GOVERNMENT AGENT'S OFFICE,

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., Sept. 21st. 1911.

Hon. W.J. Bowser K.C.

Commissioner of Fisheries.

Victoria. B.C.

Dear Sir;-

I beg to submit my report for the season 1910, of inspection of spawning grounds at Babine Lake, and other points.

On August the 27th I visited the upper end of Gordeau Lake where 2 creeks run into this Lake, these creeks are used by the Babine Hatchery. At this date Aug. 27th, there was very few Salmon at this point, although the fence had been put in the creeks by the Hatchery men to prevent the Salmon geting up, this shows that very few salmon had passed through Gordeau Lakeup to this date. From reliable informati ion of later date. Mr. Gibbs the Manager of the Hatchery expects to be able to fill up at the Hatchery at these creeks, as the Salmon is runing strong into Gordeau Lake.

At the North end of Babine where the Salmon enter Babine the Lake from Babine river, and where the Indians or most of them catch their fish, they had by Sept. 11 caught nearly enough fish for their winter supply, and they report an exceedingly good run of salmon this year, and the fish in excellent condition. While I was travelling up the Lake a great number of salmon was seen along the side of the Lake and in the shallow places, and evidently by their appearance and actions they intended to spawn there.

On Sept. 2nd I reached Tachek creek, and went up to the falls which is about 4 miles from the mouth of the creek. All the way up this creek there was abundance of salmon spawning. The Indian who catches his supply of fish at this creek every year, had at this date caught enough fish for his winter supply, and when I asked him about the run of salmon, he said , too many fish. It was quite plain to view that all the salmon at this time had not entered the creek as the water at the mouth of the creek seemed to be alive with them. [illegible] Sept. 5th. [illegible]

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is not very extensive, being about one mile long. The salmon on this da date was as close together as it was possible for them to be, and at the mouth of the creek and in the lake close to it, Salmon was waiting to enter. There was no Indians catching fish on this creek at this date but I am given to understand it is the custom of the Indians to come over from Stewart Lake to this creek to catch fish if there is not sufficient for them at Stewart Lake. It is my opinion that these Indians should not be permitted to take their fish from this creek for the Salmon when they get this far is so far advanced for spawning most of them are not fit for food, and the Indians have to catch the Male fish as it is the best for them, so you will observe if this allow ed to be done, it is liable to make a shortage for fertilixing purposes

At beaver creek which enters the Lake at the South end, the Stewart Lake Hatchery is taking their supply of ova. There is a good run of Salmon in this creek, and the Manager Mr. Rodd of the Hatchery intends to take his supply of Ova from this creek this season. He has got part of his supply at this date Sept. 8th . Mr. Rodd received a report from the Indians at Stewart Lake, that the salmon was running in that Lake, but on Mr. Rodd going to see he found there was not enough for his purpose to supply the Hatchery.

I was at Stewart Lake Hatchery Sept. 5th, but no Salmon had been seen in the creek which passes by the Hatchery, although the India ns report salmon in Stewart Lake. It is my opinion this creek is not a good one for salmon to spawn in, as there is so many weeds and the wate is not very clear, this may be the reason the salmon do not go up this creek.

There are several small, creeks in Babine Lake where salmon go to spawn, but I consider most of this spawn is lost, as there is not sufficient water runing long enough to carry the eggs over the incubati ion stage. These small wreeks could be closed to prevent the salmon going into them by closing up the entrance by fencing.

There is another thing I beg to bring to your special notice

and that is the fallen logs and brush that is in all the creeks, if this was removed , it would give a lot more spawning ground, for where the logs and brush is across the creeks it backs the water up for a considerable distance and prevents the fish spawning in those places, If these obstruchions was removed it would add considerably to the spawning grounds.

I went up the Buckly river to Moricetown falls. The Indians r report a good run of salmon up this river. It is very difficult for the Salmon to get over these falls. It would not be an expensive undertaki ing to make a fish ladder here so that the fish could pass at all stages of the water. The water was very low when I was there. I watched to see if any fish could manage to get over the falls, and on the left side of the fall looking up the river, I saw two fish manage the difficult task. A great many tried to get up , but the half hour I was watching only two managed to get up. I have sent you a print whic which shows where a ladder could be made, the stick and where the man is standing is where ~~thxxxxx~~ the rock would have to be taken out. This view was taken looking down the river, the other print enclosed was taken looking up the river, and shows the opposite side of the falls from where the ladder could be made. Where the work would have to be done is a very easy place to get at to do the work, and it is near the waggon road from Hazelton, so that supplies for the work would not cost a great deal to get to the place.

Reports from the Headwaters of the Copper River is not at all good, as it is reported that no fish has been seen there this seas -on. There must be some obstruction in the main river, for in previous years very good reports came from that ~~xxxxx~~ quarter.

In conclusion I beg to say that the Indians conform to the regulations, and that the Domion Fishery Officers is untiring in their work to see that the fish is properly protected.

Yours Obediently.