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PRI-D-7
I started work in this district on May 21st after completing Fisheries Inspector's Course at Vancouver. I have rented office accommodation in a private house owned by H. Sherwood.

During the season a great part of my time was spent getting acquainted with people in the area and visiting the streams and river for first hand information. Owing to very wet weather during the spawning season, some streams had to be visited several times and the information gained was not complete.

An exploratory trip was made into Allistair lake and Gitnadoix river, August 21st to 28th. A run of Sockeye was found in this lake that compares favorably with the run in Lakelse lake. This run was at it's peak at the time of inspection. A run of Pinks and Chums was in the river at this time but it was a little too early for the peak. There was also a light run of Springs, and numerous coho fry which would indicate a good run of coho on this area.

Estimates at time of inspection:

Sockeye	10,000	
Chums	600	
Pinks	500	
Springs	20	past the peak.

A trip was made to the headwaters of the Zymoetz (Copper) river July 29th to 31st, to investigate reports of Spring Salmon on this area. This trip was made in company of Inspector Elliot of Smithers. No fish were found on the area at the time.

September 3rd to 11th a trip was made from the head of this river to it Junction with the Skeena. 1,500 Sockeye were found on the area above McDonnell lake. This was about half of last years run. Heavy rains encountered during the trip made visibility in the river very poor, and no other fish could be seen. A good run of Coho and a few Chums were found on the lower river at later dates.

A trip was made by plane to the head of the Kispiox River, Damdochax lake and to Slangeese river with J.R. Brett of Fisheries Research Board.

Runs found on these areas:

Kispiox	Sockeye	3,118	
	Coho	100	the first of run in area.
Slangeese	Sockeye	868	
	Coho	34	first of run.
	Pinks	20	dead fish run long; finished
	Springs	4	" " " " "
Damdochax	Sockeye	279	
	Springs	400	

An inspection trip was made into the Kitsungallum Lake Area, October 3rd to 7th. Although I was a little too late for this area and the river was very silty from rains, some information was obtained. There were 1300 Sockeye and a few Coho on the area at the time of inspection. A run of Spring Salmon reported in the lake

could not be estimated due to water conditions. This water is of glacial origin and it is only under extremely dry conditions that anything can be seen. Pinks, Chums and Coho were found on the lower Kitsumgallum river.

Periodic visits were made to Lakelse lake. The Sockeye run in of about 10,000 fish was light. The Coho run of about 6,000 fish was the heaviest ever seen in this area by old time residents. The pink run of 15,000 fish was light.

376,000 Sockeye yearlings were counted leaving the lake by the Fisheries Research Board. An Adult counting fence installed this year was not successful.

I cut about 3 miles of trail on Lakelse river and about the same along Williams creek.

I have been keeping some records and taking samples at the lake, for Fisheries Research Board, since they left in September. Accommodations and transportation for this work has been supplied by the Board.

The following is the complete picture for the District as far as spawning is concerned.

Sockeye	---- ---	light.
Springs	-----	light
Pinks 1	-----	light
Chums		medium
Coho		Heavy
Steelhead		Average.

Indian Fishing for food in the district has been light, and only 9 permits were issued. Indians, owing to wages in logging camps and mills do not depend so much on fishing for food as they did in other years. 185 Springs, 1,050 Sockeye, 210 Coho and 95 steelheads were taken in this fishery.

Fisheries Notices were posted at Kitsumgallum lake, Lakelse lake Terrace and Cedarvale.

No arrests were made. Only one report of illegal fishing was made, which when investigated was found to be untrue. Two instances of flashing being left in streams were found but in both cases a word to the operators concerned was sufficient to remedy the situation.

The Harbour (Hair) Seal are numerous in this district. They appear with the first spring Salmon run in May and stay in the river until the Coho run is over.

Experiments were carried out with different rifles and ammunition to find out the best allaround weapon for their destruction.

12 gauge shotgun loaded with AAA or Buckshot is effective at close ranges but beyond 40 yards the pattern is not heavy enough for a sure kill. Lighter shot gives a heavier pattern but this cuts down the killing power.

Best results were obtained with an 8mm. but as ammunition for this calibre is hard to obtain and is also expensive it's use had to be discontinued.

A .22 using the long rifle ammunition was used and proved very effective up to 65 yards, but as most shots have to be taken beyond this range it's usefulness is limited.

In all 20 seals were killed outright while many others were hit but could not be claimed as destroyed.

A good shot with a highpowered rifle and telescope sight could cut down their numbers considerably.

The best time to hunt them would be early in the spring at the time of pupping season and shortly after. The young are not able to travel well at this time and seem to have a certain amount of curiosity that brings them up to close range. This leaves them as they develop and they become more timid and hard to stalk.

Late in the fall they follow the Coho up the smaller streams to the lakes and are easier to shoot than in the middle of the summer as they are confined to smaller bodies of water.

An application was made for a rifle and ammunition for use in the control of these predators.

A few cases of destruction of fish on small streams by bears are seen, but damage from this source is not heavy enough to be important.

Transportation has been my worst problem. Train times are such that all traveling by this means has to be done at night. As there is only one train a day, and a lapse of a day before a return train together with the fact that there are only a few hotels and stopping places along the line, they can not be used to any advantage.

Taxis can be used for oneway and short trips but as there is very little communication along the line and road can not be called for return trips.

Public Works Department drivers and Logging Operators were very helpful this season but can not be depended on at all times.

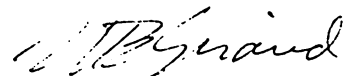
A light delivery or panel truck, equipped with a rack for carrying a canoe and motor, containing a sleeping bag and provisions would be the ideal transportation for this district.

A man could stop where he had business if there was no hotel and could be more or less selfsupporting.

A canoe is a necessity as in many instances the river has to be crossed and lakes are used considerably. Several instances of fishing boats being found across the river that could not be examined, have been encountered this season.

The high cost of cars and mileage rate allowed, makes it impossible for me to purchase one and operate one on my own.

A Fisheries Meeting was attended at the Office of the Supervisor in Prince Rupert, December 6th. Many problems and points of interest were discussed and think if this could be made a yearly meeting it would be of great value, to all concerned.



V.H.B. Giraud
Fisheries Inspector.