



1184

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OFFICE OF THE FISHERIES INSPECTOR

At Smithers, B. C. Dec. 30th. 1939 193

Sir:-

I beg to present the following annual report of conditions prevailing in the Upper Skeena Area of District No. 2 British Columbia during the season of 1939.

A Owing to continual high water during the summer the Indian food supply catch of Sockeye and Springs was some what lower than in other years, which was very advantageous for escape of these species to the spawning areas. This was especially noticeable at Moricetown on the Bulkley River.

The escape of Springs and Sockeye was heavy, while, Pinks was medium and Cohoe was light. Steelhead and Dolly Vardons were also heavy.

One noticeable fact was the preponderance of large females in the escape of Sockeye and Springs in comparison with other years.

Weather conditions during the fall were very good for successful spawning results as the creeks had a continual flow of water and the frosts were few and slight.

Sport fishing during the year has been very good during the season. More parties from the U. S. A. were around this year than in previous years. These enjoyed salmon fishing at Moricetown and Hagwilget as well as trout fishing in the small lakes. A few parties of the American tourists along with a number of local parties visited Babine Lake and secured good sport.

B As we have no commercial fishing in this area this season there is no fishing fleet.

C The only change that has been made in the fishing this season was the elimination of the fish trap at Moricetown. The trap had become a nuisance through abuse as well as being a continual source of trouble among the Indians through jealousy. The elimination has proven a success during the past season.

D There have been no abuses to speak of this season

E Close seasons have been very well kept.

F To prevent illegal fishing there is in the district an Inspector employed the year round, two fishery Guardians and two Patrolmen employed during the fishing season. Two boats are commissioned during the fishing season for the Patrolmen at Babine Lake.

G Creeks and rivers are cruised to see that they are free from pollution by sawdust, mill refuse.

PARC Box 20162 DFO File 60-2-1: (1939-45)

H

There is but one fishway in the area and this is located at Moricetown. This is in good working condition

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Your inspector covered the Morice Area, the Lao-da-dah area of the Kispiox and the Babine Lake area. Guardian J. A. Macdonald reported on the Mc Donell Lake and Copper River area, as well as the upper Bulkley area. Guardian R. J. Allen reported on the the Kitwano area and also accompanied your inspector on the Kispiox trip. A packer additional was engaged for the Morice Lake inspection.

The Morice Lake area showed a heavy escape of Sockeye and Springs and light Cohoe. The Kispiox showed a medium run of Sockeye Medium Springs, medium Pinks and light Cohoe. The Babine showed a heavy run of Sockeye, Springs, Pinks and a light run of Cohoe, Kitwano shows a heavy run of Sockeye and Springs, medium run of Pinks. light run of Cohoe and heavy run of Steelhead and Dolly Vardons. Mc Donell Cr and Copper River showed a medium run of Sockeye and a light run of Cohoes. Upper Bulkley River showed a medium run of Sockeye, a medium run of Cohoe, medium Springs and heavy Steelhead

MORICE RIVER flowing into the Bulkley about 3 miles west of Houston
Sockeye arrived Aug. 20th. med. heavy run, lge fish, sexes even: 1935 heavy
Cohoe latter part of Sept. med run: 1936 a heavy run

Springs Aug. 20th, heavy run: lge fish: 1935 fairly heavy: 1934 Med:
Steelhead May 10th: heavy according to Indians, favorable

NANIKA RIVER flowing into Morice Lake between 2 & 3 miles from outlet
Sockeye, Aug. 20th: heavy run, lge fish, sexes fairly even: 1935 heavy
Cohoe latter part of Sept, med run: 1936 heavy

Steelhead May 10th; according to Indians heavy, favorable

KISPIOX RIVER

flowing into the Skeena at Kispiox about 9 miles North of Hazelton
Sockeye, July, a medium run: 1935 heavy

Cohoe Aug. 28th, a light run, 1936 a light run

Springs July 10, a med. run, 1934 light, 1935 med.

Pinks Aug. 28th, a med. run, 1937 med.

Chums Sept. 15th a light run, about the same

Steelhead Sept. 20th & May, heavy run, favorable to any year

this applies merely to the fish that appear to be going through where the fishing takes place as only the Pinks and a few Chums spawn close to this point.

DATE CR flowing into the Kispiox from the West about 4 miles N of Kis

Cohoe Aug. 10th & Oct, a light run, 1936 a light run, about same

Pinks Aug. 8th a medium run, about the same, 1937 med run

DANIEL: HEAVY CR: or DEAN CR. flowing into Kispiox 7 miles above Kispiox

Cohoe Aug. 10th & Oct, a light run, about the same, 1936 a light

Pinks Aug. 2nd. Med run, favorable, 1937 med

MONGESE flowing into the Kispiox about 65 miles N. of Hazelton

Sockeye, last of Aug. a med run, 20% lge, 80% med, 60% females: 1935 heavy

Cohoe Sept. 15th, a light run average fish, sexes even, favorable 19
Springs no information this year (ligh

Steelhead, May & Oct. heavy, favorable

AMMONNOOK flowing into Kispiox about 65 miles N. of Hazelton

Sockeye, last of Aug. med. run, 20% lge, 80% med, 60% females, lighter 19

Cohoes Sept. 15th, light, average fish, favorable 1936 light

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STEVENS CR flowing into the Kispiox about 70 miles N. of Hazelton draining Stevens Lake a part of the Lac-da-dah area
Sockeye, last of Aug, Med. run, 20% lge, 80% med, 60% females, lighter, 1935
Cohoe Sept. 15th, light run, sexes even, average, favorable 1936 (heavy)
Steelhead, May & Oct. heavy, favorable to any year (light)

CLUB CR, draining Club Lake into Stevens Lake
Sockeye, last of Aug, med. run, 20% lge, 80% med, 60% females, lighter, 1935
Cohoe Sept. 15th, a light run average fish, favorable, 1936 light
Steelhead, May & Oct. heavy, favorable to any year

NARROWS draining Swan or Aroy Lake into Club Lake
Sockeye, last of Aug, Med. run: 20% lge, 80% med: 60% females, lighter, 1935
Cohoes Sept. 15th, light run average fish, sexes even, favorable 1936 (heavy)
Steelhead, May & Oct. heavy, favorable to any year (light)

SWAN: FALLS : ALLEN CR: flowing into Swan or Aroy Lake about 2 miles from Narrows

Sockeye, last of Aug, med. run: 20% lge: 80% med: 60% females: lighter, 1934
med. 1935 heavy, 1936 heavy

Cohoe Sept. 15th, light run average fish, sexes even, favorable, 1936 light
BABINE AREA

NINE MILE CR flowing into Babine Lake about 9 miles from Babine Village
Sockeye Aug. 8th, heavy run, lge fish, Females 66%, heavier than 1934
or 1935, about as 1936 except that sexes were even that year

SALMON CR. flowing into Morrison lake at the head
Sockeye Aug. 10th, heavy run lge fish, females 66%, approximately 1500
heavier than 1936, no report 1934 or 1935

HATCHERY CR: draining Morrison Lake into Hatchery Arm Babine Lake
Sockeye, arriving Aug. 14th, heavy run lge fish, 66% females, heavier,
1935 approximately 9 or 10 thousand, males from 60 to 75%. 1934
approximately 5500 fish, 60 to 75% males

Cohoe Last of Sept, light run, favorable, 1936 a light run

UPPER BABINE RIVER

AREA #1 or BRIDGE SECTION

Sockeye Sept. 15th, heavy run lge fish, 5% Runts, 66% females, better than
either 1935 which was heavy with percentage of Males and 1936
which was light

Springs Sept. 25th, med. run, lge fish, 66% females favorable with 1935

Cohoe Sept. 25th, light run, lge size, 66% males, some lighter than 1936
which was also light

Pinks Aug. 25th, heavy run, 66% males, favorable, 1937 heavy

AREA #2 or HATCHERY SECTION

Sockeye Sept. 15th, heavy run, lge fish, 5% runts, 75% females, better than
1935 when there was 20% runts & 80% males, 1934 light, 75% males

Springs Sept. 25th lge fish, 75% females, 25% stronger than 1935

Cohoe Sept. 25th light run, lge fish, 66% males, 1936 also light

Pinks Sept 1st, heavy run 75% males, favorable, 1937 heavy

AREA NO 3 or ISLAND SECTION

Sockeye Sept. 15th, heavy run, med. fish, 66% females, 5% runts, better
than 1935 which was 20% runts, 75% males, better than 1934 which
was medium

Springs Sept. 25th, lge fish, 75% females, 25% better than 1935

Cohoes Sept. 25th, light run, 1936 also light

Pinks Sept. 1st, heavy run, 66% males, favorable, 1937 was also heavy

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LOWER BABINE RIVER

Sockeye. Sept. 21st, heavy run med fish, 66% females, 5% runts, compares favorably with either 1935 or 1934 which were heavy runs
Springs Aug. 4th. a heavy run lge fish, 66% females, 1935 very light 1934 a medium run
Cohoe light run, 66% males, lge fish, 1936 also light
Pinks Aug. 14th, a heavy run, 75% males, compares favorably with any year, better than 1937 which was also heavy

FULTON RIVER entering Babine Lake near Topley Ldg. about the middle of the Lake

Sockeye began arriving Aug. 21st, by Sept. 15th had appearance of light medium run but was further augmented for another 3 weeks to make a heavy run, running from lge to small with 10% runts making a good average size, 66% females, better than 1935 which was estimated as 35% better than 1934

Cohoe Oct. 1st. a light run, 1936 also light

TACHEK CR entering Babine Lake about 2 miles east of Topley Ldg.

Sockeye Aug. 11th 2160 lge 75%, 25% med & sm. 60% females, Aug. 20th 173 mostly small, better than 1935 or 1934

PIERRE CR flowing into Babine Lake about 18 miles from Donald's Ldg.

Sockeye Aug. 10th 2900, 75% lge, 25% med & sm. 60% females Aug. 17th, 1674 75% lge, 25% med & sm. 60% females, Aug. 28th, 900, 60% lge, 40% med & sm. females 60%: Sept. 14th. 6000, 20% lge, 60% med. 15% sm. 5% runts 60% males, approximately 12000, 1934 approximately 10000, 1935 better than any year since 1930

TWIN CR flowing into Babine Lake about 16 miles from Donald's Ldg.

Sockeye approximately 4874, 75% lge, 60% females better than 1934 when approximately 3 to 4 thousand were on the area, 1935 was better than 1934

FIFTEEN MILE or ANDERSON CR flowing into Babine Lake about 12 miles from the head of the lake

Sockeye approximately 35000, 1934 approximately 13 to 14 thousand, 1935 was also a heavy year. The Indian Food supply catch at this point this year 4210 of which from 60% to 70% were males

FOUR MILE CR

Sockeye, Aug. 18, 1309, 80% lge, 60% females, Aug. 30, 93, 40% lge, a total 1402, 1934 none on area, 1935 about 400, 60% males

SIX MILE CR.

Sockeye, Aug. 18th, 342, 75% lge, 60% females, 1934 none, 1935 400, 60% males

GRIZZLY CR. flowing into Beaver or Sutherland R thence into Babine L at the head of lake,

Sockeye, Aug. 23rd, 8163, 75% lge, 60% females, Aug. 29th approximately 30 75% lge, 60% females, a total approximately 11200 with a food supply catch of 1400 of which 60% females 1934, Aug. 27th, 2000 med, 10% runts, 60% males, food supply 145 1935 about 4000, lge fish, 60% males, food supply catch 560

KITWANCOOL R. flowing into the Skeena near Kitwangak

Sockeye, last of July, a heavy run, 1936 a heavy run, 1935 a light run

Cohoe Sept. a light run, 1936 light

Springs, Aug. 1st, a heavy run, 1935 none

Pinks Aug. 30th, a medium run, 1937 medium

Steelhead, May & Oct, a heavy run, compares favorably with any year

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STONE CR: into the Skeena from North about 7 miles W of Hazelton
Cohoos, Aug. 6th & Oct. a light run, 1936 a light run
Pinks Aug. 4th a medium run, 1937 a medium run
CEDAR CR: into the Skeena from N. about 2 miles from Hazelton
Cohoos Aug. 4th & Oct. a light run, 1936 a light run
Pinks Aug. 8th a medium run, 1937 a medium run
MISSION CR into the Bulkley about 1 mile above junction with Skeena
Cohoos Pinks Aug. 8th a medium run, about as 1937
COPPER R. or ZYMOETZ R. into the Skeena near Terrace
Sockeye, Aug. 1st. a medium run, 1934 & 1935 med runs
Cohoos Sept. 25th. a medium run, 1936 a light run
Springs. no information this year
Steelhead, May 10 the heavy, favorable to any year
MC DONELL CR: draining Dennis Lake into Mc Donell Lake, part of Zymoetz
Sockeye, Aug. 1st. a med run, 1934 med, 1935 also med.
Cohoos Sept. 25th. a med. run, 1936 a light run
TOBOGGAN CR : into the Bulkley about 15 miles W. of Smithers
Cohoos, last of Aug light run, Oct med run, about as 1936
Steelhead, May, heavy according to information
KATHLYN or CHICKEN CR: draining Kathlyn Lake into Bulkley near Smithers
Cohoos, light latter part Aug. med in Oct. about as 1936
Steelhead, May heavy compares favorably
TELKWA R: into the Bulkley at Telkwa
Cohoos, light run last of Aug, med in Oct. about as 1936
UPPER BULKLEY: that part above junction with Morice
Sockeye, Aug. 10th. med heavy, favorable as 1935 was light
Cohoos Sept. 1st med. heavy. 1936 med heavy
Springs Aug. 10th med heavy, 1935 med heavy
Steelhead, May, heavy according to information

I am Sir:

Your obedient servant

A. H. McDonald

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

Rec 322
M-2

FRC



CANADA

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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OFFICE OF THE FISHERIES INSPECTOR

At Smithers, B. C., 1939

Oct. 9th. 1939

Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 25th. ultimo file 26-1 I beg to advise you that Special Permits are used at only one point in this area namely at Meristown on the Bulkley River. We were forced to use the permits at this point for the protection of the Fishery Officers and also for the protection of the Salmon as well as the Indians. In no other part of the area is this red tape necessary as the Indians recognize the authority of the Fishery Officers and knew that they are not hindering or interfering with them so long as they are lawfully securing their food supply.

a) At Meristown the fishing has been done entirely by gaffing and angling this season.

b) Fishing is allowed five and one half days a week.

c) The fishing season lasts as long as it is necessary for the Indians to secure their food supply.

d) We make no discrimination with any Indians

e) The Permits are issued by the Fishery Guardian located at Meristown.

f) There have been no restrictions placed on the quantity taken other than that they must take care of the fish caught and not waste any. By this, it is meant, that when any Indian has caught more fish than he able to cure before they will spoil, we stop him fishing until such fish have been taken care of.

g) We make it easy for the Indian to secure his Permit and we do not allow any Indian to fish without one. We also take the Permit away from any Indian who does not comply with our rulings, that is one who is trying to commercialize his special privilege of securing his food supply, or another that will not clean up the refuse that he causes. The Permit is returned to the Indian as soon as he shows that he is going to comply lawfully and legally with his Permit.

h) Other years the privilege of operating a fish basket for the purpose of securing food supply was allowed to one Indian, namely Louis Tommy. This man was using the basket as a means to commercialize. In addition it was great source of friction among the other Indians, this season the basket was not allowed. It was proven that there was hardship worked on the Indian as he demonstrated that he could gaff a fish as well as any native on the Reserve, so that it was not necessary for him to have any privilege other than accorded to the rest of the tribe.

At Haggitt on the Bulkeley, fishing by means of a raft is allowed six days a week. There are no restrictions other than that they must take care of their fish and cure them.

On the Skeena River from Cedarvale to six miles above Kipslex fishing is done both by set nets and by drifting. Fishing is allowed six days a week and no restrictions are made as to quantity other than they shall not waste any fish. There is no difficulty on this section because the Indians go to the canneries for the fishing season and are fully alive to the reason why there must be conservation. By educating them to this point and the reason why fishery efforts need to know the amount of their daily catches they will keep track of their daily catches and give the information without reservation when asked.

At Babine Lake, Indians from the Portage and from Stuart Lake fish at the mouth of the Sutherland River during the month of August and then are allowed to come to fifteen miles or to secure the feed supply necessary. Fishing is allowed six days a week. No spearing is allowed nor is it allowed that one part fish at Sutherland or Beaver River and others at fifteen miles or at the same time. Fishing must be done at either point or the other by all and in the lake.

Fishing is allowed at the mouth of the Fulton River to three or four families six days a week with set nets in the lake. No spearing. At Babine River set nets are allowed for six days a week. No restrictions as to quantity except that there must be no waste. No spearing of Skeena allowed except under certain conditions such as an exceeding heavy run of fish that prohibits the use of nets owing to a heavy waste that would be caused. Spearing is allowed on the lower end of the river for Spring salmon otherwise the Indians would not secure hardly any of this season.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the Fishery Dept. of the area are alive to the necessity that the Indians must have their feed supply and that they have special privileges to secure same, so that hindrances and obstacles are not placed in their way to secure same. All that is asked is some co-operation by them in the conservation of that supply and the fishing industry by eliminating waste, and by not commercializing on their special privileges.

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

I am Sir,
 Your obedient servant

W. J. McPherson