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Smithers, B. C.,
December 14th, 1934.

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Sir,

I beg leave to present you the following report of the Fisheries for the Season of 1934, in subdistrict Upper Skeena, District No. 2, British Columbia.

Commercial fishing for the year shows a decrease in the landing of whitefish and char, in comparison with last year. This was caused by the death of one of the partners and by bad roads in the early fall which made it almost impossible for the fishermen to carry on.

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The run of Sockeye and Springs on the Bulkley River showed a sharp decrease in the amount of food supply caught by the Indians at Haggwilet and at Moricetown. The spawn areas of the Upper Bulkley showed a very light run. I would not consider this as a criterion of the total Bulkley watershed as the water stage on this area was very low and the fish did not enter it but continued on up to the Morice River area. This area was visited by your Inspector in August but it was found to be too early. The area was traversed by Game Warden Muirhead between September 6th and 19th, and he reported plenty of sockeye and springs on the area. From his description I would judge that a medium run escaped on the Morice and Manika spawn area. Cohoes on the Bulkley was also a medium run.

The run of springs and sockeye to the Hispiox was light, as was also the run of pinks, chums, and coho on this watershed.

The run of cohoes on the Telkwa River was light.

The run of sockeye on the Zymoetz or Copper River which flows into the Skeena near Terrace was a medium one, the springs a light run, while the coho run was first a medium and then a late run developed into a heavy run.

The Quinnigese area draining from the head of the Hispiox into the Neas area was very light in runs of all species as was the Blackwater area, draining from the Slangese to the Neas River at 6th Cabin. This Blackwater River and Lake is also called Dandochax.

The Slangese area showed a medium run on some of its areas of sockeye but on the whole it would be light. The springs on the area was very light. A medium run of coho showed on the area after the visit of your Inspector.

The Babine Lake area showed up the best of any of the areas in this subdistrict in comparison with the 1929 and 1930 seasons, although it was some lighter.

(b) Sport fishing was fairly good all season, right up till late in October.

(c) There were no commercial boats or fleet operating except three skiffs for setting nets for char and whitefish.

(d) There has been no change in the fishing.

(e) Close seasons were kept very well and no trouble was experienced in seeing that they were kept.

(f) Two Guardians, two patrolmen, and an Inspector were engaged in preventing illegal fishing and illegal sales. No

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complaints were received during the season in this connection.

(g) No mills are operating in this area to pollute the creeks. The Creeks were patrolled for obstructions. In this connection a complaint was registered by the Indians of the Kitwancool district re the use of dynamite on the Kitwancool area. This matter was investigated and reported on, advising against prosecution, as the dynamite was used in justifiable work and did no damage to the fish.

(h) The fishway at Moricetown was open and showed a distinct benefit this season in the manner that the fish escaped.

(i) BABINE AREA

Grizzly Creek, or Beaver River area.

Sockeye arrived this area August 27th, estimated 2,000 medium fish. 10% runts, 3 males to 2 females. 1451 sockeye taken for food supply. Lighter than 1929 and much lighter than 1930, but better than 1933.

Anderson or Fifteen Mile Creek

Sockeye arrived on the area July 27th between 200 and 300, increasing to between 2,000 and 3,000 on August 8th. Large fish. 3 males to 2 females. August 19th between ten and twelve thousand medium size. 15% runts, males 60%. Food supply catch 2324 sockeye. The fish on the area numerically compare favourably with 1929 but less than 1930. The total run including the food supply catches is less than either 1929 or 1930.

Cohoe was light run.

Four Mile and Six Mile Creeks.

No Sockeye on these areas this season.

Twin Creek

Sockeye arrived on the area August 17th. Estimated at between three and four thousand. Large fish. 60% males. Some runts. Was better than 1929 but less than 1930. Water stage this season better than 1930 so better results may be obtained in spawning than in 1930.

Pierre Creek

Sockeye arrived on the area August 23rd. Estimated at 10,000 large fish. 60% males. Compares favourably with 1929 but less than 1930.

Tachek Creek

Sockeye arrived on the area August 27th, estimated 2,000 medium size average. 10% runts. 60% males. No 1929 report. 50% of 1930 run but better water stage this season and expect better results in the spawning.

Fulton River

Sockeye arrived on the area July 31st. A few hundred and kept straggling in until between two and three thousand were spawning on September 8th. Large fish. 60% males. September 23rd large run came in, estimated at 20,000 medium fish. 10 to 15% runts. The run this season was lighter than 1929 or 1930 and carried a greater predominance of runts.

Morrison or Hatchery Creek

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Sockeye arrived August 7th, then a later run. Large fish. Males from 60 to 75%. Estimated 75% of fish were spawned for hatchery giving about 3½ million eggs. Does not compare favourably with either 1929 or 1930.

Nine Mile Creek

About 60 sockeye arrived on the area this season August 6th. Large fish, sexes even, better than 1929 but less than 1930.

Section 1, Upper Babine River Bridge Area

A light run of average size sockeye arrived on the area September 15th, 75% males. 7% runts.

A light run of cohoes arrived September 15th, sexes even.

No Springs this season.

No pinks this season.

Section 2, Upper Babine River, Hatchery area.

Light run sockeye arrived area October 1st, average size. 75% males.

No Springs on the area this season.

Light run cohoes, 50% males, arrived September 15th.

No pinks this season.

Section 3, Upper Babine River, Island Area.

Sockeye arrived on this area September 7th. A medium run, large fish, 75% males, 10% runts. A light run on October 20th, medium size, 75% males.

Springs, a light run September 7th, medium fish, 50% males.

Cohoos, a light run, medium fish, 50% males, arrived Sept. 15th.

Pinks, very few this season.

The Upper Babine River, in comparison with 1929, the fish arrived about the same time. It was a lighter run with more males, but less runts. This year was much lighter than 1930, with more males in comparison, about the same in runts, arriving somewhat later.

Lower Babine River

Sockeye, three runs on Sept. 15th, September 29th, and Oct. 6th. Comprising a very heavy run of fairly large fish, males 2 to 1 female, 15% runts.

Springs, a medium run, average fish, sexes even. Arrived Aug. 16.

Cohoos, a light run, average fish, sexes even, arrived Aug. 25.

Pinks, a light run, average fish, sexes even, Aug. 27th. Off year.

Numerically the sockeye this season was about the same as 1929, and less than in 1930. Males showed a greater proportion this season than in 1929. The size of the fish compares more with 1930, except that there was a greater proportion of males and runts.

Springs compare favourably with 1929.

Cohoos compare favourably with 1929 and 1930.

Pinks were less this season than in either 1929 or 1930.

Trail Creek

Emptying into Babine River near the bridge.

Sockeye a light run arrived Aug. 25th, males 2 to 1 female.

Pinks, none this season.

The run of sockeye this season was more like 1929 than 1930 except that the proportion of males was greater than in either of those years. The sockeye were considerably later going on the area than in either 1929 or 1930. In 1929 there was a medium run of pinks on the area. None in 1930 and none this season.

McDonald Creek, entering Babine River just below Milkitlwa Lake.

Sockeye, none this season, none in either 1929 or 1930.

Springs, none this season, 1929 a light run July 1st. 1930 a light run on July 20th.

Pinks, a light run, sexes even, 1929 a heavy run, 1930 a light run.

Canon Creek, entering the Skeena River about 8 miles south of 4th Cabin.

Sockeye arrived September 1st, a light run average fish, sexes even. 1929 heavy run.

Springs, a light run average fish, sexes even, arrived Sept. 1st. 1929 a heavy run.

Cohoos, a medium run, average fish, sexes even. Arrived Oct. 1st.

Slungese River, entering Skeena River north of 4th Cabin, Y.T.L.

Sockeye, light this season. The fish continued on to Cabin Creek. 1929 heavy. They arrived this season September 1st.

Springs, just saw four on the area this season. Arrived September 1st.

Cohoos, a medium run arrived 1st October.

Pinks, none this season, last season a medium run.

Cabin Creek, entering Slungese Lake from Cabin Lake.

A light run. Estimated at about 700. Fairly large with about 15% runts. The balance sexes were about even. 1929 was medium run. This year less than last season.

No springs this season.

No Pinks this season.

Cabin Lake Inlet

Sockeye, just saw one fish on the area, a female.

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SHE CREEK, 3/4 way North Creek, head of the Blackwater or Dandochux River and entering into Wismenosic Lake.

About 150 sockeye on the area, medium size. Sexes even. A light run arrived about September 4th. Cohoe, a very light run October, just a few. Steelhead none in the spring of 1934.

WISMENOSIC CREEK, draining Wismenosic Lake into Blackwater or Dandochux Lake.

Sockeye, arrived September 4th, a light run, about 100. Sexes even.

Cohoe, a very light run this season, arriving October 1st. Steelhead, none in the season of 1934.

BLACKWATER or DANDOCHUX RIVER, entering the Neas River just below 6th Cabin, Y. T. L.

Sockeye did not stay on the area this season but continued on to Wismenosic Creek and 1/4 Way Cr.

Springs, a medium run, estimated at about 1000. Average fish, sexes even, arrived August 25th.

Cohoos, hardly any showed up on the area this season.

Steelhead, which spawn about 1st June, was a washout, only 6 being observed by the Indians.

NEAS RIVER, entering the Skeena River at 2nd Cabin, Y.T.L.

A pink area, none was seen this season. Last year light.

MCDONELL CREEK, draining Dennis Lake into McDonell Lake, thence to the Copper or Bulkley River, entering the Skeena near Terrace.

Sockeye, arrived on the area Aug. 26th, large fish, sexes even. A medium run. Estimated at between 1 and 2 thousand. Lighter than 1930.

Springs, none observed this season.

Cohoe, arrived on September 15th, a medium run, average fish. Sexes even. Estimated at between 1 and 2 thousand. A heavy run the last of October in addition.

Steelhead, June 1st a very heavy run, according to the Indians.

COPPER or BULKLEY RIVER, entering the Skeena near Terrace.

Sockeye, a light run, arrived Aug. 26th, estimated at about 100. About same as 1930.

Springs arrived Aug. 26th, about 100. Lighter than 1930.

Cohoos arrived Sept. 15th. A couple of hundred. A heavy run arrived on Oct. 15th.

Steelhead, May 30th, a heavy run.

DENNIS CREEK, draining Aldrich Lake into McDonell Lake.

Cohoe arrived the last of October, a heavy run.

Steelhead, June 1st, a heavy run, according to the Indians.

TWO BRIDGE or REISTER CREEK, entering the Bulkley on the North side about 10 miles west of Smithers.

Cohoe arrived Oct. 15th, medium run (c) no record 1931.

Steelhead, arrived June 1st, medium run (b).

WONGWAGAN CREEK, entering the Bulkley on the south side, about 15 miles West of Smithers.

Cohoe, arrived Sept. 20th and Oct. 15th, medium run (E), and (E). No record of 1931.

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TONGUE CREEK, (cont'd)

Steelhead, spawning May 29th, medium run.

DRETTWOOD CREEK, entering the Bulkley on north side, 7 miles west of Smithers.

October 15th, coho arrived. A medium run, no record 1931.

CANYON or CARR CREEK, entering the Bulkley River on the north side 5 miles west of Smithers.

Coho, arrived September 15th (b) light.

" " Oct. 15th, medium, 1931 a light run.

NATHAN CREEK, entering Bulkley River on the south side, 3 miles west of Smithers.

Coho arrived Oct. 20th, a medium run, about as 1933.

TELKWA RIVER, entering the Bulkley River at Telkwa from the south side.

Coho arrived Sept. 20th, a light run.

" " Oct. 15th, a medium run, much lighter than 1933.

UPPER BULLHEAD RIVER, that part of the river above the junction with Morice.

Sockeye arrived about Sept. 1st, a very light run.

Springs arrived Aug. 27th, a very light run, about 100.

Cohoes arrived Sept. 20th, and Oct. 20th, a very light run.

Very low water on the area this season so that the bulk of the fish continued on up the Morice River.

MORICE RIVER, really the main source of the Bulkley, enters the Bulkley from the south side, about 2 miles west of Houston.

Sockeye beginning to arrive Aug. 22nd, just a few stragglers but were on the spawning areas between September 6th and 19th. Reported by Game Warden Muirhead as very plentiful but would be of the opinion that it was medium run.

Springs, beginning to arrive Aug. 22nd, plentiful on the spawning areas according to Game Warden Muirhead, between Sept. 6th and 19th, would consider a medium run.

Coho, I think would be considered a medium run also.

MAHUA RIVER, entering Morice Lake about 3 miles from outlet.

Sockeye arriving about the 1st week in September, would be considered a medium run.

Steelhead, a heavy run, about the 1st of June, according to Indians.

Coho, would be considered a medium run.

HILL CREEK, entering the Skeena from north side, about 3 miles west of Kitwanga.

Pinks, a medium run July 25th, heavier than 1932.

Cohoes, a medium run arrived Aug. 15th.

Chums, a medium run arrived Aug. 20th.

MITWANGA RIVER, entering the Skeena River from the north near Kitwanga.

Sockeye, arrived July 1st, medium run, better than last year which was lighter than 1929.

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KITSEUGHLA RIVER, (cont'd)

Cohoe, July 25th, a medium run, about equal to 1931 which was medium.

Springs arrived July 1st, light.

Pinks arrived July 25th, medium, equal to 1932.

Chums, arrived August 24th, a heavy run. Heavier than 1932.

Steelhead arrived July 20th, heavier than preceeding year.

KITSEUGHLA RIVER, entering the Skeena at Kitseughla.

Cohoe arrived at this creek July 20th, a medium run according to the Indians.

Steelhead, a heavy run, spawning the last of May.

STOREY or BOULDER CREEK, entering the Skeena River on the north side about 6 miles west of Hazelton.

Pinks, a heavy run July 28th, better than 1932.

Chums, a heavy run arrived Aug. 24th, heavier than 1932.

Cohoe, a light run arrived August 1st.

SHALEY CREEK, entering the Skeena about 3 miles west of Hazelton from the south.

Sockeye a light run July 1st, lighter than 1930.

Pinks, a light run, lighter than 1932.

MISSION CREEK, entering the Bulkley about 1/2 a mile above Skeena junction.

Pinks, a medium run arrived July 28th, equal to 1932.

MILL VOWELL CREEK, entering the Skeena from the north at Glen Vowell.

Cohoos, none this season.

Pinks, a light run, lighter than 1932.

SHEPHERD or SALLON RIVER, entering the Skeena just opposite to Kispiox.

Cohoe arrived July 28th, a very light run, lighter than 1931.

Pinks arrived July 28th, a very light run, lighter than 1932.

KISPLOX RIVER, entering the Skeena from the north at Kispiox Village.

Sockeye arrived July 6th, light run.

Cohoe, arrived July 28th, a light run.

Springs, arrived July 1st, light run, lighter From food supply report.

Pinks, arrived July 28th, light run, lighter

Chums, arrived Aug. 12th, light run, equal

Steelhead, arrived Aug. 9th, heavy run, heavier

DATE CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 2 miles above junction with Skeena.

Cohoe, very few this season.

Pinks, very few this season.

DANIEL, HEAVYOR, & DEAN CREEKS, entering Kispiox 1/4 mile above Kispiox.

Cohoe arrived July 29th, light run, lighter than 1931.

Pinks, arrived July 29th, light run, lighter than 1932.

Steelhead, arrived July 15th, light run, equal to last year.

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CADAR CREEK, MCCULLY CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 8 miles above Kispiox.

No information on this creek this season.

SIMPSON or FINDLAY CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 9 miles above Kispiox.

Cohoe, a light run on Aug. 1st, lighter.

Pinks, a light run on July 29th, lighter than 1932.

BIERNES CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 13 miles above Kispiox.

Cohoe light run Aug. 1st, lighter than 1931.

Pinks, light run July 29th, lighter than 1932.

ROTH CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 14 miles above Kispiox.

Cohoe light run Aug. 1st, lighter than 1931.

Pinks a light run July 29th, lighter than 1932.

JOHN BROWN CREEK #1 enters the Kispiox River about 19 miles above Kispiox.

Cohoos a light run arrived Aug. 2nd, lighter than 1931.

Pinks, a light run arrived Aug. 1st, lighter than 1932.

CULLEN CREEK, enters the Kispiox River near the 1st Cabin, Y.T.L.

Cohoos arrived on Aug. 1st, a medium run, lighter.

Pinks, arrived Aug. 1st, medium run, lighter.

Steelheads, arrived Aug. 1st, medium run.

LOCHS CREEK, entering the Kispiox River about 25 miles north 1st Cabin.

Sockeye, a light run Aug. 15th, lighter.

Springs, a light run Aug. 15th, lighter.

Pinks a light run Aug. 5th, lighter.

Chums, a light run Aug. 27th.

Cohoos, Oct. 1st, a light run.

Steelheads, a heavy run according to Indians, the 1st of May.

ALONZO CREEK, entering the Kispiox about 30 miles north of 1st Cabin.

The water in this creek was too low for fish to enter this season.

SEVENS CREEK, draining Stevens Lake, entering the Kispiox about 50 miles north of 1st Cabin.

Sockeye a very light run, the fish continuing on.

Springs, a very light run.

Cohoe arrived Oct. 3rd, a light run, lighter.

CLUB CREEK, draining into Stevens Lake.

Sockeye arrived the last week in September, had the best showing on the Lac Da Dah area.

These sockeye were large fish with sexes even and were still fairly green and the area would receive from a medium to a heavy seeding. The run was about 75% of the run of the previous year. They arrived on the area about the 1st of October.

Cohoe arrived about the 1st of October. This was a medium run, sexes evenly divided. Lighter than 1933. The area would receive a medium seeding.

NARROWS CREEK, joining Swan Lake and Club Lake, on the Lac da dah area.

Sockeye arrived on the area about the 1st of October, a light run with 5 males to 2 females, and the area would receive a light seeding.

Cohoos arrived on the area about the 1st of October, was a medium run with the sexes fairly even and the area would receive a medium seeding.

SALM CREEK, draining into Swan Lake about a mile from the outlet.

Sockeye, the only evidence was one fish that the bear had taken out of the water and left in the woods. There may have been an earlier run about the last of August and the raising of the waters removed all traces. Sockeye used to be very plentiful on the area, which is not large, but they were as a rule early.

Cohoos on the area arrived about the 1st of October and was a medium run with the sexes evenly divided, and the area would receive a medium seeding.

WILLIAMS CREEK, entering the Kispiox River about 60 miles above 1st Cabin.

Cohoos arrived on the area about the 1st of October. This was a light run, just a couple of dozen fish. Sexes evenly divided.

QUINNIGESSE, flowing into the Neas River.

Two inlets on this area, as well as the Quinnigese River outlet.

Sockeye arrived on the area about the 1st of Oct. A medium run of large fish; with males 3 to 2 females. No runts. About 75% of the run of 1933. The seeding would be from a light to a medium.

Springs come early on this area and were not discernible on the trip of the Guardian. No information was received from the Indians this season, but would consider from the Blackwater area that there had been a medium run on the area.

Cohoos, not up at the time of the inspection and from information from Indian trappers there were very few on the area so that there would be a very light seeding.

Steelhead, very few spawned in the spring.

(MADON, DELIGHT, STEELHEAD CREEK) BELLA CREEK, SIM CANYON or SAMPSON CREEK, were not visited this season and there is no information concerning them.

In conclusion I may state that the season was not very propitious for the inspection of spawning areas, as the weather was dull and bad, creeks were high and roily, any dead fish along the bars and banks were washed away. There should be good results in the returns of the spawning as the weather has been mild, the creeks have been full and the beds have been covered so that there has been no damage from freshets.

Arrangements should be made that the Patrolmen at Babine Lake go in at the same time as it is impossible for one man to fix up the boats efficiently. It is not economy for two trips to be made in placing these men.

An outboard engine that will do the work and stand up to it should be secured for the Gipsy cruiser at Babine 2. In addition an engine 8 or 10 H.P. outboard should be secured for emergencies on Babine Lake as well as for use on the Morice River when needed.

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This additional engine was recommended several years ago and if it had been secured, it would have been paid for by rent that has been paid out during that period. In addition the Llorice River area would have been properly looked after. If there had been an engine available this year, the trip to Llorice Lake would not have been so useless for if the trip had been made over the water, your Inspector would have seen what the Game Warden saw and would have had accurate information.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

"A. R. McDonell"

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