

First chums observed were approximately 3 miles below the lake outlet and two miles above the rapids. These were small concentrations of fish which appeared to be spawning in a narrow strip in the slower moving water at the edge of the river. This could have been due to the higher water levels and increased velocity. Only three major spawning bars were observed; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles above rapids, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above rapids and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below rapids.

Occurrence of carcasses was very light and live fish were approximately 40% old and 60% fresh, also in light numbers. With spawning having started around the end of November it is thought that the spawning should now be near its peak with few fresh fish left. Approximately 5-7,000 live fish were estimated in the river. If the run is near or past its peak then a final estimate could not be higher than 10-20,000.

This light escapement is at variance with observations of jumpers off the river mouth and food fishing results which at the time indicated a heavy run. The only explanation seems to be that they were transient fish passing down Johnstone Straits.

The drift took almost three hours and high water conditions did not hamper observations although it may have affected the distribution of fish. Another inspection by foot will be made on or around December 22nd. to determine whether the spawning has passed its peak.

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c.c. R.G. Benn