

1) General Description of Sub-District.

The Babine-Norice Sub-district consists of: The Skeena river watershed above the confluence of the Skeena and Babine rivers. The Babine river watershed upstream from Alegegas. The Bulkley river watershed upstream from and including Trout creek.

The Sub-district also looks after the salmon enumeration and stream clearance of the upper Copper river, under the guidance of the Terrace-Lakelse Sub-district, as it resides in their bailiwick.

The Sub-district serves, the towns of Smithers, Telkwa, Quich, Houston, Topley, Topley Landing, Granisle, surrounding rural areas and Native communities, with a population of approximately 30,000 people.

2) Fisheries.

(a) Commercial Fisheries (R. Leamont 1979 report.)

The Jack Fishery, carried out by the Babine Lake Indian Band, started on August 15 and ended on August 30, with a total of 22,379 jack sockeye being taken and delivered to McMillan Fishing Company, of Prince Rupert, B.C.

(b) Sport Fisheries. (Tidal Waters) Nil.

Sport Fisheries. (Non-tidal waters)

(1) Bulkley-Norice:	260	coho	, 73	spring,	70	jk	spring,	94	st'nd.
Babine river:	63	"	12	"	0	"	"	30	"
Totals:	323	"	90	"	70	"	"	174	"

(figures from Guardian reports and talks with Fish and Game personnel and Fishing Camp operators.)

(ii) Closures by regulation.

- Upper Norice river
- Upper Bulkley river
- Upper Sustut and Bear rivers.
- Upper Babine river.

(iii) Gear and other restrictions remain the same.

(c) Indian Food Fishery

Catch by pieces.

Year	Place		Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Spring	St'nd	Total
1979	Babine Lake		21,500	75	120	0	0	21,695
1978	"	"	10,920	15	152	3	1	11,091
1977	"	"	10,777	50	100	20	10	10,957
1976	"	"	11,095	1	13	0	0	11,109
1975	"	"	6,170	65	50	15	0	10,839

Individual licenses were issued to the members of the Lake Babine band by Band councils.

3) Spawning Summary

(1) Salmon

Salmon Escapements to the Babine system as counted through the Babine Counting Weir (R. Leamont 1979 report).

The fence panels were installed on July 1, the run started on July 4, and terminated on October 23. The panels were removed on October 30 and 31. During this period the counts were as follows: (cont.2)

B) Spawning Summary (cont.)

Sockeye	1,160,966	large	90,498	jacks (including jack harvest
Coho	2,909			
Pink	63,703			
Chum	0			
Chinook	822	large	404	jacks
Steelhead	109			

18 female chinook were stripped for the Kulton hatchery.
24 mixed chinook died while holding for the egg take.

(2) Spawning by area.

Sockeye:	Babine watershed:	1,160,966		
	Upper Skeena:	4,300		
	Bulkley-Morice:	1,650		
	Upper Copper river:	1,100	Total	<u>1,168,016</u>
Coho:	Babine	2,909		
	Upper Skeena	500		
	Bulkley-Morice	750		
	Upper Copper river	250	"	<u>4,409</u>
Pink:	Babine	63,703		
	Upper Skeena	1,500		
	Bulkley-Morice	5,800	"	<u>71,003</u>
Chinook:	Babine	822		
	Upper Skeena	3,000		
	Bulkley-Morice	4,675	"	<u>8,497</u>

(3) Weather Conditions and Water Levels

Snow fall, as recorded at Smithers Airport, was only 203.2 cm, for the winter of 1978-79. Water levels, in most streams and lakes, were low. Temperatures during the season remained low. The highest temperature recorded was 24 degrees C, in August. Winter temperatures were moderate, with the coldest recorded in January, of -18.4 C. There were 5 frost free months during 1979, and 243.6 mm of rain.

January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1978 record of, rain and snow-falls, and temperatures at Smithers Airport.

Month	Rain (mm)	Snow (cm)	Water content (mm)	Temperatures		
				High	Low	Average
Jan.	tr	57.2	35.0	- 9.6	-18.4	-11.0
Feb.	3.8	55.6	41.5	- 5.7	-13.5	- 9.6
Mar.	7.9	8.5	11.3	7.9	- 3.4	1.9
April	0.6	13.1	10.7	11.5	- 0.9	5.3
May	56.7	--	56.7	13.6	3.4	4.5
June	23.0	--	23.0	17.7	5.7	11.7
July	45.8	--	45.8	23.1	9.3	16.2
Aug.	32.8	--	32.8	24.0	8.8	16.4
Sept.	57.9	--	57.9	15.3	5.7	10.5
Oct.		Not available				
Nov.	6.0	1.0	7.0	1.9	- 4.2	- 1.2
Dec.	9.1	48.6	43.5	- 0.8	- 8.6	- 4.7

(4) Fry salvage - "11.

(5) Herring - Not applicable.

4) Environment, Multiple water use

(a) Pollution

There were no major pollution problems in the area during the season. There were not any charges laid during the year. Warning, and much attention was given to the Equity Silver Mining road and the construction of the gas pipeline to this mine. The B.V. Cement plant on Ungate creek erupted several times, and much time by Guardians, P.O.'s, District and Headquarters staff was expended to bring it under control. Limbs on log booms took several inspections, chip cars are still coming through without nets, mines are increasing their effluent towns are making more sewage, farmers, B.C. Hydro, Municipalities, Departments of Highways and railroads all want to use herbicides, but no major problems - unless you total the lot.

Feeny creek is still silting Toboggan creek after every heavy rain. Water rights branch - now in the Ministry of Environment, have plans that may lesson the problem.

(b) Industrial Development.

Equity Silver Mines Ltd. - Houston, B.C. Should be in production in 1980.

Bell Copper Mines (Noranda) Babine Lake, have taken over Granisle Copper Ltd.

Eurocan Ltd. Sawmill at Houston, B.C. in full production.

Pacific Inland Resources Ltd. (West Fraser Ltd.) Salthers, B.C. remodelled sawmill, in full production.

Groot Sawmill Ltd. Salthers, B.C. remodelled sawmill - in full production. Plans to build a particle board plant in 1980, will use waste products from their own and other mills in the area.

Northwood Pulp & Paper Ltd., Houston, B.C. In full production. bridge across Horice river almost finished.

Kitseguola Sawmill - will move their operation to Tatlow road in 1980, onto the former Link Sawmill site.

Babine Forest Products Ltd., Burns Lake, B.C. - have vast holdings on Babine Lake.

The trend seems to be going back to more small private sawmills. There is talk of several wanting to start up in the area.

The Ski Club, in conjunction with the Town of Salthers have plans to build a multi-dollar gondola ski-lift, and ski-run, on the town side of Hudson bay mountain.

There is still talk of a vegetable processing plant to be built in the Salthers area.

Industrial and Residential construction has been heavy throughout the district.

Interest in trout farms is increasing, several applications have been processed during the year.

Talk of commencing the Azano II project has united most peoples of the area. They are indicating a strong concern against all subversive actions and legislations.

(c) Obstructions and Diversions

Debris and log jams removed in upper Bulkley river, on S.P. contract. Stream clearance and trail making was carried out by the "Mitimivic" group on Silvern creek and Passby creek.

Beaver dam removal was carried out on the upper Bulkley river, Tahlo creek and Morrison creek and Cathlyn creek. Beaver dam clipping was carried out on these same creeks. Clipping program needed to work for the water levels of this year, and may be an economical way of passing fish over beaver dams.

The Steelhead Society carried out a project on Tobe an creek, S.M.P. funded, of reverse pads and boulder placement.

(d) Gravel Removal - Non approved.

(e) Forestry - Still rampant in area, cut was approximately 50% in blow down and most of the balance in bug kill areas.

(f) Water licenses: 1979 - 2nd applications.

(g) Placer Mining - Nil - One application objected to.

The Ministry of Mines have indicated that they expect a rush of staking on gold bearing streams during the coming year.

5) Trends in the fishing industry - Nil.

6) Enforcement

(a) (1) Commercial - Nil.

(2) Sport - Nil.

(3) Other - One case of illegal possession resulted in a small fine.

- One R.C.M.P. case of illegal possession was acquitted.

(b) Trends re closed seasons - Nil.

(c) Recommendations - Continue with closures in force, with the changed dates and wording as requested on the Porice and Sabine rivers.

7) Pedators

(a) Sea lions - Nil.

(b) Hair seals - Nil.

(c) Bear - Black and grizzly numerous with a slight increase in black bear over last season.

(d) Grey Sian - Nil.

(e) Killerwhales - Nil.

(f) Other - Garganser and wolves - slight increase.

8) Administration

(a) Staff

(1) Fishery Officers.

T. Turnbull P.O.3

D.A. Meyers P.O.2

(2) Wardens

A. Klopfenstein

(3) Guardians

Bulkley-Morice - H.C. Scott

Donalds Landing - Short this year

Fort Sabine - Short this year

Recommendations:

Donalds Landing and Fort Sabine guardians to patrol together for safety sake, to stay in the same camps and to be utilized over a period of 5 months. Possible man & wife team.

Bulkley-Morice Guardian to be utilized over a period of 5 months.

(b) Equipment

- 1 - 4X4 vehicle 1975 Blazer needs replacement
- 1 - Inboard-outboard Patrol launch. "
- 1 - 24' plywood lake work boat
- 1 - 18' aluminum river boat
- 1 - 2 wheel boat trailer
- 2 - 50 H.P. Mercury outboards with jet attachments
- 1 - 40 H.P. Mercury outboard
- 1 - 20 H.P. " "
- 2-18 H.P. Johnson "
- 2 - 5 1/2 " "
- 3 power chain saws
- 1 - 30-06 rifles - Parker and Hale
- 2 - .357 magnum hand guns

9) Information, Education & Other Programs

Brochur, information and program discussions with school board secretary.

Liaison with Rod & Gun Club and Steelhead Society.

Close working relationship with all other Departments in the area

(for) Fishery Officer 1/3