

Smithers, B. C.
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Herewith please find annual report of the Fisheries in the Upper Skeena Area for the season of 1944.

A The run of the different species of salmon to the spawn areas was as follows: Sockeye heavy and compared favorably with the cycle year of 1940, Springs were about as cycle year or possibly a little lighter, Cohoes on the Bulkley and the Morice was a heavy escapement and compared favorably with 1941 but I received not much definite information of the Kispiox, Pinks were lighter than 1942, Chums were very light. Steelhead on the Morice were heavy but they did not seem to be as numerous in the Babine. Dolly Vardons appeared to be about the same from information received.

Sport fishing was not as good this year as last especially in Babine. Very large char were caught in Babine and also in Auger Lake which is on Anderson or Fifteen Mile Cr. system and which is not frequented by salmon.

The food supply catch was about as usual during the past few years as a great number of the Indians are engaged in other work and did not require the amount of salmon that would otherwise be needed.

B As practically all fishing in the area is by means of set nets we have no fishing fleet other than the flatbottomed boats used by the Babine Indians for travelling up and down Babine River and lake. There are always a few new boats each season as they are built of unseasoned lumber, have rough usage in the fall and spring and do not last over a few seasons.

C Owing to the prevalence of work in the district, there was not the amount of Indian Food Supply fishing as there was in the years preceeding the demand for workers.

D 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.

E The closed seasons were very well observed.

F One Inspector permanent and four temporary employees, two Guardians, one at Hazelton and one 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 at Babine. The Inspector is allowed travelling expenses as well as mileage for personal car. Inspections of spawn areas were carried out by foot, boat, horses and plane. Morice Lake was visited by horses and also by plane. Babine areas were covered by boat and plane. The Upper reaches of the Kispiox, Quinnigese and the Blackwater or Damdoohax were covered by plane and foot. Bear Lake was covered by foot and plane. Local creeks were covered by foot with a car and also a horse. This season there was an investigation by the Biological Department who also used all methods of transportation in their work.

G Where there is any possibility of pollution by sawmills or otherwise the areas are investigated and inspected.

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

I Spawn area inspections were carried out by every means of travel and conveyance, foot, boats, car, horses and plane. The weather was bad during a considerable portion of the time that was required for this work.

PARC DFO Box 20162 File 60-2-1(1939-45)

UPPER BABINE RIVER

AREA #2 or HATCHERY SECTION:

Sockeye arriving in Sept & Oct. a heavy run of 40% lge, 50% med, 10% Sm sexes even, compares favorably with 1939 & 1940
Cohoos, in Oct. a light run of average fish sexes even, lighter than 1943
Springs, late Sept. just a few on the area
Pinks, Sept. just a few on the area,
Trout, not so plentiful this season,

AREA #3 or ISLAND SECTION

Sockeye, arriving on Sept. 4th, a heavy run of 35% lge, 55% med, 8% Sm & 2% Runts compares favorably with 1939 or 1940, 1939 a heavy run med fish 66% females and 5% runts, 1940 a heavy run 65% lge, 35% med, 60% females better than 1935 or 1936
Cohoos, in Oct. just a few on the area
Springs, Sept. 15th, a few on the area.
Pinks: Aug. 20th, just a few on the area.
Steelhead & Trout, not so plentiful this year

LOWER BABINE RIVER:

Sockeye arriving on July 3rd but no spawning being done until late Aug. and in Sept., a heavy run of 35% lge, 55% med & 10% sm, with males about 54%. On my Oct. visit there were still a medium run on the area although the big percentage up on the to the Upper River. It would compare favorably with the seasons of 1939 & 1940

Cohoos arriving Aug. 18th. a light run of average fish, sexes even lighter than 1943

Springs arriving July 25th but no spawning being done until the middle of Sept., a medium run of average fish, sexes even, lighter

Pinks July 25th. a light to a medium run of average fish, sexes even about 15% to 20% of 1943, lighter than 1942

Steelhead and Trout not so plentiful this season

FIVE MILE CR: This is the first that this area has been cruised to my knowledge, On Sept. 14th. 568 Sockeye average size and sexes even.

TRAIL CR: Sockeye on Aug. 24th, a light run of average fish, sexes even number 178. This is the best that this area has been in years.

HATCHERY or MORRISON CR: Sockeye arriving Aug. 7th. 1650, Sept 12th 9585 a total of 11235 sexes even, 40% lge, 50% med, 10% sm., about as 1939 but lighter than 1940

Cohoos Oct. 17th all average fish, sexes even, lighter

SALMON CR: Sockeye in Sept. a medium run, visibility poor, opinion that it would compare favorably with cycle year.

Cohoe, Oct a light run lighter than 1943

MORICE RIVER: Sockeye would arrive on this area about the first week in Aug. a fairly heavy run of large and medium fish sexes even, but no dead fish visible, would compare favorably; 1939 was a medium run of large fish sexes even; 1940 a fairly heavy run of large fish sexes even

Springs arriving on the area about the first week in Aug., a fairly heavy run of average fish, sexes even, 1940 was a heavy run as was 1939 would compare favorably with either year.

Cohoos not up at the time of inspection but according to Indians a heavy run that would compare favorably.

NANIKA RIVER: Sockeye arriving about the first week in Aug. a heavy of large and medium sockeye, would compare favorably with 1939 & 1940

Cohoos not up at the time of inspection but Indians report a heavy run Steelhead and Trout, no information this year

Upper Kispitox River:

UPPER KISPITOX RIVER

Stevens Cr. Sockeye arrived early in Aug. saw only about 100 on the area although there were signs that considerable spawning had been done

CLUBB Cr. had a heavy run of Sockeye, average size with sexes even estimated at about 10000.

The Narrows was not visited.

FALLS Cr. or ALLEN CR. not sure whether we were on the right or not if we were it was very disappointing as there were only two or three hundred

MONGESE CR: AMMONNOOK CR: & KITWANGULT CANYON were not visited

The results of spawn area inspections was as follows: .

BABINE LAKE

GRIZZLY CR. Sockeye arriving Aug. 5th, a total run of 5175 averaging 60% female, 50% lge, 40% med, & 10% sm, with a food supply catch of 2195. This was lighter than 1939 when there were 11200 on the area, 75% lge and 25% med & sm. females 60% and a food supply catch of 1400: It is about as 1940 when there were 3000 on the area, 75% lge, 25% med, & sm. with females 60% and a food supply catch of 4153.

FIFTEEN MILE CR: or ANDERSON CR: Sockeye began arriving Aug. 6th, total of 6600, 50% lge, 40% med & 10% sm. sexes even and a food supply catch of 2495. This is much lighter than 1939 when there were 35000, 40% lge, 30% med, 20% sm, & 10% runts and food catch of 4210. This season was also lighter than 1940 when there were approximately 16250, averaging 30% lge, 50% med, & 20% sm. with sexes fairly even and a food catch of 5850.

FOUR MILE CR: sockeye arriving July 28th and in Sept. a total of 6125 40% lge, 50% med, and 10% sm, with sexes fairly even, would be better than cycle year although there has been no accurate estimates for that year.

SIX MILE CR: Sockeye arriving July 28th and in Sept. a total of 4106 40% lge, 50% med, 10% sm, sexes even, would be better than cycle year although there are no accurate comparisons to be made.

TWIN CR: Sockeye arriving July 24th and Aug. a total of 16635, 50% lge, 40% med, 10% sm, 55% females. Over three times greater than 1939 when there were 4874, 75% lge, 25% med, & sm, 60% females. In 1940 there were 8000 sockeye, 60% females, 90% lge, 10% med. This year was double 1940.

PIERRE CR: Sockeye arriving July 24th and on into Sept. with a total of 17425, 50% lge, 40% med, & 10% sm, with females slightly in majority. This season was nearly 40% larger than 1939 when there were 12000 on the area 50% lge, 35% med, 10% sm, & 5% runts, males slightly in majority. This season was 15% greater than 1940 when there were 15700 with female 60%, 40% lge, 45% med, & 15% sm.

SOCKEYE CR: Aug. 1st there were 747 and on Aug. 14th there were another 1725 making a total of 2472 Sockeye, 60% females, 40% lge, 50% med, 10% sm, Have no previous records but know that this year was much better than during the past number of years.

TACHEK CR: On July 25th. there were 3100 on the area increasing in Aug. & Sept. 9th. making a total of 12025 with males between 55% & 60% sizes 40% lge, 50% med, & 10% sm. This season was five times greater than 1939 when there were 2333 Sockeye, 60% females, 75% lge & 25% med & sm. This season is nearly 2 1/2 times greater than 1940 when there were 5000 sockeye 60% females, 50% lge, 49% med, & 1% runts.

PENDLETON CR: Sockeye on July 29th 200 and on Aug. 15th 225 more making a total of 425, sexes even, sizes 30% lge, 50% med, & 20% sm & runts, with a food supply catch of 367. Greater than 1940 but have no accurate comparisons.

FULTON RIVER: Sockeye began arriving in Aug. so that on the 13th there about 3000 and continued until there was a total of approximately 30000 35% lge, 30% med, 20% sm, and 15% runts with sexes about even: Would compare favorably with 1940 when there were about 30000 on the area, 30% lge, 30% med, 30% sm & 10% runts with 60% females: Considerably lighter this year than 1939 when there were between 50000 & 75000 on the area 66% females, 30% lge, 30% med, 30% sm, & 10% runts. 1939 & 1943 were peak years on this area.

NINE MILE CR: Sockeye July 484: Aug 6th 2750 more and on Aug. 23rd. 2300 making a total of 5500, 50% lge, 40% med, 10% sm, sexes even, better than 1940 when there were 4000 large fish, 60% females: it was also better than 1939 when there was a heavy run of lge fish, 66% females, no figures for that year but 4000 was the best I had heard previous to this year.

UPPER BABINE RIVER:

AREA #1 or BRIDGE SECTION: Sockeye began spawning on the area about Sept. 19th and was a heavy run of 40% lge, 50% med, & 10% sm, with sexes even. would compare favorably with either 1939 or 1940.

CONOES arriving on the area in Oct., a light run of average fish lighter than 1943.

SPRINGS: arrived in in Sept. just a few, about as good as usual.

PINKS: arrived in Sept. just a few a light run of average fish.

TROUT : not so plentiful this season.

GUINNIGEST: visited one creek on this area and saw about 50 sockeye
on it, average fish, sexes even, a very poor showing.
BLACKWATER or DANDOGAX: saw one lone coho on this area and there were
no signs of others spawning on the area.

UPPER BULKLEY RIVER: no springs seen on the area this season, a light
run of sockeye and a medium run of cohoes.

SOCKEYE arriving on July 1st, a heavy run, heavier than 1943
Cohoos arriving Sept. 1st a medium run lighter than 1943
Springs July 12th, a light run lighter than 1943
Pluke Aug. 2nd, a medium run lighter than 1943
Chums Sept. 7th a light run heavier than 1943
Steelhead May a medium run about as 1943

KITSEUGHIA RIVER

Cohoos arriving Aug. 15th, a medium run about as 1943
Pluke Aug. 1st, a light run, lighter than 1943

COMBAH CR: no run

Cohoos arrived on Aug. 26th (A) a light run, lighter than 1943

Pluke (B) a light run Aug. 3rd, lighter than 1943

Chums, none on the area this year

STONEY CR: Cohoos arriving Aug. 25th (A) light run lighter than 1943

Pluke (C) medium run on Aug. 3rd, lighter than 1943

Chums none on this area this year

SEALY CR: Cohoos (C) on Aug. 17th, a medium run, lighter than 1943

Pluke (B) Aug. 3rd, a light run, lighter than 1943

MISSION CR: Cohoos (C) on Aug. 4th, a medium run, lighter than 1943

OTVAR CR: Cohoos Aug. 26th (B) a light run, lighter than 1943

Pluke (D) on Aug. 6th, a medium run about as 1943

HAWAVER, DEAN: DANIEL CR:

Cohoos (E) Aug. 27th, a medium run, a little heavier than 1943

Pluke (D) Aug. 16th a medium run, heavier than 1943

BIMING CR:

Cohoos (D) a medium run, lighter than 1943

Pluke (D) Aug. 18th, a medium run about as 1943

CHUMS or CUTLIM CR:

Cohoos (C) a medium run, better than average year

Pluke (E) Aug. 25th a heavy run better than average year

BEAR RIVER:

SOCKEYE: in Aug. a fairly heavy run of large fish

in Aug. a heavy run of large medium and small fish

have no comparisons as it was the first visit.

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