



CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OUR FILE NO. 5-5-Winkish.

YOUR FILE NO.

OFFICE OF the Fishery Officer,
Port Hardy, B.C.

December 15th. 1967.

J. Fielden, Esq.,
District Protection Officer,
Campbell River, B.C.

Winkish River Drift, December 14th. '67.

The Winkish River was drifted on December 14th., by rubber raft, with the purpose of assessing the size of the late chum return to this system.

Drifting the river had been planned for Saturday or Sunday, December 9th. or 10th. but poor weather conditions and high water levels cancelled these plans.

Inspections of the river at one point, approximately 1 1/2 miles above the rapids, had been made twice previous to the drift on November 30th. and December 9th. Approximately 25 fresh chums were observed on this gravel bar during the November inspection and 1-200 fresh chums seen on December 9th. During the drift this bar was again inspected but no increase in the number of spawners was observed.

The drift was carried out by Mr. Fielden and the writer. An aircraft was chartered from Alert Bay, the party and gear flown in to the outlet of Winkish Lake carrying out an aerial inspection of Winkish River on the way in. A light showing of carcasses and mature spawning fish were observed from the air.

Weather conditions were good although the lack of sunshine limited stream observation somewhat. Water levels were higher than anticipated being approximately 2-3 feet above normal. However, the river was clear and spawning fish were easily visible. The rubber raft was equipped with a 3 hp outboard which enabled us to cover major spawning areas thoroughly.