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ANNUAL NARRATIVE, BABINE\*MORICE S/D, 1976.

1. General Description of S/D.

Refer 1975 annual narrative.

2. Fisheries.

- (1) Commercial Fisheries - Nil.
- (2) Sport Fisheries (Tidal waters) - Nil.
- (3) Sport Fisheries (Non-tidal waters)

a. Provincial angling licences sold in S/D by Fish & Game.

Year	Canadian	Non-Can.	Non-Can short term	St'hd Res.	Non-Res.	Sen.	Cit.
1976	3291	514	218	979	411	153	
1975	2185	442	172	543	345	83	
1974	2628	518	248				
1973	3300	590	400				
1972	3004	535	364				

b. Estimated Sport Catch.

Year	Cohoe	Spring	Jack spring	St'hd.
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

The 1976 non-tidal sport fishery was again unfavorable due to high water conditions which prevailed to the end of August.

c. Closures by Regulations;

No change, refer to 1975 report.

Closures by notice;

No change, refer to 1975 report.

d. Gear and other restrictions;

No change, refer to 1975 report.

(4). Indian food catch and fishery.

Year	Place	Sock.	Cohoe	Pink	Spring	Jacks	St'hd	Total
1976	Babine lake	11,095	1	13	0	0	0	18161
1975	" "	6,170	65	50	15	0	0	6300
1974	" "	10,819	50	10	10	0	0	10889
1973	" "	17,015	10	500	0	1,600	0	19125
1972	" "	17,234	50	0	25	0	200	17309
1976	Moricetown	39	529	22	88		205	883
1975	" "	59	226	47	826	0	53	1211
1974	" "	322	181	39	581	0	101	1224
1973	" "	67	401	11	303	0	92	874
1972	" "	702	482	215	683	0	228	2082

It is proposed to phase out band permits and issue only individual I.F.F. permits this year.

Again this year a special food fishery was allowed at the Babine counting wier. A total of 67 families took a total of: 7,062 sockeye, 156 jack sockeye, 1 coho and 13 pink salmon.

Month	M/M	C/M	M/M	H. G. A.
Jan.	6.3	42.7	47.4	3.5 -30.6 -8.5
Feb.	7.3	21.2	25.6	7.6 -11.3 -0.3
Mar.	4.2	30.2	31.7	7.6 -13.6 -0.3
April	20.5	1.4	21.9	24.2 -5.7 6.3
May	33.2	4	33.2	20.7 -2.6 8.8
June	30.2	-	30.2	27.4 0.2 12.9
July	66.0	-	66.0	30.0 3.0 14.5
Aug.	47.7	-	47.7	33.8 2.7 17.0
Sept.	64.2	-	64.2	20.2 -0.2 9.1
Oct.	42.7	6.2	48.5	14.4 -2.1 4.5
Nov.	11.7	52.2	53.3	10.6 -23.9 -4.9
Dec.	4	63.2	34.5	4.5 -32.7 -14.3

Under covering

Place	Acres cut	Value
Smithers	4186	110,510 cu
Newton	6553	406,500 cu
Hazelton	2860	209,260 cu

10 S.M. Hazelton  
25 S.M. Newton

45 Black hunter Sky others  
farmers etc.  
7 Giggly

### 3. Spawning Summary

#### (a) Salmon

(1) Salmon count through the Babine wier on Babine River for 1976 was: 587,659 sockeye, 255,458 jack sockeye, 4500 coho, 93,838 pink, 618 springs, 251 jack springs, 1 chum, 96 steelhead, with an estimated 15,000 pinks spawning below the fence. Major Streams:

#### Sockeye

Pinkut channel: 20,000 in river, 5,000 outside wier, 30,000 airlift.

Fulton channel: 300,000 sockeye, 300 coho, 2 Spring. 150,000 spring eggs were planted in incubation boxes at Fulton. Donor Babine River.

Upper Babine river: 127,159 sockeye (by tag recovery) 4200 Coho.

Lower Babine river: 3,000 sockeye. 108,825 Pink. 613 springs.

#### Coho

1976 escapements of coho were down from previous years. Brood year escapement was 14,550.

1976 - 4,872  
1975 - 6,284  
1974 - 12,656  
1973 - 14,550  
1972 - 13,964

#### Pink

Odd year pink s are predominant in the area.

1976 - 108,975  
1975 - 352,307  
1974 - 18,850  
1973 - 147,700  
1972 - 35,544

#### Chinook

Total for area 3403 springs:

Babine	618	"	1972 brood year	600	spring
Nanika	120	"	" " "	400	"
Morice	1700	"	" " "	8400	"
Bear	950	"	" " "	3000	"
Bulkley	15	"	" " "	125	"

The Morice and Bear systems are drastically down this year.

### 3. (11) Weather conditions and water levels

Above average snow falls in 75/76 and spring and summer rains caused high water until August, delaying spawning somewhat. Temperatures remained below average during the summer, but were above average from October to the end of the year.

Recordings of rain and snowfall and temperature, Smithers airport.

January 1, 1976 to December 31, 1976.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>	<u>Water content</u>	<u>Temperatures</u>		
				<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
January	10.4 mm	76.6 cm	69.0 mm	7.2	-22.3	-5.5
February	0.6	34.5	27.5	6.3	-24.6	-5.7
March	7.2	32.1	33.1	8.4	-30.3	-2.6
April	3.2	0.6	3.8	22.3	-9.6	4.2
May	48.8	tr	48.8	19.3	2.1	8.1
June	59.2	-	59.2	22.4	1.6	10.8
July	62.1	-	62.1	22.8	1.3	12.4
August	41.4	-	41.4	25.4	0.9	13.5
Sept.	28.8	-	28.8	24.1	-7.1	10.7
October	61.7	2.8	64.5	18.7	-6.7	4.7
Nov.	7.9	24.5	30.3	13.9	-11.2	-0.3
Dec.	4.7	72.2	64.6	7.9	-14.6	-1.2

3. (111) Fry Salvage.

None necessary.

3. (b) (1) Herring.

Nil.

4. Environment, Multiple Water use.

(A) Pollution

No pollution problems with the public, mines, sawmills or forestry this past year.

British Columbia Railway A slide was reported, and inspected, at the old camp area below the airstrip at Bear river. This slide will possibly continue and silt the best spring and sockeye spawning site on this river. A problem for Habitat Protection or salmon Enhancement to have it corrected or Rip-rapped.

Canadian National Railway. Chip cars passing through the area continue to overload gondolas and cause spreading of chips on their way both east and west.

(B) Industrial Development

Equity Mining Capital Ltd. Continue to prepare for operation on their property above Sam Goosley Lake.

Other Talk of a new sawmill at Houston to be constructed by Eurocan to process timber from Ootsa Lake. Otherwise a general slow down again this year.

Sawmills 5 major sawmills in area:

Fink Sawmill Now Stud Mill for West Fraser Timber Ltd.

P.I.R. Now West Fraser Timber Ltd. Cut back in production due to world demand. Rumor of major renovations due this year.

Groot Sawmill. Completed new burner, kiln and other warehouse buildings this year.

N.W.P.P. Sawmill. Same as 1975 report.

Kitsegucla Sawmill. Same as 1975 report.

(C) Obstructions and diversions.

Refer to obstruction removal list attached. Most of the seasons work was in removing beaver dams and small log jams. With the water levels being high during the season, the beaver activity was minor until the end of the season. The major log jam was on the Shegunia river, this was successfully removed by a contractor.

(D) Gravel Removal.

There were no requests for gravel removal in the area this year.

(E) Logging Operations

Northwood Pulp & Paper. Largest operation. Situated at Houston, B.C.

Groot Sawmill. On Tatlow road. T.S. near Chapman Lake and private sources of timber.

West Fraser Timber Ltd. Second largest operation in the area. mill is on Tatlow road near Smithers.

Small mills. One near Evelyn, B.C. and one on Kitsegucla road.

Area Forestry Cut.

Smithers:	3924	acres cut;	103,611	CU
Houston:	5622	" "	358,312	CU
Hazelton:	5678	" "	152,868	CU

4. (F) Water Licence Applications.

1977 21  
1976 - 31  
1975 - 50

(G) Placer Mining. Nil.

5. Trends in the Fishing Industry. Nil.

6. Enforcement.

(A) Commercial. Nil.

Sport Nil.

Indian Fishery Under cover squad in the area brought several successful case to court.

Other Nil.

(B) Trends Re closed Seasons few complaints recieved during the season. Local people have voiced the opinion that bag limits on the Bulkley river should be lowered due to the fishing pressure of this river and its availability to highway 16.

Indian Food Fishery closures Same as 1975.

Sport Fishery closures Same as 1975.

(C) Recommendations

Continue closures in force. Reduce daily bag limits throughout area. Find a method of forcing sport caught frozen fish air-freight shipments to be registered. (Rumours are that some non-resident sport fishing parties send their daily catches out by air-freight every day for the duration of their stay.)

7. Predators:

(a) Sea Lions Nil.

(b) Hair Seals Nil.

(c) Bear Grizzly and Black bear numerous throughout area.

Sport Killed Bear Fish & Game Report.

1977	7 Grizzly	45 Black (est. 8 by farmer)
1976	8 Grizzly	12 Black (est. 20 Black farmer kills)
1975	8 grizzly	100 Black
1974	8 "	10 "
1973	10 "	8 "

(d) Grayfish Nil.

(e) Killer Whale Nil.

(f) Other Same as 1975 report.

8. Administration

(A) Staff

(1) Fisheries Officers:

A.M. Groat GT 3  
D.N. Meyers GT 2

(11) F.P.L. Babine River

Protection vessel assigned to Babine Lake, staffed by Donalds Landing Guardian and Fisheries Officers.

(111) Guardians

Moricetown Brian Lewis  
Fort Babine Nil.  
Donalds Landing A. Klopfenstien  
Upper Bulkley-Morice H. Scott

(1V) All Guardian Positions, except Moricetown, satisfactorily staffed.

Recommendations for 1977

Donalds Landing	6 Months
Moricetown	+ 2 Months
Fort Babine	+ 2 Months
Upper Bulkley	+ 4 Months

(B) Equipment.

- (1) 2 - 4 wheel drive vehicles; one 1971 dodge pick-up. one 1975 blazer.  
1 - Inboard-outboard patrol launch.  
\* 1 - 22 foot, plank, lake work boat.  
1 24 foot, plywood, lake work boat.  
2 - 12 foot, aluminum, car top boats.  
2 - 18 foot, aluminum, river boats (smokercraft).  
2 - 2 wheel boat trailers (Tee-Nee) (EZY loader)  
1 - 65 H.P. outboard with jet attachment.  
2 - 50 H.P. outboards with jet attachments.  
1 - 40 H.P. outboard.  
1 - 20 H.P. outboard.  
2 - 18 H.P. outboards  
1 - 6 H.P. outboard.  
2 - 5½ H.P. outboards.  
3 - Power chain saws.  
1 - ATV Terra jet.  
2 - 30-06 rifles.

(11) Equipment extensively used during season. The oldest 40 H.P. outboard and one 12 foot (aluminum car top boat) written-off.  
*22 plank lake work boat.*

9. Information, Education and other programs.

Same as 1975.

A.M. Groat  
Fisheries Officer.

Stream Clearance, Obstruction List 1975, Babine-Morice S/D.

Date	Place	Obstruction	Equipment used	Personnel	Days	Cost.
July 23	Bear River	Mud and tree slide	A/C	D.N. Meyers	1 day	\$192.50
July 27	Bulkley River	Beaver dam	Hand	H Scott	2 hrs	25.00
July 28	Bulkley River	Beaver Dam	Hand	H.Scott	2 hrs	25.00
Aug. 5	Pierre creek	Log Jam	Hand	A. Klopfenstien	4 hrs	25.00
Aug. 6	Twain creek	Log Jam	Hand	A. Klopfenstein	4 hrs	25.00
Aug. 10	Bulkley river	Beaver Dams	Hand	H. Scott	4 hrs	25.00
Sept. 8	Bulkley river	Beaver Dam	Hand	H. Scott	2 hrs	10.00
" 19	Bulkley river	Beaver Dam	Hand	H, Scott.	3 hrs	15.00
" 10	Bulkley river	Beaver Dams	Hand	H.Scott	2 hrs	10.00
" 19	Bulkley river	Beaver Dams	Hand	H. Scott	2½ hrs	15.00
" 19	Bulkley river	Beaver Dam	Hand	H.Scott	2 hrs	20.00
" 19	Bulkley river	Beaver Dam	Hand	H. Scott	2 hrs	15.00
" 26	Southerland river	Log Jam	Hand	A. Klopfenstein	2 hrs	15.00
Nov. 6	Shegunia river	Log Jam	Contract Cat	Parent Bros.	5 hrs	3550.00
					6 days	\$767.50