

Bayleton Sub-District Food-Fishing Report (1979)

Although communications have finally been established with the Nitsoan-Carrier Tribal Council, some concerns have arisen from monitoring the 1979 Indian Food Fishing in this area. All concerns stem from the Blanket Food-Fishing License issued for all the Bands in the Bayleton area, i.e. a blanket license covering Bayleton, Moricetown, Kispino, Ketsigabla, Helen Jewell, Kaguilyet and Pitouanga.

1) Enforcement

- Section 29 of the British Columbia Fishing Act regulations totally unenforceable as this section is based on individual licenses. Although a sincere attempt was made to work closely with the Tribal Council in regards to informing them of law-breakers instead of using the court system successfully, tied the Department to hands of stopping, searching and selling of fish caught under the guise of the Food Fishing. I believe that the Tribal Council now fully understands the difficult task of curbing the illegal sale of fish under the 1979 Food Fishing License and only time will tell if they are willing to admit it to the Department. Under it 1979 system we have only succeeded to penalize the majority of honest people in the food fishery.

2) Moricetown Fishery

- Duffing during the Pink migration was rather short of criminal. Numerous days were spent in the area of the fishing and Pink wastage was observed on each occasion. There was even rumors that for a mere fee of \$5.00 a tourist could get a gaffing lesson and buy any fish caught. This was never actually observed, by now the problem of wastage was discussed with the Tribal Council but never solved. Closure by Public Notice could not be implemented without approval by the Department and Tribal Council. Paper equipment for Pinks on the Skena and fishing systems were needed for 1979.

3) Tributaries

The Blanket Licence also opened the tributaries for food fishing in 1979. No nets were observed in the tributaries but such a plan should not be implemented again until stocks can withstand the extra fishing pressure.

4) Blanket Food Fishing Licence

- There is really not much to say about this system other than to repeat what the Courts have stated, and that is bewilderment as to why the Department would go to such complicated and illegal documents when Section 29 is so simple and easy to understand. The system used in the Terrace area is even simpler and has also been accepted by the Courts.

5) Nanika River Sockeye

- all that could be obtained is the escapement for 1979 of 850 and decreasing yearly.

6) 1979 Food Fish Catch Figures

75,000 - 2000 - 6000 - 50 - 2500 - 500

These figures are based on previous years catch figures taken from Annual Reports. The Tribal Council will not release their catch figures and are probably no more accurate than the Department's due to the fact their study area only encompassed the immediate Hazelton area.