

Smithers, B. C.
Dec. 31st. 1941

Dear Sir:-

I beg to present the following annual report of the Fisheries in Upper Skeena Area of District #2 British Columbia for Season of 1941.

A There was no commercial fishing in the District during the past year.

Sport fishing during the year was good as trout were plentiful and with a big run of Cohoes. Sportmen enjoyed a good season. Babine Lake was visited by a great number of people both local and Tourists from the outside. The summer was dry so that the roads into this point were extra good this season and consequently more visitors. Hazelton and Hazelton also had their enthusiasts for the Coho and Grilse fishing. The small lakes along the Can. Nat. Riv. also drew in for their share.

The escape of the different runs of Salmon was quite satisfactory on the spawning areas. The runs in the rivers enroute did not appear to be as large as in the cycle year but the fishing, through Indians working on other projects, was not so intensive and this more than counterbalanced the difference in most cases.

This was especially noticeable with the Sockeye both in the Bulkley at Hazelton and Hazelton and the ghyne where the food supply catches were much lighter than usual.

The Spring run did not appear to be up the mark of the cycle year.

The Coho run was heavy and compared favorably with the cycle year.

The Pink run was fair but not as good as the cycle year.

The Chin run was fairly heavy and compared favorably.

Steelhead and Dolly Vardens were quite satisfactory.

The weather during the spawning season was favorable in that the beds were not in flood waters at the time of the spawning but immediately after the waters raised so that all the beds were all covered until very late and there were no heavy frosts to uncover the beds. Good results should be obtained from the spawning.

B As we had no commercial fishing, there was no fishing fleet in operation.

C There was no change of any kind in the fishing this season.

D Abuses were at a minimum and very little trouble was experienced. There was a blocking of the Upper Bulkley by net and trap by new settlers through ignorance but as there was very little damage done, a warning was issued and co-operation was secured so that there will be no recurrence of the trouble.

E Close seasons in the area were very well kept.

F For Fishery protection there is kept in the area one Inspector, two fishery guardians one at Hazelton and the other at Hazelton for the fishing season as well as two patrolmen at Babine Lake. Through illness the former Patrolman at Babine I had to give up his duties. The Guardian at Hazelton did not desire to work this season because he could do better at other work. In addition to the men employed in protection work there are three boats and three engines at Babine Lake. The addition of the extra engine was more than welcome. The employees besides being on the watch for illegal fishing and abuses cruise creeks and etc as well as inspect spawning areas.

G Where there is any possibility of pollution creeks are cruised and premises are inspected. The attitude of the Public both Whites and Indians is on the whole towards co-operation with the Department, so that any new obstruction is reported to the Department and then examined.

H There is only one fishery runway that has been built in this area. This is located at Hazelton on the Bulkley and is in good condition.

I) Patrolmen, on the Morice by the Inspector and a guide or packer, on the Klappan by the Inspector and the Hazelton Guardian, The Kitwano by the Hazelton Guardian. Horses were used on all areas except Babine. In addition some of the ghyne creeks were inspected for obstructions.

GRIZZLY CR: flowing into Beaver or Sutherland River about eight miles from Babine Lake:

Sockeye: on Aug. 8th. there were about 30 on the area, on Sept. 11th there were 1950 dead sockeye and 1150 live ones with possibly a couple of hundred that had been pulled into the woods. The area was seeded by approximately 3100, 50% large, 49% medium and 1% small with females in majority: 1937 had about 300, 1935 & 1936 had about 4000 each year.

Coho: arriving the first week in Oct. On Oct. 19th there were about 200 large fish with sexes fairly even. Would compare favorably with 1938

The Indian food supply catch at Beaver River was 1953 Sockeye FIFTEEN MILE or ANDERSON CR: flowing into Babine Lake from the South about 12 miles from the head of the lake.

Sockeye: began arriving on Aug. 3th until on Aug. 13th. there were approximately between four and five hundred. These fish were large with females in majority. On Sept. 12th. there were about 1900 live sockeye on the area with possibly 2000 dead ones. These would average 33% 1/3 each of large medium and small with females approximately 60%. There were more Sockeye outside that would enter. The Patrolman reported that it improved 20% which would make a run of between fifteen and sixteen thousand with an Indian food supply catch of 1770 Sockeye. This would be double 1937 which had a run of about 8000, about the same as 1936 and slightly less than 1935;

Coho arrived the first week in Oct. about 250 large fish with sexes even about the same as 1938

TWIN CR: flowing into Babine Lake from the South about 36 miles from the head of the lake.

Sockeye began arriving in the last week in July, so that on Aug. 9th there were approximately 5000, 50% large & 50% medium fish with females 66%. On Sept. 17th there were about 1900 live ones that I judged had arrived after my last visit 1/3 each of large, medium & small with sexes 50/50. This would make a total of approximately 6000 which was about double of 1937 which had 3100, 1936 had one of the heaviest years, this year was less

Coho arriving about the last week in Oct. between 200 and 300 large fish sexes even compares favorably with 1938

PIERRE CR: flowing into Babine Lake from the South about 39 miles from the head of the lake.

Sockeye began arriving the last week in July so that on Aug. 9th there were approximately 6000 on the area 50% large and 50% medium with females 66%. On Sept. 16th there were 2500 live sockeye that I judged had arrived after my last visit with 1/3 each of large, medium & small sexes 50/50. This would make a run of approximately 8500 which would be more than double 1937 which had 3600, less than 1936 when there 15000

Coho began arriving Oct. 1st. between 500 & 600 large fish sexes even compares favorably with 1938

TACHEK CR: flowing into Babine Lake from the South about 2 miles east of Topley Ldg.

Sockeye began arriving on the area the last week in July so that on Aug. 10th. there were approximately 450 on the area. These were 75% large 25% medium with sexes 50/50. On Sept. 16th. there was another 200 hundred on the area that had arrived after my last visit divided equally in large medium and small with sexes about even. This would make a total of approximately 650; 1937 had 900 large sockeye, 40% males: 1936 had a very heavy run;

Coho arriving about the last of Oct. about 150 large fish sexes even, compares favorably with 1938

FULTON RIVER flowing into Babine Lake from the South about the middle of the lake at Topley Ldg.

Sockeye began arriving last week in Aug. so that on Aug. 13th there were only a few on the area. On Sept. 13th. there was from a light to a medium run of equal amounts of large, medium and small with females slightly in majority. From Sept. 13th. the area improved some but not as much as was expected as on Oct. 26th. the Sockeye were practically all washed up. It would thusly be from a medium to a fairly heavy run but it would not in my opinion be as heavy as 1937 which was a heavy year.

Coho arriving last of Oct. a fairly heavy run of large fish with sexes even, would compare favorably with 1938

HATCHERY or MORRISON CR: flowing into Hatchery Arm about 10 miles from Old Fort

Sookeys began arriving about 1st week in Aug. so that on Aug 1st there were about 50 on the area. On Sept. 13th. there were approximately 13000 50% large, 30% medium & 20% small with females slightly in majority. This was a heavy run and was nearly double 1937 which was estimated as 7000 males 45%

Cohoas a fairly heavy run arrived on Oct. 1st, compares favorably with 1938

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

Sookeys began arriving 1st. week in Aug. so that on Aug. 12th. there were 450 on the area. During the next month these were augmented to a total of about 1600 large fish with females 60%. This was much better than 1937 which was a light run. 1936 had about 1000 on the area

UPPER BABINE RIVER

AREA #1 or BRIDGE SECTION: that part of the river from a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile below Babine Lake

Sookeys began arriving on Sept. 15th. a medium run of large fish with females in majority. In Oct. the fish from the Lower River moved up so that on Oct. 24th. there was a very heavy run 50% large, 35% medium 15% small, females in majority, would compare favorably with 1937

Springs arriving Sept. 14th. a light run large fish, sexes even, would compare favorably with 1937

Cohoas arrived on Sept. 14th and were a medium run large fish, sexes even, would compare favorably with 1938

Pinks arriving Sept. 10th. a light run, medium fish, sexes even, lighter than 1939

AREA #2 or HATCHERY SECTION: that portion of the river about $\frac{1}{3}$ of mile below Area #1

Sookeys arriving Sept. 10th. a medium run large fish, females in majority, in Oct. a heavy run 50% large 30% medium, 20% small, females in majority. 1937 was heavy run of average Sookeys with 1st runts. this year compares favorably in numbers. Some waste on the area owing to predominance of females.

Springs about Sept. 10th. a light run average fish

Cohoas Sept. 10th. a heavy run large fish sexes even, compares favorably with 1938

Pinks Sept. 9th. a light run medium fish sexes even, lighter than 1939

AREA #3 or ISLAND SECTION: that part of the river between #2 Section and Nilkitlwa Lake

Sookeys arriving Sept. 10th. a heavy run large fish, females in majority, spawning further out in Nilkitlwa Lake than noticed previously, compares favorably with 1937

Springs arriving Sept. 2nd. a light run medium fish, sexes fairly even, not as good as 1936 which had a medium run.

Cohoas arriving early in Sept. a medium run that turned into a fairly heavy run of large fish, sexes even, favorable with 1938

Pinks arriving early in Sept. a medium run of medium fish sexes fairly even, not as good as 1939

LOWER BABINE RIVER that portion below Nilkitlwa Lake

Sookeys arriving Sept. On the 14th there was a light run of large fish that improved until there was a heavy run of 50% large, 30% medium and 20% small with females slightly in majority. Would compare favorably with 1937 which had a heavy run large fish, 60% males, 10% runts

Springs arriving in Aug. but did not show up much until Sept. 4th. considered by the Patrolman a heavy run but in my judgement was a medium run, medium fish with sexes about even, not the equal of 1936 which had a heavy run. There was not the amount of spawning this year so that better results might be achieved than would be expected from a run of this size.

Cohoas arriving in Aug. On Sept. 14th there was a medium of large fish, sexes even, that improved later to a heavy run, compares favorably with 1938

Pinks arriving in Aug. on Sept. 14th. a heavy run large fish with sexes fairly even. Not the equal of 1939

MC DONALD CR: flowing into Lower Babine River just below Nilkitlwa Lak
Cohoos arriving in Aug. a heavy run that compared favorably
with 1938

Pinks arriving in Aug. a fairly heavy run large fish, sexes eve
not the equal of 1939

TRAIL CR: flowing into Upper Babine River about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Babine
Village

Sookeys arriving in Aug. about 260 large fish, 60% females.
there were no sookeys on the area in 1937

SALMON CR: flowing into Morrison or Hatchery Lake

poor success on this area but would expect the Sookeys to be
better than 1937

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

Cohoos arrived Aug. 14th and Sept. 15th heavy run large fish
males slightly in majority, compares favorably with 1938

Pinks arriving Aug. 10th. a medium run of medium fish
females slightly in majority, not as good as 1939

CULLEN CR: flowing into the Kisplox from the N. E. about 31 miles
North of Hazelton

Cohoos arrived Aug. 14th and Sept. 15th a heavy run large fish
males slightly in majority, compares favorably with 1938

Pinks arriving Aug. 11th. a medium run medium fish, females
in majority, not as good as 1939

SWEETIN CR: flowing into the Kisplox river from the North about 50
miles North of Hazelton.

Cohoos arriving late in Aug. and Sept. a heavy run large fish
males in majority, compares favorably with 1938

MONCESE CR. flowing into the Kisplox River from the N. E. about 57
miles North of Hazelton.

Sookeys arrived the last of Aug. a fairly heavy run of average
males 60% not quite as good as 1937

Springes arrived early in June, fairly heavy, not as good

Cohoos arrived early in Sept. and were continuing to arrive
in Oct. a heavy run large fish males in majority, favorable with 1938

KITWANGOOT CANYON: about 60 miles north of Hazelton on the Kisplox R

Sookeys would arrive at this point about the last of August
just as the rains started, so would have no difficulty in passing.

Springes would have been held up at this point until after
the rains started.

Cohoos arriving in Sept. & Oct had no difficulty in passing
due to the high water.

Steelhead & Dolly Vardons were also arriving while the
water was high.

AMMONNOOK CR. flowing into the Kisplox from the N. E. about 65 miles
North of Hazelton; Due to the rains this creek was in good condition
this year.

Sookeys arriving the last week in Aug., fairly heavy run
average fish, males 60% not quite as good as 1937

Cohoos arriving about the 1st. of Sept. and continuing
heavy run, large fish with males in majority, favorable to 1938

STEVENS CR draining Stevens Lake and flowing into Kisplox River about
from the N. W. about 70 miles North of Hazelton

Sookeys arriving about the last of Aug. a fairly heavy run
average fish with males 60%, not quite as good as 1937

Cohoos arriving in Sept and continuing, a heavy run large fi
males in majority, compares favorably ith 1938

Steelhead & Dolly Vardons were a heavy run and were arriving
for sometime. Compares favorably with any year

CLUBB CR: part of the Lab-da dah area draining Clubb Lake into Stevens
Lake about 75 miles North of Hazelton.

Sookeys arriving on the area about the last week in Aug.
fairly heavy run of average fish with males 60%, not quite as good
as 1937

Cohoos arriving in Sept. and Oct a heavy run large fish
with males in majority compares favorably with 1938

HAGWILGET CANYON that part of the Bulkley River at Hagwilget about four miles from Hazelton; Owing to low water the escape of Salmon at this point was heavy this year

Sookeys arriving June 4th. Med. run large fish, heavy escape
Springs arriving June 1st. a med. run average fish, heavy escape
Cohoos arriving Aug. 1st. a heavy run large fish, heavy escape
Pinks arriving Aug. 1st. a medium run average fish not as

good as 1939

Steelheads Sept. a heavy run, compares favorably with any year

UPPER BULKLEY RIVER that portion of the river above the junction with the Morice;

Sookeys arriving in Aug. a light run, average fish, sexes even lighter than 1937

Springs arriving in Aug. a light run owing to low water

Cohoos arriving in Aug. Sept. & Oct. a heavy run large fish sexes even, compares favorably with 1938

Steelhead arriving in May, fairly heavy, compares favorably
MORICE RIVER draining Morice Lake and flowing into the Bulkley about three or four miles west of Hazelton

Sookeys arriving in Aug. a medium run large fish sexes even not as good as 1937

Springs arriving in Aug. a fairly heavy run average fish sexes even

Cohoos arriving Aug. & Sept. a heavy run large fish sexes even compares favorably with 1938

Steelhead arriving in May & Sept. a heavy run according to Indians compares favorably with any year

NANIKA R. draining Kid Price and Nanika Lakes into the Morice Lake about three miles West of the Morice Lake outlet. not visited but would be the same as the Morice except that there would be no Springs

MO DONELL CR: draining Dennis Lake into Mo Donell Lake of the Copper or Zymoetz chain about 26 miles from Smithers, not visited but according to Indians there has been a heavy run of Sookeys, Cohoos and Steelhead

KITWANCOOL RIVER draining Kitwancool Lake and entering the Skeena River about two miles west of Kitwanga

Sookeys arriving last of July a heavy run average fish compares favorably with 1937

Springs arriving in Aug. a heavy run compares with cycle year

Cohoos arriving Aug. & Sept. a heavy run large fish compares favorably with 1938

Pinks arriving Aug. fairly heavy average fish not as good as 1939

Chums arriving Sept. heavy, favorable with cycle year

Steelhead & Dolly Vardons. May & Sept. a heavy run, favorable

KITSEUNGHLA R. entering the Skeena from the South about 2 miles west of Skeena King;

Cohoos arriving Sept & Oct. a heavy run compares favorably 1938

Steelhead & Dolly Vardons. May & Sept. heavy favorable

COMEAU CR: entering the Skeena from the South about 1 mile east Carnaby.

Pinks none visible this year, not as good as 1939

Cohoos arriving Sept. very few possibly 50 large fish sexes even

Chums this is the first time that these have been noticed on the area. There were about 100 average fish, sexes even.

STONEY CR: entering the Skeena from the North across from Carnaby about 10 miles West of Hazelton.

Cohoos arriving in Sept & Oct. a heavy run compares favorably with 1938

Pinks Aug. a medium run medium fish, sexes even, not as good as 1939

Chums last of Aug & early Sept. heavy run favorable with cycle year

MISSION CR: entering the Bulkley from the South about 1 mile above the junction of the Bulkley & Skeena and opposite to Hazelton

Pinks Aug. a medium run medium fish sexes even not as good as 1939
KATHLYN or CHICKEN CR: draining Chicken or Kathlyn Lake and entering the Bulkley from the North about three miles S. W. Of Smithers

Cohoos Sept. & Oct. a heavy run large fish sexes even compares favorably with 1938

Steelhead May & Oct heavy favorable with any year.

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Yours truly

