

General Description of Sub-District

Basically no change from previous years, but seems to fluctuate at will, particularly from Cedarvale to Legate Creek.

Indian Foodfishery

With the implementation of Band Licences for 1983, probably for the first time ever, all foodfishermen were legally licenced in the Sub-District. Although Kitwancool is within the Sub-District, the majority of their foodfishing is done on the Nass River and any member that fished the Skeena River was issued an individual licence.

Negotiations with the Gitskan-Carrier Tribal Council broke down early in the year and only the Kitwanga Band accepted a three day a week licence to conserve Chinook salmon. Agreement on Band Licences finally came at the end of June, shortly after a number of illegal nets were seized on the Skeena River.

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

Kitwanga Band - Band Licence

1) May 20, 1983 to July 3, 1983 - 3 days per week (Fri., Sat., & Sun.)
Conservation of Chinook Salmon.

2) July 3, 1983 to October 31, 1983 - 7 days per week

- Upstream from the confluence of Legate Creek and the Skeena River
- Set net or drift net

Kitsegukla Band - Band Licence

1) July 3, 1983 to October 31, 1983 - 7 days per week

- Upstream from the confluence of Legate Creek and the Skeena River.
- Set net or drift net

Glen Vowell Band

Glen Vowell Band - Band Licence

- same as above

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Kispiox Band - Band Licence

- Same as above

Kitwancool - Individual Licences

- Same as above

Hagwilget Band - Band Licence

1) July 3, 1983 to October 31, 1983 - 7 days per week

- Adjacent to the village of Hagwilget on Skeena and Bulkley Rivers.

Moricetown Band - Band Licence

1) July 3, 1983 to October 31, 1983 - 7 days per week

- Bulkely River adjacent to the village of Moricetown.
- Set net, driftnet, gaff, dipnet

The following is a resume of the Indian Foodfishery catch for the period 1979 - 1983.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>
1979	75,000	2,000	6,000	50	2,500	500
1980	76,000	4,000	3,000	50	6,000	2,500
1981	50,000	5,000	18,000	100	7,100	4,500
1982	112,500	21,000	36,000	100	9,000	5,500
1983	90,050	25,000	89,850+	25	7,900	15,000

Spawning Summary

Sockeye

Approximately 5-7,000 spawners are estimated to utilize watersheds within the Sub-District with the majority being in Upper and Lower Club Creeks. These systems were not checked in 1983 due to lack of funds for aircraft. The Kitsegukla, Kitwanga, and Nangeese Rivers also support a very small number of

spawners but none were observed this year.

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Coho

The Hazelton Sub-District supported 6000 Coho spawners with the Kispiox River and tributaries being the major producers.

Pinks

This was definately the year of the Pinks in the Hazelton area. Spawners were found either in systems that previously showed no record of Pinks or travelled well beyond historical spawning grounds. Of 438,000 spawners 235,000 utilized the Kitwanga River and an estimated 180,000 in the Kispiox River. Again, enumerations were not taken on the Kispiox due to lack of aircraft time.

Chums

Basically extinct in the Hazelton area. A small number still exist in the Kispiox system.

Springs

Of the 950 spawners the only highlight is the Shegunia River which supported 300 fish. All other systems are declining or dead. The Kispiox River was not checked.

Steelhead

There are no escapement figures available but creel census show further decline from previous years.

General

Normal water levels generally prevailed throughout migration periods and no major difficulties were observed. There seemed to be a slight rise in Coho spawning in the main stem Kispiox River. This may have been due to the lack of high water which normally occurs in the month of October.

Weather Summary

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rain (mm)</u>	<u>Snow (cm)</u>	<u>WaterContent (mm)</u>	<u>Temperature</u>		
				<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Aver</u>
January	15.5	50.7	41.6	4.2	-16.0	-4.9
February	7.9	13.5	10.6	7.8	-17.6	-12
March	1.6	11.2	8.7	11.0	-18.3	-0.
April	7.1	6.8	8.6	23.1	-5.0	6.
May	35.2	0.2	0.2	35.8	-0.8	11.
June	82.7	-	-	26.5	3.3	12.
July	81.7	-	-	27.8	3.3	14.
August	35.0	-	-	26.5	1.7	13.
September	46.0	T.R.	T.R.	19.6	-4.8	8.
October	36.2	4.4	4.4	14.3	-7.9	4
November	25.5	22.2	13.9	7.3	-10.0	-0
December	-	15.1	15.1	-2.3	-31.9	-14
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tal	374.4	124.1	103.1			

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Sport FishingSprings

Ideal water levels prevailed for the most part of the Chinook migration and an estimated 750 fish were taken. Moricetown, on the Bulkley River, is definitely the favoured area and almost all Springs taken were from this location.

Coho

Angling success was only considered fair at the mouth of the Bulkley River which is normally the hot spot in the Sub-District. The Kispiox River showed a dramatic increase in angling pressure and the majority of the 1500 fish taken were from this system.

Although no catch figures are available the general angler concensus was that fishing for this species was very poor.

Four Year Sport Fishing Summary

<u>Year</u>	<u>Springs</u>	<u>Coho</u>
1980	2300	500
1981	150	400
1982	1000	400
1983	750	1500

Enforcement

There were 24 persons charged under the British Columbia Fishery (General) Regulations during 1983, resulting in two convictions. Total enforcement effort was geared towards enhancing the Hazelton area spawning grounds and Sub-District is still trying to classify whether results were traumatic or dramatic.

Referrals Processed in 1983

Water Licences - 9
Forestry - 39
Land Use App. - 1
Pollution Control - 10
Mining - 12
CNR - 10

Obstruction and Stream Diversion

Major beaver dam problems still exist in the area, in particular, the Kispiox Valley. Breeching dams during salmon migration is done as time permits. This will be continued on a yearly basis.

Approximately 1000 meters of material from
compliment CNR's double-tracking program. This area was enhanced
to accommodate spawning salmon if we can ever get them past the
h'way culvert on Station Creek.

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Fry Salvage

Nil

Predators

Bears - Grizzly and Black

Not considered a problem in this area other than health
reasons.

Mergansers

No serious problems noted.. The Kitwanga River still harbours
a large number of birds.

Equipment

Vehicles

1979 Dodge 4 x 4 P/U - to be replaced in 1984

1981 Ford 4 x 4 P/U

Boats

18 foot Valco with trailer - to be replaced in 1984

12 foot Cartopper - Aluminum

Motors

150 H.P. Mercury with jet unit

9.5 H.P. Johnson

Administration

Fishery Officer

Peter T. Woloshyn - GT3

Fishery Warden

Gerald A. Coukell (April 5, 1983 - November 19, 1983)

Wendy Patrick (March 14, 1983 - June 30, 1983)

Recommendations

- 1.) Gerald Coukell's term of employment must be brought back into focus with Sub-District workload. The one-month cutback experienced in 1983 has further spread the gap between manpower and workload.
- 2.) The GT2 position number must be filled. I realize that we are living in an era of inclination towards preservation of Endangered species but be assured that the one-man Sub-District in Hazelton will not be missed if laid to rest.
- 3.) In 1983 Sub-District office experienced a phenomenon in the form of clerical staff. Although this lasted for only a short period of time it was refreshing to be released from some administrative duties and focus on field work. Sub-District office should, at least, have part-time clerical staff.

The Hazelton Sub-District has experienced major growth in the forest industry in 1983 coupled with CNR's double-tracking program. If the Department is to deal credibly with habitat issues alone, then serious consideration must be given towards additional staffing of the Hazelton Sub-District.