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 Indian Food Fishery

In 1981 some changes took place as to the issuing of "Special" licences and the method in which licences were issued. Although licencing of food fishermen is still a major headache, some headway is taking place. Licence books were made up for the Skeena River and Bulkley River fishermen with all perrinent information regarding Section 29 (1) of the British Columbia Fishery (General) Regulations printed on each licence.

Licences were issued in a variety of ways such as pre-signed books left at some band offices, fishermen coming to the office and the most common which was the issuing of licences on the river banks. Although the latter was the most effective it was also the most time consuming. The reason being that once fishermen realized they would be offered a licence instead of an Appearance Notice when approached on the river bank, the attitude became one of "we'll get a licence when and if they catch up with us". My belief is that this dilema will continue unless regular office hours can be kept during the busy foodfishing season when fishermen can come in for their licences.

It should be noted that of the 100 licences issued in the Hazelton Sub-district all were to individuals. There was some confusion in Kitsegakla when the Band Manager issued a Band licence for the Kitsegukla Band members but the problem was quickly brought under control.

Consultation with the Gitskan-Carrier Tribal Council and some Band Councils in regards to various restrictions during the food fishery as usual proved futile. Kitsegukla, Kispiox, and Glen Vowell Bands did show co-operatio in that they issued licences to individuals food fishermen. These licences were signed by the Fishery Officer then left at the Band Office. This system worked very well.

The following is a list of Bands in the Hazelton Sub-district and the fishing pattern for each Band in regards to the Indian Food Fishery.

Kitwanga Band

Licences were issued to individuals when contacted on the riverbank covering the Skeena River upstream from Legate Creek for salmon gillnet and salmon set-net.
 Fishing Times:

- 1) May 15, 1981 to July 5, 1981 - 2 days per week (Sat.& Sun.) -conservation of Chinook Salmon
- 2) July 6, 1981 to August 16, 1981 - 7 days per week

3) August 17, 1981 to September 6, 1981 - 2 days per week (Sat. & Sun.) - conservation of Pink Salmon

September 7, 1981 to November 1, 1981 - 7 days per week

Kitsegukla Band

Individual licences were issued from the Band Office for the Skeena River. Fishing times and fishing gear was same as above.

Glen Vowell Band

Individual licences were issued from the Band Office for the Skeena River. Fishing times and gear was same as above.

Kispiox Band

Individual licences were issued from the Band Office for the Skeena River. Fishing times and gear was same as above.

Hagwilget Band

Individual licences were issued by the Fishery Officer for the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers adjacent to the village. The Skeena River fishing pattern was the same as for the previously mentioned Bands, while the Bulkley River fishing pattern was as follows:
Gear type - setnet, dipnet, and gaff

Fishing Times:

- 1)
- 2) July 6, 1981 to August 16, 1981 - 7 days per week
- 3) August 17, 1981 to September 6, 1981 - 2 days per week (Sat. & Sun.) for setnets and 7 days per week for dipnets - conservation of Pink Salmon
- 4) September 7, 1981 to November 1, 1981 - 7 days per week - all gear.

Moricetown Band

Individual licences issued by the Fishery Guardian stationed at Moricetown for the Bulkley River adjacent to the village to Moricetown. The fishing pattern was the same as for the Hagwilget Band.

The following is a resume of the Indian Food Fishery catch for the period 1978 - 1981

3) August 17, 1981 to September 6, 1981 - 2 days per week (Sat. & Sun.) - conservation of Pink Salmon

September 7, 1981 to November 1, 1981 - 7 days per week

Kitsegukla Band

Individual licences were issued from the Band Office for the Skeena River. Fishing times and fishing gear was same as above.

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The following is a resume of the Indian Food Fishery catch for the period 1978 - 1981

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>
1978	70,000	3000	4000	50	2000	400
1979	75,000	2000	6000	50	2500	500
1980	76,000	4000	3000	50	6000	2500
1981	50,000	5000	18,000	100	7100	4500

Spawning Summary

Sockeye

A total of 5000 spawners were found in the Hazelton su-district all of which were in Upper and Lower Club Creeks. Although rumor has it that the Kitwanga and N Nangeese Rivers support Sockeye it has never been confirmed by the Hazelton staff.

Coho

Total escapement of Coho was estimated at 2200 of which the majority was supported by the Kispiox River and tributaries. Due to abnormally low water conditions in October it was noted that Coho arrived up to 3 weeks late on the spawning grounds.

Pinks

There are only two major streams in the Hazelton area for Pinks. The Kitwanga River with an escapement of 115,000 and the Kispiox River for 110,000.

Chums

Escapement was approximately 100 fish all being in the Kispiox River.

Springs

Of the 800 spawners the Kispiox River supported 750 fish which is up favorably from previous years.

Steelhead

Although there is no escapement figures available for this species crud census show that the number is down drastically from previous years.

General

Generally, low water levels prevailed during the Chinook, Sockeye, and Pink Salmon spawning periods, however no major difficulty was encountered by the spawners. Coho also found low water in October but higher water conditions in November seemed more to their liking which they quickly took advantage of. It is estimated that Coho arrived on ~~the~~ the spawning grounds up to 3 weeks later than normal.

Weather SummaryTemperature

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rain (mm)</u>	<u>Snow (cm)</u>	<u>Water Content (mm)</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Jan.	11.7	2.4	14.1	1.3	-4.3	-1.5
Feb.	10.1	16.4	23.1	.8	-6.4	-2.8
Mar.	16.2	20.5	40.9	7.7	-3.3	2.2
Apr.	22.2	16.2	36.9	8.3	-0.1	4.1
May	50.3		50.3	16.7	4.9	10.8
June	59.9		59.9	16.1	5.0	10.6
July	10.4		10.4	24.0	9.6	16.8
Aug.	49.2		49.2	23.7	8.8	16.3
Sept.	61.0		61.0	16.2	4.0	10.5
Oct.	68.5	4.0	72.5	8.7	0.0	4.4
Nov.	17.7	32.7	48.0	3.8	-2.3	0.5
Dec.	<u>0.8</u>	<u>34.6</u>	<u>27.2</u>	<u>-4.6</u>	<u>-12.0</u>	<u>-8.3</u>
Total	378.8	124.8	493.5			

Sport FishingSprings

1981 was definitely not the year for the angler in the Hazelton area. An estimated 150 Chinook were taken of which 50 were Jacks. Angling was probably reduced by high, turbid water during July. Most of these fish were taken on the Bulkley River specifically at Moricetown.

Coho

The majority of angling was done at the mouth of the Bulkley River and the Kispox system. Angling success was also very poor for Coho with an estimated catch of only 400 fish.

Steelhead

Very poor returns prompted the Fish and Wildlife Branch to implement a catch and release fishery as of November 1. Only 100 fish were taken before this date.

Two Year Sport Fishing Summary

<u>Year</u>	<u>Springe</u>	<u>Coho</u>
1981	150	400
1980	2300	500

Enforcement

During 1981 prosecutions were carried out for violations under the British Columbia Fishery (General) Regulations.

<u>Accused Person</u>	<u>Regulation</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
Milton, Vernon F.	Sec.'s 29 (1), (5), 40 (1) B.C.F.R.	Stay
Jakumett, Rainer	Sec. 5 (2) B.C.F.R.	\$50.00
Madam, Wayne	Sec. 66 (1) (d) B.C.F.R.	will come to trial
Wilson, Leonard M.	Sec.'s 29 (3), 66 (1) (d) B.C.F.R. Sec. 38 - Fisheries Act	will come to trial
Person or Person's Unknown (11)	Sec. 40 (1) B.C.F.R.	

Again, as in past years, all successful enforcement programs that were implemented in 1981 could not have been carried out without manpower and equipment from surrounding Sub-districts. Extra permanent staff and an adequate riverboat would alleviate a large percentage of this problem.

Referrals Processed in 1981

Water Licences - 13
Forestry - 52
Land SUP - 2
Waste Management - 2
Highways - 2
Placer Mining - 1

Obstruction and Stream Diversion

The Kisplox Valley still harbours major beaver dam problems. As in the past dams were breached during the migration of adult salmon. This practice will be continued in the future.