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ANNUAL NARRATIVE, BABINE-MORICE S/D., 1977.

1. General Description of S/D.

Refer 1975 Annual Narrative for the sub-district.

2. Fisheries.

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

a. Provincial Angling Licences sold in area by Fish & Game.

	<u>Canadian</u>	<u>Non-Jan.</u>	<u>Non Can.Short Term.</u>	<u>Std. Res.</u>	<u>Non Res.</u>	<u>Senior Citizen.</u>
1977	1663	365	240	573	312	53
1976	3291	514	218	979	411	153
1975	2185	442	172	543	345	83
1974	2628	518	248	-	-	-

1977 Special River's Licences - 267

b. Estimated Sport Catch.

	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Jack Spring</u>	<u>Sthd.</u>
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

The 1977 sport fishery was again unfavourable in the Bulkley System due to general higher water conditions and silted water from the Telkwa River drainage, water conditions lowered and became clearer by near end of August. Spring Catches peaked August 14th and Coho peaked Sept. 18th at Moricetown Canyon and Trout Creek areas. I would venture to say that there are at least 3 times the amount of Sport fishermen Tourists and all fishing the area along the Bulkley & Morice are taking less catches as compared to say 1974.

c. Closures by Regulations.

Nil for 1977 for the sub-district.

Closures by Notice.

Nil for 1977, same as 1975 report.

d. Gear and Other Restrictions.

Nil for 1977, same as 1975 report.

3. Indian Food Catch and Fishery.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Place.</u>	<u>Sock.</u>	<u>Coho.</u>	<u>Pink.</u>	<u>Spring.</u>	<u>Sthd.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1977	Babine Lake.	10,777	50	100	20	10	10,957
1976		11,095	1	13	0	0	18,161
1975		6,170	65	50	15	0	6,300
1974		10,819	50	10	10	0	10,889
1973		17,015	10	500	0	0	19,125
1977	Moricetown	366	455	152	170	67	1,210
1976		39	529	22	88	205	833
1975		59	226	47	826	53	1,211
1974		322	181	39	581	101	1,224
1973		67	401	11	303	92	874

Individual permits were issued to Moricetown people this season, expect licences for food fishing to be issued by Band Council for 1978, same as was set up for Burns Lake and Babine Lake Bands for 1977.

There was no special food fishery set up for the Moricetown and Lakes Band this season however there was 21,986 Jack Sockeye taken at the weir by the Native Fishery and sold on the commercial market.

4. Spawning Summary.

- (1) Salmon - Escapements to Babine River and Lake as counted through the Babine counting weir: Installations at the weir with new aluminum panells were completed and operational by July 9th, 1977. One sockeye arrived July 8th and was released. The main run in any numbers passed through the boxes July 21st, 1977.  
Salmon Escapements to Babine Lake & Systems as follows.

Sockeye - 937,992 large & 45,383 Jacks\* Includes commercial Jack harvest.

Coho - 10,474.

Pink - 68,077 above fence, 8,000 below fence, total 76,077.

Chum - Nil.

Spring - 619 large spring & 768 Jack spring, total 1,387.

Steelhd. - 122 pieces.

Counting at the weir terminated October 19th, 1977.

This is the third year Spring salmon have been stripped of eggs and taken to Fulton incubation boxes. There were 31 female spring and 30 males used for a total of 198,000. eggs planted.

(2) Spawning survey Babine Lake.

Sockeye- of the 937,992 lg. sockeye that entered the system the major target is the Fulton Channels which for 1977 was slightly over the Half million mark; 502,030 pieces of which the channels & river took slightly over 400,000. and the remainder some 100,000. were blocked out and spawned in the lower river below the weir. These are the late body of sockeye which arriving around 1st of September start entering the Fulton river.

The Upper and Lower Babine River which comprise the late sockeye are estimated by carcass and tag recovery as follows;

Upper Babine River (Fort Babine to Nilkitkwa Lake) - 121,232 pieces.

Lower Babine River (Nilkitkwa Lake to forestry bridge) - 40,351 pieces.

Pinkut Creek- the third producer are early Sockeye entering the Babine Lake in July. 1977 escapements of 65,000. to the Channels, 20,000 to the Pinkut Creek to the falls & 5,000 pieces outside the weir spawned at the estuary. The remainder of the early sockeye utilize the remainder of the Southern Areas of Babine Lake natural stream beds. Morrison & Tahlo making up the remainder of the late sockeye. \* Nanika-Upper Bulkley, oth

Cohoe - a slight increase was noticeable over brood year escapements which was without doubt brought about by an early closure in September on the Skeena commercial fishery, the best being the 10,474 pieces which entered Babine Lake. The Bulkley system showed strength through September passing Moricetown Canyon. The upper Skeena areas was flown too early to assess stocks; late September flights are hit or miss due to weather, estimates are calculated for Upper Skeena from past strengths.

Babine Lake - 10,474

Bulkley Morice - 6,590

Upper Copper - 400

Bear & Upper Skeena Est. - 1,000

Total for Sub-District - 18,464

Pinks - Odd year pink predominant in the area fell way below brood year escapements Babine Lake- 1975(297,307), 1977(76,077).  
Morice-Bulkley- 1975(55,000), 1977(25,000).  
Upper Skeena- 1975(Few), 1977(N.R.).

Spring- were well below brood year escapements in all areas.

<u>Brood Year</u>	(1972-1973)	(1977)
Babine Lake-	600-1200	619(768)Jk.Spr.
Morice River-	8400-12000	4500
Bear River-	3000-3900	1800
Upper Bulkley-	55-650	250

\* Sockeye-  
Nanika early sockeye (77) 600, (73) 1000  
Upper Bulkley (77) 200, (73) 300  
Upper Skeena Bear (77) N.O. (73) 5000, too early on flight.  
Upper Copper (77) 600 (73) 2000

3. Indian Food Catch and Fishery. cont.

Additional to the Babine Lake food fishery for Sockeye as listed on previous page

<u>Year</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Soc.</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Sthd.</u>	
1977	Fort Babine- to Old Fort.	10,777	50	100	20	10	same as page 1.
	Moricetown -	366	455	152	170	67	same as page 1.
	Pendelton -	60	-	-	-	-	
	Donalds -	500	-	-	-	-	
	Portage -	1	-	-	-	5	
	Topley Ldg -	1200	50	25	-	-	
	<u>Total</u>	13270	555	277	190	82	

Closures by Notice for I.F.F. applies to the closure at the counting weir on Babine River; that is 1 mile above the weir to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the weir for conservation of Spring Salmon. Posted notice each year until stocks of spring build to sufficient numbers to afford a short fishery.

There is also a Sport Fish closure approx. 100 yds above the fence for the purpose of keeping sport fishermen from anchoring too close to the weir fly fishing for trout and creating a scare factor, not only to the salmon but to people working at the counting boxes. It has been reported that several times they were almost caught with the cast flies. The notice is posted each year and should be included in regulations.

It has been suggested and I agree that the Moricetown fishery be restricted to closed days during the week, gaffing be restricted during pink migration through the falls area and more use of dip nets be encouraged for taking pink & coho. A short gaff period could be allowed for taking springs due to the weight of the fish and high water conditions which prevail during migration.

## Weather Conditions and Water Levels

Below average snow falls for winter 76/77 and an early spring with rain showers as early as February through March and April caused flash flooding in many areas throughout the sub-district, although Hwy. 16 apparently suffered the most from plugged culverts. There was no apparent causes to streams from flooding although May-July heavy rain showers kept streams and the Bulkley River at high water levels, Babine Lake recorded the lowest water levels ever after break up of the lake. The Spring and Summer temperatures also recorded a high 33.8 C. for August 1977 compared to same date for 1976 at 25.4 C. Late snow falls in 1977 and conditions would indicate a milder winter and similar condition will prevail for 1978.

January 1st, 1977 to December 31st, 1977, record of rain snowfalls and temperatures, Smithers, Airport, B.C.

Month	Rain	Snow	Water content	High	Low	Average
Jan.	6.3 mm	47.7 cm	47.1 mm	3.5 c	-20.6	-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
Apr.	20.5	1.4	21.9	24.2	-5.7	6.3
May	33.2	tr.	33.2	20.7	-2.6	8.8
June	30.2	"	30.2	27.4	.2	12.9
July	66.0	"	66.0	30.0	2.7	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	-7.1	4.5
Nov.	11.7	52.2	53.3	10.6	-23.9	-4.9
Dec.	Tr.	63.2	34.5	4.5	-32.7	-14.3

### Fry Salvage.

Generally there is no need in the sub-district barring some incident e:i the diversion of the Bulkley River at Houston to reclaim a small camping area for tourists, a number of trout, suckers and small smolts were released from the enclosure by the Guardian and Northwood workers.

Herring. Nil.

### Environment and Multiple Water Use.

#### (a) Pollution

There was no major problems with the industry or public for the season.

B.C. Railway - The slide at the old camp area remains the same as reported in 1976 narrative. Trees and debris is still in Bear River and bank slippage continues. EPS directive to the Railway to clear the slide material has not met with any result to date. The debris was to be taken out and the bank rip rapped to stop further mud slipping down into the river.

#### (b) Industrial Development.

Equity Mining Capital - at Sam Goosly Lake of last fall discontinued any further work proposals at the mine until further notice. It is suspected world prices for copper and competition from 3rd world markets in South America and labor costs is having an influence on all mines in B.C.

Eurocan Sawmill - at Houston completed most of the mill by year end and some lumber processed to shake down the machinery. Wood is coming from Cotsa Lake via Owen Rd and Morice River Rd. It was notice Hwy. Dept. was doing considerable work on the Morice River Rd. before the Owen Lake Rd. cut off.

Sawmills - There still remains 5 major sawmill in the sub district.

Fink Sawmill - was closed down this year and most of the machinery sold. This was a stud mill belonging to Pacific Inland Resources, it is no longer operating.

Pacific Inland Resources - sold their old mill and constructed a new and larger more modern mill on the same property greatly increasing their output.

Groot Sawmill - no change, although a fire caused a shut down for some time before operations started up again.

Northwood Pulp and Paper - Houston B.C. near the Eurocan Sawmill on Morice River Rd., no change to their operation. They get most of their wood from across Babine Lake, and will be moving wood from across the Morice River as soon as they complete the new bridge just above the Cosnell River.

4. (F) Water licences applications.

1977 - 21  
1966 - 31

(G) Placer mining Nil.

5. Trends in the Fishing industry. Nil.

6. Enforcement

(A) Commercial. Nil.

Sport. Nil.

Indian Fishery. Under civer squad in area brought several cases to court. Most still to be processed.

Other. One case of putting debris in a creek resulted in a small fine.

(B) Trends Re closed seasons Nil.

Indian Food Fishery closures Same as 1976.

Sport Fishery closures Same as 1976.

(C) Recommendations Continue eith closures in force.

7. Predators.

(a) Sea Lions Nil.

(b) Hair seals Nil.

(c) Bear Grizzly and black numerous throughout area.

Sport killed bear Fishe & Game Report.

1977	7	Grizzly	45	black ( est. 8 killed by farmers)
1976	8	"	12	" ( est. 20 killed by farmers)
1975	8	"	100	"
1974	8	"	10	"
1973	10	"	8	"

(d) Gray fish Nil.

(e) Whaler whales Nil

(f) Other Nil.

8. Administration

(A) Staff

(1) Fisheries Officers:

A.M. Groat F.O. 3  
D.N. Meyers F.O. 2

(11) F.P.L. Babine River

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

(111) Guardians

Moricetown	Jim Steward
Fort Babine	Nil.
Donalds Landing	A. Klopfenstien
Upper Bulkley	H. Scott

Sawmills cont.

Kitsequecla Sawmill - A small mill on Kitsequecla Rd. cuts for local supply.

Obstructions and Diversions.

Refer to Obstruction Removal List attached.

Generally beaver dams in the fall months create a problem with migrating fish. Two large log jams were removed on the Bulkley River south of Houston by contract was impeding salmon on low water.

The diversion at the camping area at Houston was very successful. The river was diverted and a groin placed at either end for a closure. This allowed the work of pushing the gravel into the washed out area and rip rapping without any siltation to the Bulkley river. A previous experience with a Fish & Game project upstream from the park area convinced me this would not occur again regardless of their inputs.

Gravel Removal.

As above 1 gravel removal was authorized for the work at the Park in Houston for reclaiming approx. 35 feet of the park washed out in a spring flood.

Area Forestry Cut.

As reported by Smithers Forest Service.

Smithers:	Acre Cut-	4,186	Cunits-	110,510
Houston :	"	- 8,553	"	- 406,500
Hazelton:	"	- 2860	"	- 209,260

Date	Place	Obstruction	Personnel	Equipment used	Days	Costs
uly 31	Sockeye Creek	Log Jam	A. Klopfenstien	Hand	1	\$ 50.00
ug. 4	Boucher creek	log jam	Meyers & Leamont	Hand, power saw & winch	1	75.00
ug. 15	Findlay creek	2 Beaver dams	Scott	Hand	1	25.00
" 19	Foxy creek	2 " "	"	"	1	25.00
" 27	Foxy & Maxam creeks	3 " " 1 jam	"	"	1	25.00
ept. 18	Upper Bulkley	4 " " 1 jam	"	"	1	25.00
" 18	Upper Bulkley	Log Jams	Contract	Contract		2100.00
" 19	Upper Bulkley	1 Beaver Dam	Scott	Hand	1	15.00
" 20	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	Hand	1	20.00
" 23	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	"	1	20.00
" 24	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	"	1	20.00
" 27	Morrison creek	2 " "	Meyers & Klopfenstien	"	1	150.00
" 27	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	"	1	25.00
" 29	Findlay creek	2 " "	Scott	"	1	25.00
Oct. 2	Upper Bulkley	3 " "	Scott	"	1	25.00
" 5	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	"	1	15.00
" 7	Upper Bulkley	2 " "	Scott	"	1	15.00
" 12	Upper Bulkley	3 " "	Scott	"	1	25.00
" 21	Toboggan creek	2 " "	Southgate	Hand & powder	1	50.00
" 22	Kathlyn & Toboggan Cr.	10 " "	Contractor	Hand	7	500.00
" 26	Kathlyn creek	3 " "	Groat	ATV	1	50.00
Nov. 2	Kathlyn creek	2 " "	Groat	ATV	1	25.00
to						
Oct. 16	Tsezaykwa Creek	Stream clearance	Williams	Hand & power Saw	<u>38</u>	<u>2400.00</u>
					56	\$ 5705.00

8. Administration (cont.)

(1V) All Guardian positions satisfactorily filled.

Recommendations for 1978

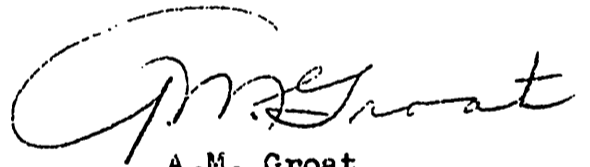
Donalds Landing	6 Months
Moricetown	4 months
Fort Babine	4 months
Upper Bulkley	4 months

(B) Equipment

- (1) 2 - 4 wheel drive vehicles; one 1977 ford, one 1975 Blazer.  
1 - Inboard-outboard patrol launch.  
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. Mercury outboard 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 outboards.  
1 - 6 H.P. Jonnson outboards.  
2-5½ H.P. Johnson outboards.  
3 - power chain saws.  
1 - ATV Terra Jet  
2 - 30-06 rifles  
2 - .357 Magnum hand guns.

(11) Equipment extensively used during season. One 22 foot plank lake work boat written off.

9. Information, Education and other Programs.  
Same as 1976.

  
A.M. Groat  
Fisheries Officer