

Forestburg Collieries Ltd. on Goathorn creek have discontinued washing coal.

The New Cronie-Babine Mine Ltd., on Cronin Mountain above Chapman lake produces lead-zinc, copper and silver. It has produced about 200 tons of concentrates annually, from 700 tons of ore. This mine has been bought by Mr. Paul Kindrat, who formally operated it for the company, and intends to increase production. This is of some concern to Chapman lake and Fulton river as the settling pond is inadequate for increased production.

The sewage disposal at the Bulkley Valley Forest Industries Sawmill and lumber site at Houston was remedied by installation of underground disposal fields.

A new sewage disposal pond was completed adjacent to the Bulkley river by the Village of Houston, will be operative in 1970, the overflow to enter Bulkley river after treatment.

The town of Smithers plan to start construction of a new sewage disposal system and plant in 1972, on a 57 acre site one-half mile north of Smithers. The outlet of the field will be into the Bulkley river.

The Bulkley Valley Forest Industries road from Houston to Babine lake caused a problem at the Fulton river spawning channel by silting, however this was remedied by a ditch alongside the road approximately one half mile from the overpass at Fulton river.

Other minor problems requiring vigilance include the use of herbicides by the Department Of Highways and the Canadian National Railways, farmers land clearing and polluting waters with fallen trees and debris, road building across creeks, and sawdust burners and logging roads too near rivers and creeks. Some silting still occurs from gas pipeline crossings of the Telkwa river.

4. (b) Industrial Development.Mines:

Climax Molybdenum Co. Ltd. continues in the exploration stage, for molybdenum.

Nadina Explorations Ltd., continue exploration for copper.

New Cronin-Babine Mines Ltd., active, with plans to increase production of lead-zinc, copper and silver.

Granisle Copper Ltd., Active, producing an average of 2200 tons of concentrated per day of copper with some gold and silver. Settling pond "B" is reported to be completed but not in use as yet.

Silver Standard Mine continues exploration for silver, lead and zinc.

Forestburg Collieries Ltd., active producing coal.

Inlet Explorations, inactive, placer operation on Bulkley river.

Other; a large part of the area around Telkwa river was staked out for coal leases. also Kluyatantan river area for future production of coal.

Several other mining interests in the exploration stage.

## 4. (b) Industrial Development.(Cont.)

Industry.

Bulkley Valley Forest Industries Ltd. are keeping up with schedule with completion of buildings on their site with the idea of being under cover for the winter months to install necessary machinery. Completion of roads within the site area and a road  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the Morice river to a proposed bridge crossing of the Morice river. A bridge crossing near the highway and railroad crossing was completed. A new logging road was struck through to Babine lake near Topley Landing. Completion of an overpass over the highway near Fulton Channel, and completion of a bridge over the Fulton river.

Land clearing for the townsite to be called Mountain View was started, and a large land area for a shopping centre in Houston alongside the Buck river was readied, further development to be completed on the latter in the near future.

At Smithers a branch from the natural gas line was struck through the Village. B.C. Telephone completed many miles of underground telephone cable along the highway and main valley roads.

The new bridge across the Bulkley river at Smithers was completed and opened during the year.

Further channel construction was carried out at Fulton river. Fish utilized part of the second phase of the channels. Building construction was carried out at Fulton and Pinkut.

4. (c) Obstructions and river diversions

Stream clearance during the year was mainly concentrated on removal of beaver dams and log jams in the Upper Copper river, Bulkley and Morice river areas. 110 beaver dams and 17 log jams were removed. Over 300 man hours were expended at a cost of about \$1500.00. In the Babine area beaver dams were opened for the passage of fish by patrolmen and F.R.B. personnel during the salmon runs.

Shegunia river diversion around falls at a cost of about \$2000.00 has been referred to region.

Beaver are still very numerous throughout the sub-district. If the coming spring run off is as light as expected, the beaver this coming year will be a bigger problem than ever.

4. (d) Gravel removal

Several enquiries were made during the year but in most cases plans did not develop or alternate sites were used.

The Village of Houston removed gravel from the stream bed of the Buck river where it passes through their development site. The gravel was removed in off season and used to build up and reinforce the river banks.

#### 4. (e) Logging operations

There are two main logging operations in the area; Bulkley Valley Forest Industries Ltd. and Northern Interior Forest Products Ltd.

It is rumored that Bulkley Valley Forest Industries Ltd. have taken over most of the holdings of Northern Interior Forest Products Ltd., and that Northern Interior Forest Products Ltd. mill at Telkwa will be phased out sometime during 1970.

There are a few small sawmills scattered throughout the area, mostly milling private timber or on contract for the larger companies. The largest of these is the Dielman Planer Co., Ltd., situated in Smithers.

Bulkley Valley Forest Industries Ltd. plan to start operating their new mill early in 1970. To date they are still busy with mill, road and bridge construction.

The mild winter weather has curtailed logging, most operations did not start their winter logging until near the new year. Stock piles of logs are reported to be very low.

#### Area (cut for 1969. (Forestry figures)

<u>Hazelton:</u>	6666 acres,	16660000 cubic feet.
<u>Smithers:</u>	2896 " ,	14602000 " " .
<u>Houston:</u>	1270 " ,	7673000 " " .
<u>Fendleton Bay:</u>	No figures. Cut negligible this year.	

#### 4. (f) Water licence applications.

During the season nineteen water licence applications were processed and inspected, of these one screening inspection was carried out and found satisfactory. One diversion ditch without screening, out of Toboggan lake, was ordered closed.

#### 4. (g) Placer mining applications.

One application, for renewal of lease, for two placer leases that had expired were processed. Two inspections were made of these leases, held by Inlet Explorations Ltd., on Mudflat creek on Bulkley river, no activity was observed.

#### 5. Trends in the Fishing Industry.

Not applicable in this sub-district.

#### 6. Enforcement.

(a) Commercial. N.A.  
Sport. Nil.

#### Indian Food Fishery.

Six violations were prosecuted in the Indian Food Fishery. Five cases resulted in convictions. One case was dismissed. Three convictions for illegal gaffing, one for illegal netting, one for possession of illegal caught fish for sale. One trial case of illegal gaffing was dismissed.

Other. One prosecution for destroying salmon eggs was dismissed.



6. Enforcement. (cont.)

(b) Sport and Indian Food Fishery closures have been complied with throughout the area.

(c) Irregular patrols by local Fishery Officers, area Sport Fishery Officer and patrolmen have held abuses to a minimum. With the anticipated addition of a river boat to the sub-district equipment, more and better patrols to closure areas will further reduce abuses.

7. Predators.

(a) Sea Lions. Nil.

(b) Hair Seals. Nil.

(c) Bears.

Area is abundant with both black and grizzly bear - numbers not determined - There were not any bear destroyed by sub-district Fishery Officers or Patrolmen this year. There is a heavy toll on bear in this area by sportsmen and farmers, which seems to keep the bear population in balance. Fifteen grizzly and fifty black bear were reported taken in the area by sportsmen.

(d) Grayfish. Nil.

(e) Killer Whales. Nil.

(f) Other.

There is a heavy population of predator birds in the area. The past spawning season due to fair water levels, the predation on unspawned fish was light. The predation on fry and eggs by ducks and mergansers appeared to be high.

8. Administration.

(a) Staff.

(1) A.M. Groat      Fishery Officer III  
D.N. Meyers      "      "      II

(11) F.P.L. Babine River

(111) Three patrolmen were used in the area during the season. Stream clearance, Indian Food Fishery and area patrol being their main functions. One Master/Engineer for Patrol boat.

(1v) Staff efficiency was satisfactory with the exception of the seasonal Master/Engineer of the Babine River. This seasonal man after much time and effort spent to correct an unsatisfactory attitude was struck off strength permanently for this sub-district. The patrolman employed seasonal for the Moricetown canyon position was unsatisfactory for this position and was struck off strength permanently for this sub-district. The Morice river and Fort Babine patrolman were very satisfactory.

(b) Equipment.

(1)

- 2- 4 wheel drive vehicles. One 1964 ford pickup.  
One 1967 international panel.
- 1- inboard-outboard patrol launch.
- 1- 14 foot fibreglass speedboat.
- 1- 22 foot, plank, lake work boat.
- 1- 24 foot, Plywood, lake work boat.

(cont. 9.)

8.(b) Equipme. (cont.)

- 1- 12 foot fibreglass dingy.
- 1- 12 foot aluminum car top boat
- 1- 2 wheel boat trailer
- 1- 65 H.P. outboard
- 1- 28 H.P. outboard (written off)
- 3- 40 H.P. outboards(One written off)
- 2- 18 H.P. outboards
- 1- 6 H.P. outboard
- 1- 5½ H.P. outboard

(11) All equipment was used extensively during the season. Due to the years in service, the amount of wear and hours run, the 28 H.P. and 3 40 H.P. outboards just barely sufficed to the end of the season. One 40 H.P. and the 28 H.P. outboard were written off.

(111) 2-40 H.P. outboards to replace the 28 H.P. and the 40 H.P. that were written off.

- 1- 16 or 20 foot aluminum river boat. For river patrol.
- 1- 16 or twenty foot trailer for river boat.
- 1- 4X4 pickup to replace vehicle 64-03.

Two way radio equipment in patrolmens cabins and in vehicles to expedite communications.

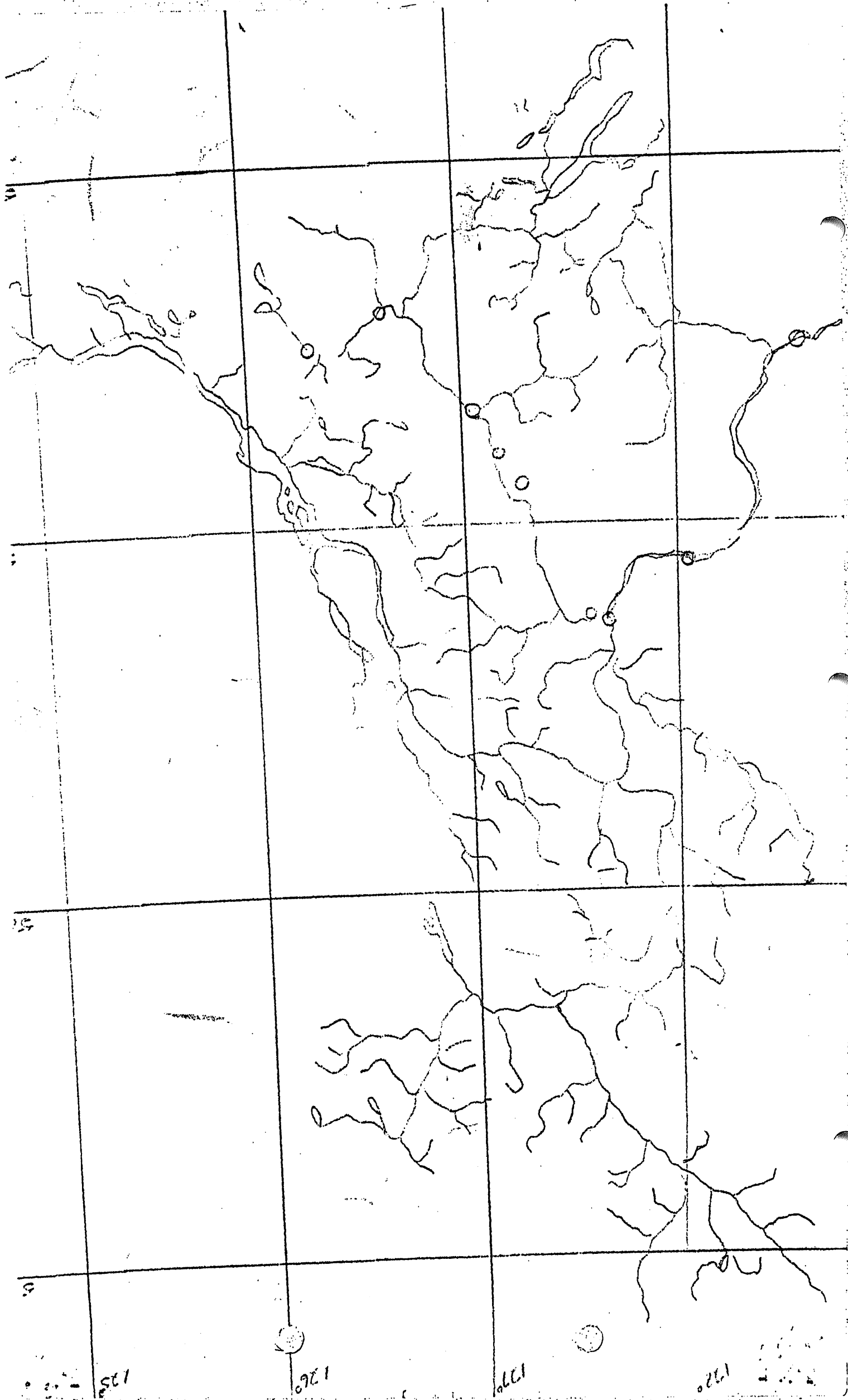
9. Informations, Education and Other Programs.

(a) Many public relation visits were made during the year to industry and other organizations, mainly on pollution education. Community meetings on pollution were attended.

(b) Much aid to school students given on the topics of Fisheries and pollution.

- (c) Many contacts were made and cooperation given to:
- Towncouncils.
  - Health and Welfare.
  - Fish and Game Branch.
  - Department of Public Works.
  - Canadian National Railways.
  - Department of Forestry.
  - Indian Affairs.
  - Government Agent.
  - Department of Transport.
  - Water Board.
  - Hrd.C.
  - A.R.D.A.
  - Fisheries Research Board.
  - Resource Development Branch.

*W. H. Meyers.*  
(for) A.M. Groat  
Fisheries Officer.



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1969

ANNUAL REPORT OF SPORT FISHERY OFFICER

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

DISTRICT #8

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FRC 416146 File 5871-BCI-S, ~~Oct. 11, 1976~~

A. General Description of Area

District #8 includes the watersheds of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine (Canadian) Rivers, and tidal areas 3, 4, and 5. The sport fishery studied this year included only the fresh water fishery as this is where the greatest amount of angling for salmon in district #8 takes place. The largest part of the effort is on the Skeena, but there is a small and fairly successful fishery on the Nass. The fishery on the Stikine was not looked at this year as the river is remote and the fishery is apparently negligible. The Prince Rupert area takes in the Skeena and tributaries below Kwinitza, Kloiyah Creek, and tidal area 4. The Terrace area takes in that part of the Skeena watershed from Kwinitza up to and including the Kispiox River. The Smithers area covers the rest of the Skeena system and the Bulkley system above the Suskwa River.

Fishing pressure in district #8 is increasing each year from both local and tourist anglers. Provincial and private forestry access roads are opening up more and more country to anglers each year and new industry is bringing an increase to local populations. An example of new industry is the pulp mill at Houston on the Morice River which will start production in 1971. Already an increase in population can be seen with construction workers coming to the area, and the number of access roads in this area will also increase. These reasons as well as the improvements on highway 16 and the increasing popularity of the fishery indicate that angling pressure will increase considerably in the next few years.

The following table of local populations is included to indicate where local pressure originates. The table is based on 1967 census reports, and some figures may be slightly adjusted.

Figures include surrounding areas.

Prince Rupert	20,000
Terrace	16,000
Kitamat	12,000
Hazelton	700
Smithers	5,000
Telkwa	800
Burns Lake	1,500
Nass Watershed	5,000 (Stewart - 600)

B. Sport Fish Estimates

1. Fresh Water

Area	Chinooks				Coho	
	under 5 lbs.		over 5 lbs.		jacks	
	1969	1968	1969	1968		
Prince Rupert	56	30	*	0	50	*
Terrace	435	800	1,710	0	1,075	850
Smithers	580	545	2,180	70	585	1,500
Nass	105	180	*	0	250	*

\* No figures available

The table on the following breaks these estimates down to individual angling streams.



Sport Fish Estimates continued

2. Tidal Water - Information from sub-district officers.

1969 Month	Prince Rupert Area 4			Grenville-Principe Area 5			Nass Area 3		
	Chinook	Coho	Catch per Boat Day	Chinook	Coho	Catch per Boat Day	Chinook	Coho	Catch per Boat Day
Feb.	17	0	.37	0	0	-	0	0	-
March	45	0	.25	12	0	1.2	11	0	.33
April	215	0	.61	20	0	2.0	36	0	.30
May	175	0	.45	0	0	-	125	0	.80
June	118	8	.68	0	0	-	20	0	.22
July	140	60	.56	0	0	-	3	0	.15
Aug.	55	95	.25	0	5	2.0	0	0	-
Sept.	12	40	.75	0	15	3.3	0	0	-
Oct.	14	10	.45	0	0	-	0	0	-
Nov.	7	6	.65	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dec.	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Total	798	219	-	32	20	-	195	0	-
68	795	585	-	8	6	-	181	0	-

Area 4 has the largest tidal sport fishery in the district as this is where the main part of the coastal population occurs. The effort is mainly concentrated in the harbour area, Metlakatla Pass, Tuck Inlet, and Fern Pass.

The effort in area 3 occurs mainly in Portland Canal (Stewart area) and Alice Arm.

Most of the angling in area 5 is in Kitkatla Inlet and vicinity by local natives, and Lowe Inlet is fairly popular with transients (mostly American).

C. Effort

Effort for salmon on the Skeena was approximately the same throughout the entire system.

Week	Angler hr. Chinook	Angler hr. Coho	Week	Angler hr. Chinook	Angler hr. Coho
July 6 - 12	50	-	24 - 30	-	27
13 - 19	37	-	31 - Sept. 6	-	25
20 - 26	29	-	7 - 13	-	13
27 - Aug. 2	79	-	14 - 20	-	13
3 - 9	160	-	21 - 27	-	13
10 - 16	High water, little effort.		28 - Oct. 4	-	15
17 - 23	High water, little effort.		5 - 11	-	15
			12 -	Angling for salmon virtually nil.	

D. District #8 Special Regulations

## 1. By Regulation

## a. Closures to Fishing

Morice River between Lamprey Creek and Morice Lake from March 1st. to May 31st.

## b. Closures to Fishing for Salmon

Morice River and its tributaries between Lamprey Creek and Morice Lake from August 15th to May 31st. *Sept 30*

Tseax River, a tributary to the Mass River, upstream from the highway bridge near Spencer Lake from August 1st. to December 31st.

Babine River including Nilkitkwa Lake or tributaries of that river or lake lying between fishing boundary signs placed in the vicinity of Fort Babine at the mouth of the Nilkitkwa River from August 15th to September 20th.

Kitsumkalum River and Kitsumkalum Lake or their tributaries above the lower canyon, which is located immediately north of the mouth of Deep Creek and designated by fishing boundary signs, from August 10th to September 30th.

## c. No Use of Boats when Angling

In ~~the~~ Kispiox River or within one hundred yards of its mouth.

In ~~the~~ Moricetown canyon or within one hundred yards downstream of the canyon.

## d. No use of fish roe or any compound of fish roe and oil while angling

In the Morice or Kispiox Rivers or their tributaries.

## 2. By Notice

## a. Closures to Fishing

Pinkut Creek and Fulton River artificial spawning channels from August 15th until October 15th.

## b. Closures to Fishing for Salmon

Ishkheenickh River from August 1st. to September 15th - for the protection of spawning chinooks.

Kloiyah and Diana Creeks from September 5th to October 12th - for the protection of spawning chinooks.



## E. Narrative - Sport Fishery

### 1. Prince Rupert Area

There are only two fresh water sport fishing locations in the Prince Rupert area utilized. These are Kloiyah and Johnston Creeks. For convenience, that portion of the lower Skeena in this area is included in the Terrace - lower Skeena estimates.

There is only a small fishery on Johnston Creek for chinooks as it is in a fairly remote location. Kloiyah Creek has a fairly large sport fishery with a guardian located here to patrol the fishery and collect data as well as his other related duties. Information from his reports indicates that between June 21 and September 5 (when the closure to protect spawning chinooks took effect) there was a total of 525 angler days on this stream or approximately 2100 hours of angling effort.

Almost 100% of the anglers were from Prince Rupert as this is the only fresh water fishing location within easy reach of Prince Rupert.

### 2. Terrace Area

The major chinook fishery here is located at the mouth and just west of the mouth of the Kalum (Kitsumkalum) River in the Skeena. The large majority of anglers here are American. A good number of them spend the entire season camped at Fisherman's Park just west of Terrace. During the season, which lasted 38 days (chinook run) from July 10th until August 16th, 330 chinooks (over 5 pounds) and 300 (under 5 pounds) were taken from this particular location with 18,500 angler hours to take them.

The rest of the lower Skeena (below Terrace) also produced a fair number of chinooks to anglers but here again the effort per fish taken was very great. The tributaries of the lower Skeena, the Kalum, Lakelse, Zimicord (Zymagotitz), Extew, Exchamsiks, Kasiks, and Gitnadoix Rivers produced almost no chinooks (from the main run) to anglers as the water conditions kept almost 100% of the effort in the Skeena, usually at the mouths of these tributaries. The early run (June) into the Kalum produced a fair number of chinooks to anglers. Most salmon taken from this run are taken from the top-end of the Kalum River and the top-end of Kalum Lake.

The upper Skeena (above Terrace) and tributaries, the Copper (Zymoetz), Kitwanga, and Kispiox Rivers produced a small number of chinooks to anglers, but here again the water conditions and poor weather kept the catch and effort at a low level.

The coho fishery in the Terrace area was also very spasmodic and varied considerably with water conditions. The effort for coho was largely from local anglers, but a fair number were taken by tourist anglers who were drawn to the area by the steelhead fishery. Very few were taken in the Skeena except at the mouths of its tributaries. The effort on the lower Skeena was almost entirely at the mouth of the Exchamsiks River, and in the Gitnadoix and Lakelse Rivers. The Gitnadoix produced a considerable number of coho for a small amount of effort. This river is fairly remote and unknown to most anglers, especially tourist anglers, and the few who did fish here very seldom went home without their limit. The Lakelse River also produced a good number of coho, but here the river is well known and is easily accessible which raised the effort to 13 - 15 hours per coho, and most anglers went home empty handed.

Most of the coho taken in the upper Skeena were taken in the Skeena in the vicinity of the Kitwanga and Bulkley Rivers. The Copper and Kispiox Rivers produced a good number of coho to anglers, but in these rivers most of the effort is directed at the steelhead and any coho taken are incidental.

### 3. Smithers Area

This season the chinook fishery in the Smithers area took place on the Bulkley and Morice Rivers. The greatest amount of pressure on the Bulkley was at Moricetown canyon where approximately 375 of the 450 chinooks (over 5 pounds) from the Bulkley were taken. The guardian who is stationed here enumerates the sport catch in this one important location as part of his duties. The rest of the effort on the Bulkley was at the mouths of its tributaries, the Suskwa, Morice, and Telkwa Rivers and at Trout Creek. There is a small amount of effort scattered along the Bulkley, but very little. The largest effort for chinooks on the Morice River is just below Morice Lake. Anglers camp on the shore of Morice Lake and by boat attain access to the top-end of the river where angling is fairly good. The chinooks are protected in this section of the river by the annual closure to salmon angling from August 15th to September 30th. Most chinooks arrive in the Babine and Milkitkwa Rivers after the annual closure to salmon angling takes

Narrative - Smithers Area continued

effect on August 15th to protect them on the spawning grounds. As a result the only chinooks taken after the closure lifts on September 30th are usually released as they are in very poor condition this late in the season. The few that were taken, and a few were taken in this condition, would be negligible this season.

The effort for coho in the Smithers area occurs in approximately the same locations as the chinook fishery. The Bulkley produces most coho to the anglers, and most of these are taken at Moricetown canyon. Coho angling on the Morice is spread out along the lower portion of the river instead of the top-end as in the chinook fishery. There were a few coho taken in the Babine and Nilkitkwa Rivers after the closure lifted. These few coho are taken mostly by local anglers as the major tourist fishery in this area at this time of year is for steelhead. The top of the Copper River is accessible from Smithers and is utilized by a few locals who take a few coho in the fall. There is a fishery on the Sustut River by tourist anglers from a lodge on Bear Lake. No information is available on this fishery, but records indicate this is a major chinook spawning area on the Skeena system.

There are a few local anglers that fish the Salmon (Shegunia) River and a small number of chinooks and coho are taken here. There was approximately 50 angler days in this area for the season.

4. Nass Area

The sport fishery in the Nass watershed is becoming more popular to anglers each year as the pressure builds up on more accessible areas such as the Skeena. A large amount of pressure comes from the local logging camp populations as this is one of the few recreational activities available to them. The most popular and well known river in the area is the Ishkheenickh. This river also attracts a good number of tourist anglers and produces chinook salmon with considerably less effort than on the Skeena system. There was a closure on the Ishkheenickh from August 1st. to September 15th to protect the chinooks while they are spawning. The Tseax River is also closed from the highway bridge up from August 1st. to December 31st. for protection of coho and chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. Even with the closure on the Tseax a good number of salmon are taken below the highway bridge. The Kiteen and Cranberry Rivers are popular with local anglers, and later in the fall hunters stop here to fish for coho. The Meziadin River is inaccessible to most anglers except the local population of Stewart. It appears that hours of effort per salmon in this location is considerably less than in any other location in district #8. A bridge will be built over the Nass River in the near future which will make the area readily accessible to all anglers. This new bridge will greatly increase the pressure from locals, and sport reports on local radio stations in Terrace will inform the tourist anglers of this new development.

In general, the effort in the Nass area was less than elsewhere in the district, but the catch per effort made was greater.

5. General

The weather conditions in district #8 this season were exceptionally poor and this has had a very noticeable effect on angler success. When the water in the Skeena and tributaries was high and turbid the success of the anglers dropped and as a result the number of anglers dropped. The largest chinook taken by an angler this year was 68½ pounds. The average weight of the chinooks (over 5 pounds) this year was approximately 50 pounds.

There is a growing rivalry between local and tourist anglers for preferred fishing locations. The number of tourist anglers has increased greatly each year for the last few years and is expected to increase again next season. The biggest problem seems to be the increasing number of power boats concentrated in the Terrace area which prevents shore angling in a number of preferred locations. At the peak of the chinook fishery this season, there were 45 power boats concentrated on the Skeena River just west of the mouth of the Kalum River.

F. Gear

Throughout the district the method of angling for chinook salmon was (almost 100%) by the use of artificial lures. Most of the anglers used the lures for spin casting, but occasionally an angler would keep his rod in a fixed position and allow the lure to flash freely in the fast water. The most popular lures used (the most successful lures) were the "KIT-A-MAT" and "SPIN-N-GLOW". The anglers that fished with bait, usually roe, had little success catching the larger chinooks, but were very successful in catching jack chinooks and trout.

Angling for coho in the Skeena was usually with bait(roe) as the water was high and turbid most of the summer. Spin casting with artificial lures was successful in the Skeena at the mouths of its tributaries and in these tributaries where the water was less turbid. Popular lures for the coho were again the "KIT-A-MAT" and "SPIN-N-GLOW" , and also the "TEE SPOON" and the "KROCODILE".

The "KIT-A-MAT" and "KROCODILE" are simple flasher type lures which trail a treble hook. The colors of the "KROCODILE" varied considerably, but the color of the "KIT-A-MAT" was almost always fluorescent red with silver. The "SPIN-N-GLOW" is a simple fluorescent red or green (or both) oval ball which is spun in the water by white, plastic wings. The "TEE SPOON" is fairly common and well known, it consists of a treble hook, a series of golf toes and a flasher.

The larger chinook salmon seem to have little trouble breaking the hooks and eyes of these lures, and as a result more anglers are replacing factory hooks and eyes on the lures with heavy-duty type hooks and eyes. The chinooks have little or no chance of breaking these reinforced lures.

G. Administration

1. Staff

The sport fish officer, M.J. Lemmen (T.I.R.L.), comes under direct supervision of district protection officer J.W. Connor.

Co-operation with the sub-district officers throughout the district is essential as these particular officers are in their areas all season and the sport fish officer is not. Co-operation with Provincial Fish and Wildlife has also been found to be of value to the sport fish officer.

2. Equipment

Vehicle #69-104	satisfactory
14 foot Smokercraft (speedboat)	satisfactory
Boat trailer	satisfactory
Binoculars (7 X 50)	satisfactory

A 20 H.P. motor and a 5 gallon fuel tank were borrowed from Area 4 as no motor was supplied for this position this year.

H. Recommendations

District 8 covers a large area, and a great amount of the sport fish officer's time is spent travelling from one location to another and therefore any information gathered is scattered and can only be presented as estimates. It would be little effort for each guardian and fishery officer in the district to mark down on paper a useful, consistant type of information regarding the sport fishery, as these guardians and officers are generally in contact with anglers each day. To keep this information useful and consistant a simple form can be used such as sheet #1 (following page) for individual interviews and sheet #2 (2nd page following) for weekly estimates on their streams. Possibly a small booklet type form can be drafted up for this purpose or perhaps a type of creel card could be used. This would be of great benefit in areas where there is only a small and scattered fishery, as the amount of time the sport fish officer can spend in this type of area is almost nil. This would free the sport fish officer to spend more time in concentrated and problem areas, and in areas where there are no guardians. He would also have more time to spend on the law enforcement side of the sport fishery. The sport fish officer could contact each sub-district officer once a week to obtain his guardian's information or when this is not possible he could obtain the information from the sheets which could be attached to the guardian's reports each week. The collected information could then be presented in his own weekly report as a fairly accurate and consistant type of information.

The extra load on the guardians could be coupled with extra vehicle milage in areas where it would be required to carry out the extra work. This extra milage would possibly aid them in their regular work also. For example, in Hazelton the guardian covers the Kitwanga area on his regular patrols. There is a considerable fishery at Kitwanga but it is very spasmodic and special trips in by the sport fish officer generally produce very little. The guardian at Hazelton is in a position to know what is going on here and cover this fishery as well as his other duties, but he lacks sufficient vehicle milage to make enough trips to this area. This system would also work very well in the Mass arca as the fishery here is also very spasmodic and spread out.

With the greatly increasing number of anglers to the north country a system such as just outlined should be initiated as the district does cover a large area, and accurate information will be required to manage this fishery.

There seems to be a general feeling among the local anglers, sub-district officers, and provincial conservation officers in this district that some sort of an enforceable tag system be initiated for the protection of salmon. There is no means at this time of determining how many spring salmon any one person takes, asonce the salmon is canned or disposed of in some other manner there is no means to account for them. A reasonable restriction should be put on a maximum number of salmon taken from fresh water by any one person.

There is a problem with the killing of pink salmon on the Lakelse River for roe. As suggested by F.O. Bogart, a ban on the use of roe should be initiated on this river during the pink salmon run.

The chinook fishery on the Sustut River should be looked at in the future as this fishery, although remote, is located in an important chinook spawning area.

*Bear Lake  
Johnson*



SHEET #2

Weekly Estimates of SPORT CAUGHT FISH

CONSERVATION DISTRICT #8  
FRESH WATER

WEEK OF: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA	SPRINGS	COHO	OTHER	Estimated #anglers/day	Ave. hrs./day
1. <u>Area 4 Kloyiah</u>					
Johnston					
2. <u>Terrace Lower Skeena</u>					
Upper, Skeena					
Kalum					
Lakelse					
Copper					
Zimicord					
Extew					
Exchamsiks					
Kasiks					
Gitnadoix					
Kitwanga					
Kispiox.					
3. <u>Smithers Bulkley</u>					
Morice					
Telkwa					
Babine					
Suskwa					
Sustut (Bear)					
4. <u>Nass Ishkheenickh</u>					
Tseax					
Katine					
Cranberry					
Meziadin					
Seaskinnish					