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SALMON HABITAT RECONNAISSANCE OF
MAYBESO AND CABIN CREEKS
KASAAN DISTRICT

On June 19, 1963 Olson and I examined lower falls in Maybeso Creek, Hollis. Both of these falls should be blown and perhaps a section or two of steep-pass put in. Observations in the past indicated that on a series of low high tides and low stream flow, both pink and chum salmon have extreme difficulty in negotiating these falls and have been found dead in numbers while attempting to do so. We know the spawning area is available up-stream Maybeso Creek. NOR has stream data on this system.

With Carl Rosier, Asa Wright and Ron Hyer, examined Cabin Creek Skowl Arm as a potential improvement site on June 20. The falls was four to five feet high with rapids below and above. The stream at this point splits around a bedrock outcrop one side of which is completely full of logs from a log jam. This in itself makes it difficult for salmon to ascend. If the log jam were removed it might be possible for salmon to go up this one side. We recommend removal of this log jam as a habitat improvement project. As stated, this might enable salmon to go up the side of the falls or at least it would expose this side of the falls for examination to determine the feasibility of a ladder. This first falls does not appear to be impassable. However, it should be checked when fish are in the stream. Powder should modify this falls.

The second falls, about half way between tide water and the lake, is 10 to 15 feet high. It appears to be difficult and/or impassable to pinks and chums. One steelhead was reported by Bruce Roettgering at the lake outlet. We also found the bones of what we thought was a steelhead killed by some kind of a predator within the past week above the falls. Therefore, there is evidence that steelhead do get above both falls. If steelhead ascend both falls, it is probable that coho do also. There is a good bedrock outcrop on the left of the falls for anchoring a steep-pass. This would take six sections at least. However, an examination of the stream above the second falls to the lake showed there was only about 15,000 to 30,000 sq. ft. of spawning area suitable for chum or coho, and not too good for pink salmon.

We do not recommend the laddering or modification of either of these falls with pink or chums in mind. However, the lake should form a good rearing area for cohos and if later on we observe that cohos are having difficulty with either falls, then this perhaps would be a good improvement project from the standpoint of the cohos.

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