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Herewith please find Annual Report of the Fisheries of Upper Skeena for the season of 1945:

- A The escape of the different species of fish to spawn areas was satisfactory. Sockeye big fish, a heavy run, more numerous than the cycle year, Springs fairly heavy run of average fish, as good as cycle year, Cohoes a fairly heavy run of average fish, about as cycle year, Pinks a heavy run but the fish smaller and more females, Chums were very light, Steelhead were heavy in the Bulkley. The water stage in creeks was low and was not good for spawning. In the fall it looked as if it would be disastrous for spawning results but with some rain and heavy snow the creeks filled up with water before any hard frost came and it appears as though normal results should be obtained as the weather has kept favorable since the snow came. Sport fishing during the season was very good, with big trout being caught in Babine, while grilse and coho angling was very good in Bulkley River. Due to low water in the inlets of Babine Lake, many sockeye died without spawning and it was the larger fish that were the most susceptible. The Indian food supply catch was slightly lower than in 1944, with a considerable less sockeye caught in the Babine area, but at Moricetown the catch was greater. At Babine the decrease was caused by a number of the Indians being away lumbering and etc where they were making good money so that they were not interested to the same extent in fishing. At Moricetown the low water made fishing easier and as Indians are the same as some other humans they never know when they have enough but must take everything in sight. The Fishery Research Board officers were continuing their investigation of the Skeena system and tagging was done at the Coast and also at Moricetown. They also extended their investigation to other spawn areas and had parties on the Kispiox, Kitwanooc and Bear Lake areas in addition to Lakelse, Morice and Babine areas that they covered last season.
- B There is no fishing fleet in the area outside the boats used to set their set nets and to lift them. There has been no change in the methods used.
- C There have been no new changes or developments in the fishing in the area during the season.
- D The only abuse this season was the greater catch of food supply at Moricetown. Bad judgement on the part of the Guardian at that point was a contributing cause. A change in Guardians at this point is contemplated for the next season, and better results are expected.
- E Close seasons were very well kept and there was no trouble in enforcing them.
- F A Fishery Inspector, three Fishery Guardians and two Patrolmen were stationed at strategic points to control illegal fishing and other abuses. The season for the Guardians and the Patrolmen was extended and it is hoped that this will be continued. Car mileage was allowed the Inspector, the Guardian at Hazelton and also the Guardian at Woodcock. This is necessary, as each has a large territory to cover. The Patrolmen are supplied with boats and outboard engines. Cabins were built at Moricetown and at Topley Ldg and a cabin and boat-house are in the process of construction at Donald's Ldg to make the work more efficient. By Enquiry, observation and work the work is carried on.

G Where there is any possibility of pollution of waters by sawdust or other means, the areas are investigated and inspected.

H The only fishway that has been built in Upper Skeena is at Moricetown. It would appear as though this could be greatly improved and allow a greater escape of Sockeye more easily.

I As stated in A the escape of salmon to the spawn areas was very good and where there was deep water spawning the results will be better than the cycle year as the fish were larger and more numerous. On the shallow streams entering into Babine lake the results would be no better than the cycle year although the fish were more numerous this year. This was caused by the heavy mortality of fish without spawning due to low water, lack of air in the water and the fact that the fish were half out water in going from one pool to another in the ascent. Springs were a fairly heavy run and were as good as the cycle year. Pinks were as heavy as the cycle year of 1943 but were smaller in size and there were more females. Cohoes were a fairly heavy run and would compare favorably with 1942. Chums were very light this season. Steelhead were a heavy run in the Bulkley and fair in other areas. Reports were received from Fisheries Research of a fairly heavy run of Sockeye in the Sustut which was corroborated by the Pilot of the C.P. Plane. They also reported a fairly heavy run of Sockeye in Bear Lake and inlets and a run of about 10000 springs on Bear River. Some Pinks arrived on Bear River at the falls below the fish camps. This area has never been visited by our Department, that is as far as the Falls.

Spawn inspections were carried out by your Inspector, the Patrolmen, and the Guardians at Hazelton and Woodcock. All modes of travelling was used by the Inspector, plane, boats, horses, car, and foot. Morice area was covered by horses and also by plane, The Quinnigese and Blackwater on the Nass was covered by plane and inspected by the Supervisor and the Inspector. For the first time in a number of years a fair escape of Salmon arrived on the Blackwater. The Lac-dadah area was also covered by plane. There was a satisfactory escape to this area. The Morice area also had a satisfactory escape although it could have handled more fish. The Upper Bulkley was a washout as regards springs and Sockeye due to low water, but I understand that there was a fairly heavy escape of Cohoes on the area in the last of October. The Skeena and Bulkley near Hazelton had heavy spawning by Pinks. The Klappox River was also had a heavy spawning by Pinks.

The escape to the different areas individually is as follows:

GRIZZLY CR: flowing into Beaver or Sutherland River about eight miles from where it flows into Babine Lake;

Sockeye Aug. 1st 450, Aug. 15th 1100 more, Aug. 23rd 600 more, Aug. 31st 2500 more, mostly large fish with females 55% a total of 4650, 1940 had 3000, 1941 3100, 1942 2100. This year much better, Fish spawned freely and the area received a medium heavy seeding.

FOUR MILE CR: flowing into Babine Lake about four miles from the between five and six thousand sockeye, large, females slightly in majority. Fish died without spawning and the loss would be between 75 & 90%

SIX MILE CR: flowing into Babine Lake about 6 miles from the head about 200 sockeye that died without spawning, Results negligible:

FIFTEEN MILE or ANDERSON CR: flowing into Babine Lake from the South about 12 miles from the head of the lake: Sockeye arriving July 31st 250, Aug. 8th 50; Aug. 14th 800; Aug. 21st 1000; Aug. 29th 11300; Sept 10th 4300; Sept. 18th 500; Sept. 27th 5500, making a total of 22700; There would be a loss of perhaps better than 2000 fish through spawning on bare rock in the canyon so that the run would be approximately 20000, 25% lge, 50% med, 25% Sm. sexes 50/50, 1940 approx 16250, 1941 between 15 & 16 thousand, this year approximately 25% better: