

PR3-C

Indian Food Fishery

In 1978, it was decided that a change take place in issuing the food fish licences in the Terrace area. "Special licences" were issued to the two band chiefs of the Kitsumkalum and Kiselas bands, who in turn issued to the individual band members and witnessed the signatures. These "Special Licences" were all completed in advance as to 1) area of fishing 2) type of gear 3) time and place and were all pre-signed by a Fishery Officer. This was to conform to Section 29(1) of the British Columbia Fishery (General) Regulations. These "Special Licences" authorized members of the two bands to fish on historical fishing grounds of that band. The restrictions were arrived at by consultations with the Band Council prior to the fishing season.

There were no major changes implemented into the Indian Food Fishery in regards to issuing of Special Licences in the Hazelton area. Band licences were issued to each Band for their respective historical fishing grounds on the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers only.

Restrictions to fishing times, methods, place, type of gear was stated on each Band Special Licence. Consultation with the Band Councils concerning the restrictions was not possible due to the breakdown of negotiations after each attempt.

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

Kalum Band

Individual Special Licences were issued to the members of this Band concerning the Skeena River downstream to the tidal boundary.

Kitselas Band

Individual Special Licences were issued to the members of this band concerning the Skeena River from Terrace upstream to Legate Creek.

*Kitwanga Band

A special licence was issued to this band covering the Skeena River upstream from Legate Creek to Andimaul Creek by set-net only .

Fishing Times:

- 1) May 1, 1978 to July 2, 1978 - 2 days/week (Sun. and Mon.) - Conservation of Chinooks
- 2) July 8, 1978 to August 13, 1978 - 7 days/week
- 3) August 13, 1978 to September 3, 1978 - 2 days/week - Conservation of Salmon and Steelhead Trout.
- 4) September 9, 1978 to October 3, 1978 - 7 days/week

(Indian Food Fishing Continued)

Kalum Band

Fishing Times:

- 1) January 1, 1978 - June 18, 1978 - 6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday
- 2) June 19, 1978 - August 12, 1978 - 7 days per week
- 3) August 13, 1978 - September 10, 1978 - 6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday
- 4) September 11, 1978 - October 28, 1978 - 7 days per week

Note: Same Fishing Times for Kitselas Band

Moricetown Band

This Band was issued a Special Licence covering the waters of the Bulkley River adjacent to the village of Moricetown by use of set-nets, dip-nets and gaffs during specific time periods.

Fishing Times:

- 1) May 24, 1978 to July 2, 1978 - 2 days per week
Conservation of Chinook Salmon
- 2) July 9, 1978 to August 12, 1978 - 7 days/week
- 3) August 19, 1978 to September 3, 1978 - 2 days/week, dip-nets and set-nets only
Conservation of Salmon and Steelhead Trout.
- 4) September 10, 1978 to October 28, 1978 - 7 days/week

Note: # 3) was later changed to 7 days/week by dip-nets only, 2 days/week by set-net only.

Hagwilget Band

This Band was issued a Special Licence covering the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers adjacent to the village of Hagwilget, set-net only.

Fishing Times:

- 1) May 24, 1978 to July 3, 1978 - 2 days/week (Sun. and Mon.)
Conservation of Chinook Salmon
- 2) July 9, 1978 to August 12, 1978 - 7 days/week
- 3) August 19, 1978 to September 3, 1978 - 2 days/week (Sat. and Sun.)
Conservation of Salmon and Steelhead Trout.
- 4) September 10, 1978 to October 28, 1978 - 7 days/week

Non-Band Status Indians

Special Licences were issued to the two local bands who in turn would issue the licences to non-band status individuals who wished to fish on the Skeena River. This was to give the local bands more control of the Food Fishery in the Terrace Area. The non-band members were restricted to one mile upstream and downstream of the C.N.R. bridge at Terrace. Time restrictions were instigated as to the individuals need for food fish. Following a meeting with the two bands in Terrace in August, the issuance of the non-band member licences was given back.

The following is a resume' of the catch figures to Terrace-Lakelse, Hazelton Sub-district for the period 1974 - 78.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SOCKEYE</u>	<u>COHO</u>	<u>PINK</u>	<u>CHUM</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>STEELHEAD</u>
1974	40,000	1500	2500	300	1500	1000
1975	60,000	4500	5000	400	2500	1000
1976	40,000	2500	15000	200	2000	1000
1977	80,000	3000	10000	800	4500	700
1978	95,000	6000	10000	500	4000	1000

In 1978 Moricetown was incorporated in the Terrace-Lakelse-Hazelton Sub-district .

Following are the Indian Food Fish Catch figures for 1978

<u>SOCKEYE</u>	<u>COHO</u>	<u>PINK</u>	<u>CHUM</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>STEELHEAD</u>
150	1500	75	--	200	100

In 1978 there were 7 Band Special Licences issued. There were 11 Individual licences issued to the Kitsumkalum Band and 8 licences issued to the Kitselas Band. In addition 87 individual licences were issued, up 7 over 1977. Relations between the two local Terrace Bands and the Fisheries Service remains very good, however, there is still a breakdown in communication in the Hazelton area.

SPAWNING SUMMARY

Sockeye

The total of this specie, to the tributaries of the lower Skeena River of approximately 21,100 was up from the main brood year of 15,000. This increase was mainly attributable to the significant increase of spawners into the Gitnadoix and Copper River systems. In the Hazelton area a total escapement of 1900 with the bulk into Stephens Creek (1500).

Coho

The total escapement of this specie to the tributaries of the lower Skeena River is an estimated 25,000 to 30,000. This total is up slightly from the brood year cycle of 20,000 to 25,000. This is due mainly to the increase in the Lakelse River with a total of approximately 12,000 spawners.

The Gitnadoix, Kasiks, Extew and Kitwanga Rivers were comparable to the brood year escapements.

Pinks

The total escapement of this specie to the tributaries of the lower Skeena River of 730,000 was down slightly from the expected return. The following is a resume' of the escapement to the main producing streams of the Skeena (lower):

Lakelse River	-	175,000	-	200,000	Kalum River	-	1,000
Kitwanga River	-	300000			Main Stem Skeena	-	10,000
Kispiox River	-	10,000					

Chums

The escapement of this specie to the lower main stem Skeena River and tributaries is an estimated 4,500 fish, down 50% from the brood year escapement of 8 - 9,000 fish.

Springs

The escapement of this specie to the lower Skeena tributaries and lower main stem Skeena was 10,000 fish as compared to 12-13,000 from the main brood year cycle. The lower Kitsumkalum River supported the bulk of this total with approx. 8,000 fish spawning.

Angling pressure and success contributed considerably to the fact that fewer fish spawned this season. It must be also noted that no Springs, neither carcasses nor redds were noticed spawning on the main stem Skeena this year and also the majority of spawners on the Kitsumkalum were smaller fish.

Steelhead

Very few steelhead were caught sportfishing this year due to the extreme high and dirty water conditions caused by the fall flood. Escapement should be higher this year than previous seasons.

General

Generally favorable water levels prevailed during the Chinook, Sockeye and Pink Salmon spawn, however, in the first week of November the Terrace area received a tremendous flood with a total rainfall of 14" in one 24 hour span. Many rivers received extreme scouring channel changing, erosion and heavy silting which will no doubt cause severe behavior with the small, fast flowing seeded Pink Salmon Streams. The Coho seemed to move up to the spawning grounds with this high water, however, some spawn will be lost on river banks that later dried up. Restoration work will be carried out in the spring of 1979.

WEATHER SUMMARY

<u>Month</u>	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Temperature</u>		
			<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Jan.	38.0	14.8	3.6	-17.4	- 5.7
Feb.	26.4	66.2	8.6	-17.9	- 0.9
Mar.	17.4	52.0	11.5	-10.7	1.8
Apr.	4.0	30.1	18.5	- 1.4	5.7
May		44.1	25.6	- 1.0	10.2
June		18.2	29.4	3.7	14.0
July		13.6	30.9	5.7	16.2
Aug.		158.4	32.6	7.4	15.6
Sept.		83.6	22.8	3.0	11.9
Oct.		264.5	16.5	-2.9	6.3
Nov.	25.8	210.7	12.0	-13.5	0.2
Dec.	187.2	50.1	3.2	-22.0	- 3.4