

Smithers, B. C.
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Herewith please find annual report of the Fisheries in Upper Skeena Area for the season of 1942.

The runs of the different species of Salmon did not appear to be as large in the river and the different fishing grounds, the escape to the Spawning areas varied little different from their cycle years. The escape of Sockeye was about as 1938, the run of Springs was possibly a little lighter than 1938, the run of Cohoes was heavier than 1939, the run of Pinks was lighter than 1940 the run of Chums was lighter and the runs of Steelhead and Dolly Vardons were good. The Indian Food Supply catch was heavier in Cohoes and lighter than in Sockeyes and Springs on the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers while the catch at Babine was mostly Sockeye. The escape of sockeye and Springs on the Babine compared very favorably with their cycle years and the Cohoe escape was heavier on this area.

Sport fishing during the season was very good in all the lakes and compared very favorably with other seasons. There were not quite as many outside fishermen on the Babine this season on account of war conditions but the area was very well represented by residents of the district.

As practically all fishing in the area is by the means of set nets we have no fishing fleet other than the flat bottomed boats of the Babine Indians used for conveyance up and down the Babine River and Lake. There are always a few new boats each season, as these mostly built with unseasoned lumber and have the rough wear of ice in the fall and spring do not last over a couple or three seasons.

Owing to the prevalence of work in the district there was not the amount of Indian Food Supply fishing as in other years.

There was not the incentive for fishing abuses this season on account of the amount of work available and this coupled with vigilance accounted for the little amount of abuses this season.

The closed seasons were very well observed

One permanent Inspector and four temporary employees two Guardians, one at Hazelton, another at Moricetown and two Patrolmen at Babine Lake are engaged by the Department to prevent illegal fishing and inspect spawn areas. In connection with this work boats and outboard engines are furnished for the Patrolmen on Babine Lake. The Inspector is furnished mileage for the use of his own personal car while on Fishery duties as well as travelling expenses while engaged on Spawn area inspections. Trips were made to the Morice Lake area. Kispiox spawn areas and three trips to Babine Lake as well as to other smaller areas adjacent to the different districts.

Where there are any sawmills that might pollute the streams, they are visited and steps are taken to avoid pollutions of any nature.

There is only one fishway, that has been constructed situated at Moricetown and this is good condition.

Spawn area inspections were carried out on foot, with boats and the use of car and saddle and pack horses. Trail conditions on the Morice and the Kispiox areas are bad and especially in bad weather. The results of inspections are as follows:-

LOWER BABINE RIVER

SOCKEYE: arriving on the area July 4th and were passing through into Babine Lake for the Upper areas. The spawning began late in Aug. It was a medium run of medium and large sockeye with females slightly in majority and 5% Runts. On Oct 22nd. there were still a few Sockeye spawning but the big percentage had either passed on to the Upper River or were deceased. The fish spawned freely and were well spent. The area would receive a medium to a heavy seeding. 1938 was a medium run of average and large sockeye with males 2 to 1 female. This year compared favorably with 1938 in numbers and better results and better spawning results might have been obtained.

LOWER BABINE RIVER

SPRINGS: began arriving on Aug. 4th and were spawning on Sept 1st. This was a fairly heavy run of average fish with sexes fairly even or females slightly in majority. The fish spawned freely and were well spent so that the area received a fairly heavy seeding. 1938 was heavy run of large fish with males 2 to 1 female. This year should compare favorably with that year with possibly better spawning results.

PINKS: began arriving on July 27th but were not showing up much until after my Aug. trip. It was alight to a medium run with females 2 to 1 male. 1940 was a ~~light~~ medium run but I would consider that this year was slightly less than that year. The fish spawned freely and were well spent and the area should receive a medium seeding.

COHOES: arrived Aug. 14th and was a fairly heavy run of average to large fish with sexes fairly even. The area would receive from a medium to a heavy seeding by this species. 1939 was a light run of Cohoes to this area so that this season compares very favorably with that year.

UPPER BABINE RIVER

BRIDGE or AREA No. 1 SECTION: that part of the Babine river from the Lake down about 3/4 of a mile

SOCKEYE: began passing through this area on July 4th. In Aug. there were a few sockeye on the area but these appeared to be passing into the lake. On Sept. 17th, they were fairly plentiful and some spawning was being done. A medium run of average and large fish with females 55%. In Oct. Sockeye moved up from the Lower River until there was a fairly heavy run. Some of these were still quite green and were mostly average fish with some runts and sexes fairly even. The area received a medium heavy seeding as the fish were well spent. It would appear that the season compares favorably with 1938 which would be the cycle year.

SPRINGS: a few showed up on the area on Sept. 19th, average fish with sexes even, would compare favorably with 1938 when there were only a few on the area.

PINKS: a light run with females in majority about Sept. 1st, spawned freely and were well spent. The area received a light seeding by this species, about as 1940.

HATCHERY SECTION or AREA NO 2: that part of Babine River for about 1/2 mile below Area No. 1 or Bridge Section;

SOCKEYE: began spawning on Sept. 10th. Sept. 17th there was a medium run of average fish with about 10% Runts and females slightly in majority. In Oct. the run was augmented with fish from the Lower River until there was a fairly heavy run. The fish spawned freely and were well spent so that the area has received a fairly heavy seeding. This year would compare favorably with 1938 except in that year males were 60% and this year females were slightly in majority.

SPRINGS: showed up about Sept. 10th, not many, average fish, sexes even. 1938 was light run. This season would compare favorably with 1938.

PINKS: a light run, average fish, females in majority. The fish spawned freely and were well spent. The area received a light seeding by Pinks about as 1940.

COHOES: began spawning on Oct. 3rd, a medium run of large fish sexes even. Spawned freely and were well spent. The area received a medium seeding by Cohoes and was better than 1939 which was the cycle year.

ISLAND SECTION or AREA No. 3: that portion of Upper Babine River from Hatchery Section to Nilkitlwa Lake from 1/2 to 3/4 mile in length.

SOSKEYE: In Aug. there were a few sockeye on the area but on Sept 17th, there was a medium run of average fish with females in majority 10% Runts. This augmented by run from Lower River in Oct made a fairly heavy run on the area. The fish spawned freely and were well spent and the area has received a fairly heavy seeding. 1938 had a heavy run that was augmented by a heavy run from the Lower River the last ten days of Oct and received a heavy seeding. This year the fish from the Lower River moved up earlier and it would be my opinion that it compares favorably with 1938.

SPRINGS: began spawning on Sept. 10th, a light run, average fish sexes even. The area received a light seeding. 1938 had a light run with males 2 to 1 females. This year compares favorably with that year and possibly better as there were more females on the area.

ISLAND SECTION AREA No. 3

1938; a light run with females in majority about Sept. 1st. spawned freely and were well spent. The area received a light seeding by this species, about as 1940

COHOES: began spawning on Oct. 3rd. a medium run large fish, sexes even and the area received a medium seeding. This year compares favorably with 1939 which is the cycle year and had a light run.

MC DONALD CR: flowing into Babine River just below Nilkitlwa Lake

Pinks arrived and started spawning about the last of Aug. A light run of average fish with females in majority. The area would receive a light seeding, some lighter than 1940 which was the cycle year

FRANKS CR flowing into Upper Babine River a short distance below the bridge. A couple of hundred entered the creek but the Patrolman was never able to find where they spawned so he did not know whether they had come out again or had ascended the creek. -Sockeye -

NINE MILE CR: flowing into Babine Lake about 9 miles from Babine Village:

SOCKEYE began arriving in Aug. so that on the 12th there were 266 on the area, 75% large, 25% mediums, sexes even. On the 20th this had been increased by 202 making a total of 468 fish on the area. In 1938 there 400 large sockeye, sexes even on the area that that this year compares favorably with the cycle year.

HATCHERY or MORRISON CR: flowing into Babine Lake at the head of Hatchery Arm and draining Morrison Lake:

SOCKEYE: began arriving Sept. 7th so that on the 19th there were 5410 sockeye and 1 lone Spring on the area. There was not much improvement on this area not over 5 or 6 hundred so that at the best the run would be 6000. The fish were 40% large, 40% medium, 18% small & 2% Runts with females 55%. This year does not compare favorably with cycle year of 1938 when there were 10000 on the area although the males were two to one female.

COHOES: arrived on the area in Oct. about 1000 large and average fish wsexes even, although there from 10 to 15% small fish with some runts. This is the first season that I remember of seeing runt Cohoes This season would be better than 1939 which was a light run.

FULTON RIVER flowing into Babine Lake near Topley Ldg.

SOCKEYE: began arriving on Aug. 19th. an approximate run of 3000 and more kept coming until it was from a light to a medium run, 25% large 25% medium, 40% small and 10% Runts with sexes about even. The run improved until Oct when it finished and would be approximately 25000. The run on this area does not compare favorably 1938 when it was estimated at 50000. The fish spawned freely and were well spent and the area has received from a light to a medium seeding.

COHOES: arriving in Oct. estimated at 2000 mostly large fish although there were some runts, Sexes were about even. The area would receive a light seeding but was better than 1939 which was a light run.

TACHEK CR: flowing into Babine Lake about 2 miles from Topley Ldg.

SOCKEYE: began arriving the last of July so that on Aug. 14th. there were 1500 on the area, (550 dead & 950 alive) 75% large & 25% medium, females 55%. On Sept. 16th there were 66 live sockeye on the area, I would judge that there had been about 200 new fish on the area after my first visit in Aug, making a total of 1700 on the area for the season. This would compare favorably with 1938 when there were between 1000 & 1200 on the area, 60% males, with 10% Runts, 15% small, 50% average & 25% large.

COHOES arriving in Oct. between 500 & 600 large fish with sexes even, would compare favorably with 1939 which was a light run.

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

SOCKEYE. arriving last of July so that on Aug. 14th there were 6000 on the area, 55% females, 60% large & 40% medium. In Sept. there was another run of between 6000 & 8000, 50% large, 30% medium, 18% small, 2% Runts with females 55%. The total for the season would be between 12000 & 14000 which would be three times better than 1938 the cycle year when there 4000 on the area, 60% males, medium & small fish with 10% Runts.

COHOES: arriving in Oct. a run of 600 large fish with sexes even would compare favorably with 1939 when there was a light run.

TWIN CR: flowing into Babine Lake about 16 miles from Donalds I .

SOCKEYE: arriving late in Aug. so that on Aug. 14th there were 3100 dead and alive fish on the area, composed of 75% large, 25% medium females 55%. On Sept. 16th there were 369 live sockeye on the area. Of these possibly 300 were new fish that had come on the area after my Aug. trip. This would make a total of 3400 on the area for the season. 1938 there were 3100 of large and medium fish with males 55%. This year would be better than 1938

COHOES: arriving on the area in Oct. about 200 large fish sexes even would compare favorably with 1939

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

SOCKEYE: On Aug. 14th there were about 50 sockeye on the area 50% large and 50% medium with sexes even, I would judge that this developed into a run of 2700 or 3000 before Aug. 20th. During the early part of Sept. a run of approximately 4000 arrived on the area, composed 40% large, 40% medium, 18% small & 2% Runts with females 55% with possibly 300 of them arriving in the last 24 or 48 hrs.. On Sept. 13th there were 5500 dead and alive sockeye on the area with an allowance of 1500 dead fish that had floated into the lake would make a total of 7000 to that date. This area was probably improved by another 1000 sockeye after that period and would make a total of 8000 for the season. This area does not compare favorably with the cycle year of 1938 when there were 12000 on the area.

COHOES: arriving in Oct, not visited but would consider that it compared favorably with 1939 when there was a light run.

GRIZZLY CR: flowing into the Beaver River about 8 miles from the head of Babine Lake,

SOCKEYE: arriving the last of July so that on Aug. 13th there were 150 on the area. On Sept. 13th there were 1670 dead and alive fish on the area with possibly another 25% carried into the woods by bear & coyotes making a total of 2100, 40% large, 40% medium, 19% small and 1% Runts with females 55%. Not as good as 1938 when there were 3100 on the area.

COHOES arriving in Oct possibly a couple of hundred large fish with sexes even, would compare favorably with 1939 when there was a light run.

MORICE RIVER draining Morice Lake and flowing into the Bulkley River about 4 miles west of Houston:

SOCKEYE; arriving the last of Aug. a medium run of medium fish sexes even, compares favorably with cycle year of 1938

COHOES: in Aug. & Sept a heavy run, med & large fish with sexes even compares favorably with 1939

SPRINGS: in Aug. & Sept heavy run of med & large fish with sexes even, compares favorably with 1938

STEELHEAD: May & Oct. heavy according to Indians favorable with any year.

NANIKA RIVER : flowing into Morice Lake about three miles from the outlet and draining Nanika, Kid Price chain of Lakes about 25 miles in length. Owing to bad weather, poor trail and shortness of time not visited, only at the mouth, would judge that the same conditions as on Morice River would be found except that there would be no Springs:

UPPER BULKLEY RIVER: that part of the Bulkley River above the junction with the Morice and East of Houston

SOCKEYE: arriving in Aug & Sept. a light run owing to low water

COHOES: arriving late in Sept. & Oct a heavy run large fish sexes even would compare favorably with 1939

SPRINGS: arriving in Aug & Sept a light run owing to low water

STEELHEAD: May heavy according to settlers

KITWANCOOL RIVER: flowing into the Skeena River from the North about 2 miles West of Kitwangak;

SOCKEYE arriving in Aug. a med run of Med & large fish females 55% compares favorably with cycle year of 1938

SOHOES arriving in Sept. heavy run large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

SPRINGS: arriving in Aug. a medium run of average fish sexes even about as 1938

PINKS: Arriving in Aug. a light run lighter than 1940

STEELHEAD; arriving in May heavy according to Indians about as other years

KITSEUGHLA RIVER: flowing into the Skeena River from the South at Skeena King.

COHOES: arriving in Sept. heavy run large fish with sexes even heavier than cycle year of 1939

STEELHEAD: arriving in May, heavy according to Indians, favorable
COMEALU CR: flowing into the Skeena River from the South about 1/2 mile East of Carnaby

COHOES: arriving in Oct, a medium run of average fish sexes even, lighter than cycle year of 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. very light run average fish sexes even lighter than 1940

CHUMS: none this year

STEELHEAD: none this year

STONE CR: flowing into the Skeena River from the North about 11 miles West of Hazelton and nearly opposite to Carnaby

COHOES: arriving in Sept. & Oct fairly heavy, compares favorably with cycle year of 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. a light run, lighter than 1940

CHUMS: no information this year

SEALEY CR: flowing into Skeena River from the South about 5 miles West of Hazelton

COHOES: arriving in Oct. a lighter run, lighter than 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. a light run lighter than 1940

STEELHEADS: arriving in May fairly heavy run, favorable with other years.

MISSION CR: flowing into Bulkey River from the South about 1/2 mile from the junction with the Skeena and about opposite to Hazelton

COHOES: arriving in Sept a heavy run of large fish sexes even better than 1939 the cycle year

PINKS: a light run lighter than the cycle year of 1940

CEGAR CR: flowing into Skeena River from the North about opposite to Hazelton.

COHOES: arriving in Sept. a heavy run of large fish sexes even better than the cycle year 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. light run lighter than 1940

KISPLOX RIVER: flowing into the Skeena River from the North about 10 miles north of Hazelton

SOCKEYE; arriving in July fairly heavy run of Med and large fish females 55% about as 1938

COHOES: arriving in Aug. & Sept. heavy run of large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

SPRINGS; no information this year

PINKS: arriving in Aug. a light run lighter than 1940

CHUMS: arriving in Sept. a light run lighter

STEELHEAD: heavy according to Indians, favorable

BIERNES CR: flowing into the Kisplox River from the East about 23 miles North of Hazelton

COHOES arriving in Sept. a heavy run large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. a light run lighter than 1940

CULLEN CR: flowing into the Kisplox River from the East near 1st. Cabin about 31 miles North of Hazelton.

SOCKEYE arriving about Aug. 25th, fairly heavy about as 1938

COHOES: arriving in Sept & Oct. a heavy run of large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

PINKS: arriving in Aug. a light run lighter than 1940

STEELHEAD: heavy according to Indians

MONGESE CR: flowing into the Kisplox River from the North about 55 miles North of Hazelton

SOCKEYE arriving from Sept. 1st to Oct. 1st. fairly heavy run of large and medium fish females 55% about as 1938 cycle year

COHOES: arriving in Sept. & Oct. heavy run of large fish, sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

SPRINGS. ARRIVING IN June, no information this year

STEELHEAD: May a heavy run according to Indians, favorable

AMMONNOOK CR: flowing into Kisplox River from the North about 65 miles North of Hazelton

SOCKEYE arriving Sept. 1st. light owing to low water

COHOES: arriving in Sept & Oct, heavy run, lge fish, heavier than 1939

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STEVENS CR: flowing into Kispiox River at Lac-da-dah from the West about 70 miles North of Hazelton, and draining Stevens Lake

SOCKEYE arriving from Sept. 1st to Oct. 1st. a fairly heavy run of large and medium fish with females 55% about as 1938 the cycle year
COHOES: arriving in Sept & Oct a heavy run of large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

STEELHEAD: May & Oct. heavy according to Indians, favorable

CLUBB CR: flowing into Stevens Lake from the West about 74 miles North of Hazelton:

SOCKEYE: arriving from Sept. 1st to Oct 1st. a fairly heavy run of large and medium fish, females 55% about as 1938

COHOES: arriving Sept. & Oct. heavy run of large fish sexes even better than cycle year of 1939

STEELHEAD: May & Oct. heavy according to Indians

KATHLYN CR: flowing into the Bulkley River about two miles from Smithers and draining Chicken or Kathlyn Lake

COHOES: arriving in Oct, heavy estimated at about 2000 by Game Warden

STEELHEAD: May a heavy run compares favorably

A. R. Mc Donnell

Fishery Inspector of Upper Skeena

P.S. In conclusion it may be stated that appropriations were made for the clearing of obstructions in five creeks on Babine Lake to improve spawning conditions, namely \$50.00 on Grizzly Cr: \$250 on Twin Cr: \$250.00 on Pierre Cr: \$250.00 on Tachek Cr and \$50.00 on Hatchery or Morrison Cr. This money was supposed to be available early in the year but notification arrived too late to do anything before high water. The work on all Crs. except Twin Cr. was finished in the middle of Oct, while Twin Cr was completed early in November. The Department was advised how the work was to be carried on, that is by contracting to the different Indian families that trapped the Creeks. The money for this work should have been available for the workers as soon as the work was completed and the payrolls sent in. This has not been done and constitutes an outrage and a crime in that these workers have not been paid. Any private firm doing things like this would be sued and held for the wages of the men from the time they completed the work until they were paid. Your Inspector acted in good faith had the work done and told the men that they would have their cheques two weeks after the inspection of the work. He has been left holding sack with the Indians demanding their money. It would appear that there must be a mixture of gross stupidity, red tape, callousness, carelessness and negligence in the Department when these men have not been paid as they furnished their own supplies and tools and they need the money as they are not rich.

A. R. Mc Donnell

