

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
Canada

729-4-3

Ottawa, April 25th, 1933.

Sir:-

I return, herewith, the correspondence from the local officers, which you enclosed with your letter of the 9th ultimo, File 74-150-2, regarding the experiment of providing Indians of the interior of British Columbia with pink and chum salmon caught and prepared by coastal Indians, from streams where the taking of such fish would not jeopardize conservation requirements, as a substitute for valuable sockeye salmon the interior Indians take from the streams adjacent to their Reserves.

There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of several of your officers judging from the comments as to what was contemplated by the experiment. The cooperative action of this Department with that of Indian Affairs throughout the years will, in itself, be sufficient indication as to what our attitude has been in enabling the Indians to procure salmon food supplies. There can be no lack of appreciation of the importance to the entire Indian population of the value of excellent salmon runs not only from the standpoint of winter food supplies but also the employment they afford to a very large number of Indians in commercial fishing and as cannery workers. Hence, it is eminently desirable that efforts be extended by all concerned to assist in maintaining existing supplies of salmon, as well as rehabilitating runs where it so happens they are not as great at present as they once were.

In view of the failing supplies of valuable sockeye to the headwaters of the Fraser, as you know, for some years this Department, as well as a section of the commercial fishing industry has spent considerable time and money in trying to find a substitute that would reasonably be acceptable to the Indians there for the sockeye salmon they have been taking from the diminishing returns to these waters. No success was met with until in the fall of 1931 the Indian Agent at

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
O t t a w a.

RG 10, C-II-2, vol. 11298

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