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Annual Report for 1976

Terrace - Lakelse Sub-District Terrace

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
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PRICE REPORT

Indian Food Fishery

The changes implemented into the Indian Food Fishery in 1974 were continued into 1976, namely, permits were issued to Band Councils rather than to individuals. These permits authorized members of the Bands to fish on historical fishing grounds of that particular Band. An Indian wanting to fish in an area not covered by the permit held by his Band was required to obtain an individual permit.

Status Indians not belonging to a Band with historical fishing rights on the Skeena River were also required to obtain an individual fishing permit.

As in 1975, all restrictions (fishing times, method, place, amount of gear) were arrived at by consulting with the Band Councils.

The following is a resume of the arrangements with the various Band Councils in the sub-district concerning the Indian Food Fishery.

Kalum Band

A permit was issued to this Band covering the Skeena River from Terrace downstream to the tidal boundry. Band members were authorized to fish 7 days per week.

Kitselas Band

A permit was issued to this Band covering the Skeena River from Terrace upstream to Legate Creek. Band members were authorized to fish 7 days per week.

Kitwanga Band

This Band was issued a permit covering the Skeena River upstream from Legate Creek to Andimaul Creek. Fishing was permitted 7 days per week.

Kitsequecla Band

This Band was issued a permit covering the Skeena River from Andimaul Creek upstream to Burdick Creek. Fishing was permitted 7 days per week.

Hazelton, Glen - Vowel, Kispiox Bands

These Bands were issued permits covering the Skeena River from Burdick Creek upstream to the Babine River. Fishing was permitted 7 days per week.

Hagwilget Band

This Band was issued a permit covering the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers upstream from Burdick Creek Fishing was permitted 7 days per week.

Non-Band status Indians were issued individual permits on the Skeena River restricting them to various times and places. Time restrictions were instigated as to the individuals need for food fish. Place restrictions were namely from the Skeena River bridge at Terrace downstream to the Exstrumsiks River.

The following are restrictions placed on the Indian Food Fishery by Public Notice (Section 4 B, British Columbia Fishery Regulations) during 1976.

1 Effective 12:00 AM August 15th and until 12:00 AM September 4th net fishing was restricted to the weekly period 12:00 AM Saturday until 12:00 AM Sunday. Between the British Columbia Hydro Line 2 miles west of Terrace and Legate Creek.

2 Effective 12:00 AM August 15th and until further notice, from the British Columbia Hydro Line 2 miles west of Terrace to the Tidal Boundry.

3 Effective 6:00 PM August 22nd and until 6:00 PM September 10th net fishing was restricted to the weekly period 6:00 PM Friday until 6:00 PM Sunday. In that portion of the Skeena River upstream from Legate Creek.

These closures were requested by all Bands concerned. The purpose being to conserve ~~Pink and Chum salmon~~. These species are not normally utilized by local Indians for domestic purposes.

The following is a resume of the catch figures for the Terrace - Lakelse Sub-District for the period 1972 - 1976

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>
72	19,175	1,050	4,900	400	900	725
1973	35,000	1,100	4,000	300	1,500	600
1974	40,000	1,500	2,500	300	1,500	1,000
1975	60,000	4,500	5,000	400	2,000	1,000
1976	40,000	2,500	15,000	200	2,000	1,000

Catches of Sockeye the principle fish desired, were somewhat reduced in the 1976 season due to high water levels during the main part of the run. Logs, sticks and other floating derbis makes net fishing more difficult.

In 1976 there were 8 Band Permits issued. In addition 99 individual permits were issued, an addition of 25 over 1975. During the past two to three years there has been a steady increase in the number of Indians who have moved in from other areas, applying for permits to take fish on the Skeena River. Relations between the Fisheries Service and the Band Concils on the Skeena River seems to have improved over the last two to three years.

Some problems still exists with the Non- Band members. These people seem to be more inclined to deal in the illegal sale of fish.

Sockeye

The total escapement of this specie, to the tributaries of the lower Skeena River, of approximately 7,500 was down 50 0/0 from the main brood year of 15,000. The return of all sockeye producing tributaries on the lower Skeena River was below the main cycle year.

The return of all Sockeye producing streams show a steady decline despite the late openings of the commerical net fishery on the Skeena River estuary. Most sockeye bound for these streams pass through the estuary prior to the commerical fishery.

Coho

The total escapement of this specie to the tributaries of the lower Skeena River is an estimated 20,000 to 25,000. This is basically the same as the brood yearescapement. A marked decline in the Lakelse River was evident. Less than 1,000 fish were observed, down from the brood year of 5,000. Other systems such as the Gitnadiom and Kalum Rivers showed an increase to the brood year escapement.

Sportfishing pressure may be a contributing factor to the decline of the Lakelse River escapement. During the Coho run an excess of 200 fishermen were observed fishing the lower reaches of this River on any weekend day.

Pinks

The total escapement of this specie to the tributaries of the Skeena River were slightly above the expected return. Flood conditions in the fall of 1974 reduced the escapement in many of the small tributary streams. Rivers such as the Lakelse and Kitwanga with lakes at the head showed an excelent return, mainly due to the more stable water flows during extreme run off conditions.

The closures to the commerical net fishery along with the closure on the Indian Food Fishery no doubt had benifical effects on the total escapement.

Escapement figures for the main producing areas are as follows,

Lakelse River -- 250,000 , Kitwanga River -- 200,000
Kispiox River -- 10,000 , Main Stem Skeena -- 10,000
Kalum River -- 5,000

Chums

The escapement of this specie to the lower main stem Skeena River and tributaries is an estimated 4-5,000 fish, down 50 o/o from the brood year escapement of 9-10,000 fish. The Indian Food Fishery has seriously depleted this run in the past years. Areas such as the Remo bar 5 miles west of Terrace had produced up to 1,000 fish. Escapement to this particular area now are almost nil.

Springs

The escapement of this specie to the lower Skeena and lower main stem Skeena were considerably higher 10,000 fish as compared with a brood year of 6-7,000 fish.

Angling closures on the Kalum and Lakelse River systems along with poor angling conditions due to high water levels in 1976 were contributing factors in the rise in escapement figures.

Steelhead

The catch per unit of effort by anglers indicate an average return of this specie to the tributaries of the Skeena River. Water levels in the Copper and Lakelse Rivers were more conducive to angling than the Kalum River which remained high and turbid. Consequently angling pressure on the Lakelse and Copper Rivers was heavier. Sportsfishing pressure ~~for this specie~~ this specie shows a steady increase throughout the area.

General

Generally favorable water levels prevailed from the start of the spawning season in late August until spawning ended in late December. Lack of snow and freezing temperatures in late December and January may cause some freezing of seeded redds.

Water levels remain stable which should reflect an average fry crop in 1977.

Weather Summary

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Temperature</u>		
			<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Mean</u>
January	120.1	220.2	7.7	-15.6	-3.2
February	92.4	120.0	7.1	-13.9	-1.7
March	103.3	150.6	7.4	-17.8	-0.4
April	2.8	39.2	24.9	- 5.4	5-4
May		94.5	18.3	- 1.1	8.0
June		80.3	22.8	3.7	11.4
July		71.0	26.4	6.3	13.8
August		79.7	26.0	5.0	14.7
September		70.0	22.6	3.6	12.2
October	3.0	200.7	17.0	-2.0	6.3
November	27.4	137.2	11.7	-3.8	1.9
December	71.7	151.0	8.0	-8.0	0.5

Vehicles

Two vehicles are assigned to the Terrace-Lakelse Sub- district.

1974 Dodge Van.

1975 Chevolet Blazer

boats

In addition to the 18 foot Valco, a 14 foot Smokercraft and trailer is occasionally used for RiverPatrols and escapement counts.

Motors

As to date our inventory of outboard motors are as follows,

One 35 H.P. Johnson

One 65 H.P. Mercury

One 20 H.P. Mercury

One 9.5 H.P. Johnson

AdministrationStaffFishery Officers

Morris E. Bogart -- permanent duty in the Terrace & Lakelse Sub-District

John V. Hipp -- assigned to Terrace Lakelse Sub-District in May
for permanent duty.

Guardians

D. MacDonald -- June 21st to November 15th

H. Segelken -- July 2nd to August 31st

A. Barr -- July 2nd to August 31st

D. Hollands -- June 25th to October 15th

A. Steffensen -- July 2nd to December 4th

R. Hanson -- September 20th to September 25th

J. Allen -- September 20th to September 25th

Environment - Multiple Water Use.

The following is a resume of the various industries and human activities in the sub-district; outlining their relationship to water resource and pollution.

Logging and Lumbering

Direct pollution attributing to this industry is not a serious problem in this sub-district, although some silting of some salmon streams are evident due to large clear cut areas.

During spring and fall runoffs large amounts of overburden and some logging debris is carried off steep slopes causing silting and some channel changing.

In 1976 57 logging referrals were handled through the sub-district. Due to increased liaison between the various governmental agencies many environmental problems were averted before logging commenced. During 1976 many of the local logging referrals were done locally in conjunction with the Forest Service on the site.

This practice has sped up the time factor in processing these referrals. This seems to be working favorably at this time.

Special Use Permits

During 1976 18 special use permits were processed. These referrals covered bridge construction, rip-rapping, stream channeling, gravel removals, etc.

Home Site Leases

During 1976 7 homesite referrals were processed.

Agriculture and Ranching

Farming and Ranching in the Skeena Valley is limited to small amounts of arable land suitable for this purpose. These activities are confined to the Kalmu, Kispiox and Skeena Valleys.

Farming is confined mainly to the raising of fodder crops and does not require irrigation.

Water Licences

During 1976 8 water licences were processed for domestic purposes.

Obstructions and Stream Diversions.

Beaver dams are a recurring problem in the sub- district.

Most of these problems occur in the Kispiox Valley and occasionally in the tributaries of the Gitnadox, Kalmu, and Lakelse Rivers.

Coho and to a smaller extent Sockeye are affected by these dams.

Fry Salvage

No fry salvage was carried out in the Terrace- Lakelse sub- district in 1976.

Herring

Not applicable to this sub- district.

PredatorsSea Lions

Not applicable to this sub- district.

Seals

Hair seals enter the Skeena River estuary in May and June to have their pups. While on occasion, strays go as far inland as Babine Lake. Large concentrations are seldom seen upstream from the Khyex River.

While it is impossible to estimate the extent of predation on the Skeena River it is no doubt considerable. A steady increase in the seal population is noticeable which will no doubt compound the situation

Bears - Grizzly and Black

Although the Black bear population seems to be on the increase in the Terrace - Lakelse sub-district there is no evidence to show that either of these specie are a problem in the area.

Merganzers

The Merganzer population seems to be on the increase in the Terrace-Lakelse sub-district. Large concentrations are observed on the Lakelse River during the late fall and early spring. While it is impossible to accuratly estimate the extent of predatation, it is no doubt considerable to both eggs and fry.

Grayfish

Not applicable to the sub-district.

Killer Whales

Not applicable to the sub-district.

SportfishingSprings

During the 1976 season approximately 1100 Spring Salmon were taken on the main stem Skeena River and tributaries. Of this number 400 were mature and 700 Jack Springs. Of this total 75 were taken in the April - May run of Springs to the Kitsumkalum River-Mud Lake Waters.

The decrease in angler caught Springs was due to high and turbid water during the current season.

Fishing pressure in the area show a marked increase from yeartoyear.

COHO

The majority of angling was concentrated around the Lakelse, Zymogotiz (Copper), Gitnadiox Rivers and to a lesser extent on the Zimacord and Kasiks River

Approximately 2,500Coho were taken from the main stem Skeena River between Kwinitza and the Kispox Rivers.

An estimated 7-800 were taken from the Lakelse River with the Gitnadi River being almost as productive.

Steelhead

Good catches of this specie were reported from the Zymoetz (Copper) and Lakelse Rivers. The Kitsumkalum River was not so productive as in past years due to high and turbid water.

Fair catches were recored from the mainstem Skeena River during August and September, These being migratory fish heading for the upper Skeena watershed.

Enforcement

During 1976 26 prosecutions were carried out for violations of the British Columbia Fishery Regulations and Fishery Act. Of these 10 are still pending. A total of \$920.00 were levied by the courts for the offences listed below:

Thomas Bevan - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. --	\$75.00
Norman Lawson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. --	\$75.00
Gilbert Fenton - Sec. 73(1) B.C.F.R. --	\$ 100.00
Donald Anderson - Sec. 73(L)B.C.F.R. --	\$100.00
Ronald Bogie - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. --	\$25.00
Erick Penner - Sec. 38 Fishery Act. --	\$10.00
Elmer Wright - Sec., 32(6) B.C.F.R. -	withdrawn
Robert Blackwater - Sec. 73(1) B.C.F.R. --	\$75.00
Gilbert Fenton - Sec. 73(1) B.C.F.R. -	pending
Joseph Tookenay - Sec. 73 (1) B.C.F.R. -	pending
Dick Kelly - Sec. 33(2) B.C.F.R. -	dismissed
Norman Untch - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Evelyn Wagner - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	dismissed
Madeline Percival - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	dismissed
Norman Untch - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	\$400.00
Donald Mathieson - Sec 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Nancy Mahtieson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Donald Mathieson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Nancy Mathieson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Tom Bevan - Sec. 32(6) B.C.F.R. -	pending
Tom Bevan -, Sec. 32 (7) B.C.F.R. -	pending
James Lincoln - Sec . 32(6) B.C.F.R. -	\$50.00
Reginald Ginanoot -	
John Wilson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Tom Wilson	
Robert Begnon - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	pending
Peter Henry -	
Herbert Sinclair	
Norman Lawson - Sec. 19 Fishery Act . -	pending
Larson Erickson	
Betty Horsburg - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	dismissed
Dennis Renaud - Sec. 80(1d) B.C.F.R. -	pending
Alex. Inselberg - Sec. 19 Fishery Act. -	\$10.00