

12-4  
 Smithers, B.C.  
 May 24, 1979

Annual Narrative Babine - Morice Sub-District, 1978

1) General Discription of Sub-District

Same as 1975 narrative except that the area from Moricetown Canyon to Hazelton, to Kisgegas, to starting point of Moricetown Canyon is now in the Terrace Sub-district.

2) Fisheries

(1) Commercial -- nil

(2) Sport Fisheries -- nil (Tidal Waters)

(3) Sport Fisheries -- (Non Tidal Waters)

(a) Provincial Licences sold in area by Fish & Game

	<u>Non Res</u>	<u>Can Res</u>	<u>short term</u>	<u>Can Res</u>	<u>st'hd</u>	<u>Non Res</u>	<u>st'hd</u>
1978-	384	2361	231	2360		299	
1977-	365	1663	240	573		312	
1976-	514	3291	218	979		411	
1975-	442	2185	172	543		345	
1974-	518	2628	248	-		-	

Can Sr. Citizen

1978-	268
1977-	53
1976-	153
1975-	83
1974-	-

(b) Estimated Sport Catch

	<u>Cohoe</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Jack Spring</u>	<u>St'hd</u>
1978-	540	160	50	148
1977-	301	168	90	137
1976-	214	32	35	141
1975-	121	366	45	145
1974-	362	505	175	516
1973-	1390	810	430	1150
1972-	1541	900	470	1280

(c) Closures by Regulations

Upper Morice River above Lampray Cr. - closed by Regs.

Upper Bulkley - closed by Regs.

Upper Sustest and Bear Rivers - closed by Regs.

Upper Babine River - closed by notice.

(d) Gear and other Restrictions  
Same as 1975 report.

### 3) Indian Food Catch and Fishery

Year	Place	Sockeye	Cohoe	Pink	Spring	St'nd	Total
1978	Sabine Lake	10,920	15	152	3	1	11,09
1977	" "	10,777	50	10	20	10	10,95
1976	" "	11,095	1	13	0	0	11,10
1975	" "	6,170	65	50	15	0	6,30
1974	" "	10,819	50	10	10	0	10,88

Individual licences were issued to the Lake Sabine Bands by Band Council.

This years commercial jack harvest, carried out by the Sabine Lake Indian Band, started on August 4, 1978 and terminated on August 20, 1978. With a total of 48,273 jacks being caught and delivered to successful bidder, McMillan Fishing Company of Prince Rupert, B.C. (R. Leamont 1978 report)

Of the 10,920 sockeye taken in the I.F.F. on Sabine Lake 4040 were taken at Fort Sabine, 600 at Donald's Landing, 1000 at Topley Landing and 230 at Sabine Portage.

Closures by notice for I.F.F. applies to the closure at the counting weir on Sabine River, 1 mile above the weir to 1/2 mile below the weir for the conservation of spring salmon.

### 4) Spawning Summary (R. Leamont 1978 report)

- (1) Salmon Escapements to Sabine River and Lake as counted through the Sabine Counting Weir. The fence panels were installed on July 10th and 11th, being operational on July 11th, 1979, on which date 159 sockeye were counted through. On July 14 the run started in significant numbers as follows:
- Sockeye -- 401,318 Large 295,274 jacks (including jack harvest)
  - Coho -- 11,445
  - Pink -- 177,700 plus estimated 15,000 below weir
  - Chum -- 3
  - Spring -- 492 large (including 26 females for Fulton egg take and 12 spawners below weir)
  - Steelhead -- 23

This is the fourth year spring Salmon have been stripped and taken to Fulton incubation boxes. 26 females were used for an estimated 150,000 eggs.

### (2) Spawning Survey

Sockeye: Fulton River and Channels 140,000 Large and 95,000 jacks (Fulton River personnel)

Pinkut Creek and Channels - 27,964 large and  
43,769 jacks (Pinkut Channel personnel)  
The Upper and Lower Babine rivers - 43,810  
large 32,915 to Upper Babine River from outlet  
to Nilkitkwa Lake to Forestry road bridge.  
(R. Leamont tag recovery)

Babine Lake Spawners - an wstimated 152,643  
sockeye either spawned in the Lake, or are  
unaccounted for, die to low warm water in the  
minor streams.

Other Babine Streams - The balance 36,901 of  
sockeye entering Babine Lake were distributed  
among the minor tributories of Babine Lake.

Bear Lake, River and Tributaries - 1,550 sockeye

Naniba River - 500 sockeye

Upper Copper River - 700 sockeye

Asitka - 300 sockeye

Atna - 200 sockeye

Bulkely River - 50 sockeye

Morice Lake - 50 sockeye

Slangeesh River 4800 sockeye.

Total - 409,468

Cohoe -- Babine Lake - 11,446 fence count to Oct.9,1978

Upper Copper River - 1,500

Upper Bulkley River - 1,200

Buck Creek - 200

Findlay Creek - 250

Kathlyn Creek 350

Moosevale Creek - 75

Morice River - 3,000

Slangeesh River - 4,800

Taboggan Creek - 800

Total - 23,621

Pink --- Babine Lake and River - 192,708 fence count and est.

Morice River - 200

Lower Bulkley River - 300

Kathlyn Creek - 150

Toboggan Creek - 162

Total - 192,520

Chinook - Babine River - 492 and 1111 jacks

Bear River - 3,500

Morice River 6,000

Nanika River - 50

Sustut River - 150

Upper Bulkley River - 400

Jehansen - 100

Lower Bulkley River - 500

Slangeesh River - 300

Total - 11,492

(3) Weather conditions and water levels:

Once again snow fall was below average for the winter  
of 1977-78 only 161.0 cm of snow was recorded at the  
Smithers Airport. Water levels in most of the area  
streams and Babine Lake were extremely low.

Temperatures remained low with the highest temperature in July of 24.3°C. However there were six (6) frost free months during 1978 which is believed to be a record as it is normal to have frost each month of the year in Smithers. In late October and early November heavy rains covered the area bringing some rivers to flood conditions, however there was major damage to only the Telkwa River, road and bridge, and light damage to a few minor streams.

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rain (mm)</u>	<u>Snow (cm)</u>	<u>Water Content (mm)</u>
Jan.	0.4	18.4	14.0
Feb.	8.9	19.0	21.4
Mar.	8.1	4.8	11.7
Apr.	13.5	7.0	25.5
May	24.4	0.2	24.6
Jun.	25.0	0.0	25.0
July	20.0	0.0	20.0
Aug.	94.2	0.0	94.2
Sept	48.6	0.0	48.6
Oct.	73.1	5.3	79.9
Nov.	47.1	43.2	87.1
Dec.	1.9	39.8	34.2

<u>Temperatures °C</u>			
<u>Months</u>	<u>Highs</u>	<u>Lows</u>	<u>Average</u>
Jan.	-7.1	-13.5	-10.5
Feb.	0.2	-9.5	-4.7
Mar.	4.5	-5.8	-0.7
Apr.	10.5	-0.2	5.2
May	14.3	2.2	8.3
June	21.7	6.7	14.2
July	24.3	8.9	16.6
Aug.	20.3	9.0	14.7
Sept	14.7	3.7	9.2
Oct.	10.4	1.3	5.9
Nov.	-0.7	-8.3	-4.5
Dec.	-4.2	-12.3	-8.3

Fry Salvo --

Very little required in the area, except in years of extreme flooding.

Herring -- nil

#### 4) Environment and Multiple Water Use

(a) Pollution

(a) Pollution -- There were no major pollution problems in the area during the season, on one case of a landowner causing pollution by working in a creek with a bulldozer, charges were laid, but at the time of this report the defendant had become deceased.

(b) Industrial Development --  
 Equity Mining Capital Ltd. -- Property at Sam Gossly Lake. Rumored to be getting ready to go into production this year. Subsidiary of Placer Development Ltd. (controlled by Noranda Mining Corporation)  
 Eurocan Ltd. -- Sawmill at Houston in full production.  
 Pacific Inland Resources -- Subsidiary of West Fraser Ltd. in full production at Smithers.  
 Groot Sawmill -- Some changes over the year but in full production at Smithers, B.C.  
 Northwood Pulp & Paper Ltd. -- at Houston B.C. in full production plan to put a new bridge across the Morice River some 6 miles below Morice Lake, above the Gosnell River.  
 Noranda & Granisle Copper Mines in full production.  
 Kitsequecla Sawmill -- a small mill on Kitsequecla road cuts for local supply.

(c) Obstructions and Diversions --  
 Obstruction removal list attached.

Debris, beaver dams and log jams removal was extensively carried out on Baucher Creek - 5 Mile Creek 9 mile creek, Morrison River and Sutherland River, on Babine Lake and on Kathlyn Creek, Toboggan Creek, Silvern Creek and the Bulkley River in the Bulkley-Morice area. These projects were carried out by contract crews through the S.E.P.

(d) Gravel Removal -- nil

(e) Area Forestry Cut --  
 as reported by Smithers and Houston Forestry Service

Smithers -- Hectors cut - 2492 C units 221,681  
 Houston -- Hectors cut 2092 C units 625,629

(f) Water license applications  
 1978 - 17  
 1977 - 21

(g) Placer Mining - nil

5) Trends in the Fishing Industry

nil

6) Enforcement

- (a) Commercial -- nil
- Sport -- nil
- Indian Food Fishery -- nil
- Other -- one case of Landowner using a bull-dozer in creek. Case subsequently dropped due to death of defendant.
- (b) Trends Re Closed seasons -- nil
- Indian Food Fishery Closures -- same as 1977
- Sport Fishery Closures -- same as 1977
- (c) Recommendations -- continue with closures in force.

7) Predators

- (a) Sea Lions -- nil
- (b) Hair Seals -- nil
- (c) Bear -- black and grizzly numerous throughout area.  
Bear Killed. Grizzly 7. Black 26. (Fish & Game estimate based on 1977 sample.)
- (d) Grey Fish -- nil
- (e) Killerwhales -- nil
- (f) Other -- nil

8) Administration

## (a) Staff

- (1) Fisheries Officers--
  - A. M. Groat F.O.3
  - D.W. Meyers F.O.2
- (2) F.P.L. Sabine River--
  - Protection vessel assigned to Sabine Lake staffed by Donalds Landing Fisheries Guardian and Fisheries Officers.
- (3) Guardians
  - Donalds Landing -- A. Klopfenstein
  - Fort Sabine -- J. Cross
  - Upper Bulkley-Lorice -- H. Scott
- (4) All Guardian positions satisfactorily filled.

## Recommendations for 1978

Donalds Landing 7 months  
 Fort Sabine 4 months  
 Bulkley - Lorice 5 months

## (o) Equipment

- (1) 2 - 4 wheel drive vehicles: one 1977 Ford, one 1975 Blazer
- 1 - inboard outboard patrol launch

## (b) Equipment (cont.)

## (1) continued

- 1-24' plywood lakework boat
- 1 - 12' aluminum car top boat
- 2 - 18' aluminum river boats (Smokercraft)
- 3 - 2 wheel boat trailers (1 - tee nee 2 - Ezy loader)
- 1 - 65 H.P. Mercury outboards, with jet attachments
- 2 - 50 H.P. Mercury outboards, with jet attachments
- 1 - 40 H.P. Mercury outboard
- 1 - 20 H.P. Mercury outboard
- 2 - 18 H.P. Johnson outboard
- 1 - 6 H.P. Johnson outboard
- 2 - 5½ H.P. Johnson outboard
- 6 - power chain saws
- 1 - ATU Terra Jet
- 2 - 30-06 rifles
- 2 - .357 magnum hand guns

(2) Equipment extensively used during season.

9) Information, Education and other programs.

Same as 1977.

Slide presentations "B.C. Canned Salmon" and "River of Return" shown at Fort Babine and at schools and Rod & Gun Club.

A.M. Groat  
Fisheries Officer

Obstructions 197 Removal List

Date	Place	Obstruction	Crew	Time	Cost
June	Sabine Lake	dams, beaver dams and log jams	contract	3 mnth	\$ 20,000.00
July 13	Twain Creek	log jam	A. Kloppenstein	4 hrs.	25.00
July 15	Pierre Creek	log jam	A. Kloppenstein	4 hrs.	25.00
July 20	Sutherland River	log jam	A. Kloppenstein	3 hrs.	75.00
July 25	Upper Bulkley R.	beaver dam	H. Scott	2 hrs.	10.00
July 26	Upper Bulkley R.	beaver dam	H. Scott	2 hrs.	10.00
July 28	Tackek Creek	beaver dam	A. Kloppenstein	2 hrs.	10.00
Aug. 6	Upper Bulkley R.	beaver dam	H. Scott	3 hrs.	15.00
Aug. 10	Upper Bulkley R.	beaver dam	H. Scott	3 hrs.	15.00
Aug. 20	Upper Bulkley R. (Topley)	beaver dam	H. Scott	4 hrs.	20.00
Sept 15	Upper Bulkley R.	beaver dam	H. Scott	4 hrs.	20.00
Sept 24	Upper Bulkley R.	log dam beaver	contract	1 mnth	6,000.00
Sept 24	Toboggan Creek- Kathleen	beaver dam	contract	1 mnth	6,000.00
Sept 24	Sutherland River	log jams	contract	1 mnth	6,000.00