

Smithers, B. C.,
Oct. 2nd, 1932.

1137 F 587

Sir,

In presenting this report on the spawning areas of the Slangese and the Blackwater, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that this has been a very difficult season to gather accurate information on the same and if it had not been for the courtesy of Linemen Smith and McDougall whose beats take them over the spawn areas, in giving your Inspector valuable information regarding the runs, an entirely erroneous impression might have been received by the inspection. This has been caused by the extreme high water prevailing in all the creeks and rivers from Hazelton north, which had carried away all signs of dead fish and the only fish that could be examined were those that were just about expiring and some that we gaffed that were still spawning. Owing to the depth of water and the current it was impossible for your Inspector to examine the beds on different areas but it was evident that much spawning had been done on each and every area. There were no waste eggs to be seen anywhere.

On Slangese River below the lake for some miles a good showing of springs was seen and the areas should be fairly well seeded. The fish seen were about 60 males, 40 females. They arrived about the 20th of August. No dead fish were to be seen owing to the freshet. No nests could be examined. Above the spring area where the pinks were usually encountered, none was to be seen, so that as far as the pinks are to be considered, the area this season would be negligible. Owing to the fact that no Indians were on this area this season the sockeye all went on to Cabin Creek, Cabin Lake, and the Inlet. There has been a medium run of sockeye, mostly large fish, although a number of runts could be seen. The percentage of these was very small, probably three or four per cent. The males were sixty per cent and the females were forty per cent. Numerous nests were to be seen and I would consider from the appearance of the fish still spawning that the area has been fairly well seeded. This would be a better run than 1928 or 1929. Cohoes had not arrived as yet.

On Blackwater River there has been a big run of springs and sockeye this season. They arrived about August 20th and the peak was between the 7th and the 10th of September. The springs were about over. The sockeye had moved on into the Lake and are spawning on the north shore as well as in the Wemmenosic Cr. and the 1/4 Way N. 5th Cabin Cr. Both the springs and the sockeye were running about 60 males and 40 females. The sockeye were still green in some cases, and were large fish. No runts were seen on this area. This area is steadily improving since the jam went out in Lipsconesit Canyon on the Naas. The same condition applied on these areas as on all other northern waters in that they were in freshet and the beds could not be examined. No waste eggs could be seen and as the fish were in good condition on arrival and numerous nests were to be seen it can safely be said that these areas will be well seeded. The run has been larger than either 1928 or 1929.

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Canyon Creek has had a heavy run of springs, medium sockeye, and no cohoes as yet. The area would be adequately seeded and compares favourably with 1928 and 1929.

Poison Creek, which I have been informed is a salmon area, was visited but no fish were to be found and as my informant was not able to name the species I have come to the conclusion that it must have been a pink area and as the pink run is negligible this season up north, none was to be found.

Owing to the fact that this trip takes a lot of time each season, and as Guardian Allen appears to be satisfactory and will probably be with the Department for some time, it was deemed advisable to take him along on the trip to give him the benefit of my experiences on the same area. No time could be spared for him last season owing to different reasons, hence he needs it this year.

It was very difficult to secure horses with the proper rigging for such a trip so that the price paid this season was a little higher than last season. We had to secure rigging and horses from different parties and these were secured at the very best price we could after several days scurrying around to get them.

The trip occupied 17 days and much wet weather and wetter trails were encountered.

It had been the intention on the start to visit the Bear Lake area. This was an impossibility owing to the extreme high water as it was not possible to take horses over the Slangese or the Skeena rivers.

We were made welcome at each of the different cabins on the Telegraph Line by the different linemen which was a decided asset during the wet weather.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

"A. R. McDonell"

James Boyd, Esq.,
Supervisor of Fisheries,
Prince Rupert, B. C.