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OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF FISHERIES



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NAVAL SERVICE  
CANADA

PRINCE RUPERT B. C. Oct. 5th 1919

re. SALMON SPAWNING GROUNDS, SKEENA WATERSHED

Sir:-

I beg to submit the following report in connection with my late visit to the salmon spawning areas of the Skeena River.

Leaving Prince Rupert on September the 3rd I went direct to Burns Lake by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, a distance of 317 miles, and after purchasing an outfit of provisions etc. sufficient to last for the time I might be engaged on Babine Lake, I started out with a team reaching Pinkut Lake that afternoon. The next day I arrived at Donald's Landing and met the officer who has charge of the beat at the upper end of the Lake. Everything at the boat-house was in good order, and Mr. Sharp has had good success with the motor boat.

ANDERSON CREEK, AND BEAVER RIVER. The next day after my arrival we started on a tour of inspection to the head of the lake. At Anderson, or as it is sometimes called Fifteen Mile Creek, we found Mr. Crawford, Superintendent of the Stuart Lake Hatchery stripping Sockeye for his hatchery. He had already taken three million eggs from Pierre Creek, had a million and a half from the creek where we found him engaged, and he expected to be through collecting eggs in a day or two. I heard afterwards that he got his complement (6½ million) inside the week. There is the usual large number of parent sockeye making this creek their spawning area, and there is the

John T.C. Williams, Esq.,

Inspector of Fisheries,

PRINCE RUPERT B. C.

Mr. Latham is positive that there was considerably less salmon smoked than usual this season, and as for waste, even the back bones and tails were hanging up in the smoke houses, which was intended for the dogs during the winter season. Indian Agent Loring also states, that there is not eighty per cent of salmon put up by Indians under his care now, as there was a few years ago.

Officer Latham visited Kitkagas, a village on the Babine River near its confluence with the Skeena, and situated about fifty five miles north of Hazelton. The Indians fish in a canyon, and all the fish that enter Babine Lake have to run the guantlet here. Most of the fishing is done with dip-nets and gaff-hooks, with a small basket or two set in the eddies in the canyon. The straight walls of the canyon and the swift current will not allow anything stationary to hold, so that we have never experienced any difficulty with these people. The above officer has also made a visit to Kuldo, Klam-gish and Blackwater Lakes. The Klam-gish is a tributary of the Skeena joining that river about 12<sup>miles</sup> north of Hazelton, and between the fourth and fifth station on the Yukon Telegraph line. It has a wonderful showing of sockeye spawning between the two small lakes of the same name. This spawning ground is not very large, and in early days several families of Indians were accustomed to put up considerable salmon here, but of late years something has happened these people, they have left the locality or died, and the salmon have had a chance to increase without being molested by any one. There is a succession of natural meadows and sloughs between these and Blackwater Lakes, the latter being drained by Blackwater Creek into a tributary of the Naas River. Mr. Latham reports the run of salmon to Blackwater is not nearly as <sup>good.</sup> last year, and the Indian

The fish had not at that time arrived at the spawning grounds. A week afterwards they were going up in large numbers and I think had Mr. Harrison made the trip in the month of September, he would have returned with a far more favourable opinion of the Kitsumkalum Lake as a spawning ground.

KITWANCOOL LAKE. I journeyed to the Kitwancool Lake on the 27th of September. I travelled by the trail which runs an easy distance from the river the whole length of the way. In the river I saw a few Cohoes and Humpbacks. At the head of the Lake I found the sloughs plentifully supplied with Sockeye spawning.

The conditions were exceptionally good this year, both at Kitsumkalum and Kitwancool. The rivers were low, and the lakes normal with the probability of a rise with the Fall rains.

With the above information before you, the Chief Inspector and Yourself will I think be able to form an opinion as to the conditions obtaining this year, within the water-shed of the the Skeena River, and trusting this will be found satisfactory.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Stewart Horrie*

Overseer of Fisheries.

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