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Salmon Creek Reservoir

On April 24, Alex and I had a conference with Bill Norton of A. J. Industries concerning the low water level of the Salmon Creek Reservoir and its possible effect on the Eastern Brook population.

Mr. Norton felt that the low water conditions were concentrating the fish making them overly vulnerable to sport fishing. He mentioned that the weekend fishing effort in April was averaging 40-50 fishermen and that most of these fishermen were quite successful. He requested that we consider the situation and regulate the fishery to avoid over-harvesting.

On Saturday, April 29, I, Carl Buchanan and Gerry Blood hiked up to the reservoir to assess the situation. No fishermen were observed at the reservoir nor was there any evidence of heavy utilization. The ice holes which had been drilled were made by A. J. personnel for purposes other than fishing. The ice appeared unsafe for travel which apparently discouraged the fishermen as well as ourselves from making any 02 determinations.

Mr. Norton mentioned the lake had been drawn down to approximately 1,000 acre feet which is considerably lower than the normal 19,000 acre feet. Apparently, this was the lowest or one of the lowest levels on record. At the 1,000 acre foot level, the reservoir is approximately 40 feet in depth at its deepest portion. The height of the reservoir on April 29 was the lowest I had ever seen it.

We contacted one of the A. J. personnel at the upper power station who said that the water level of the reservoir was on the rise.

I plan to survey the situation after the ice goes out.

Mr. Norton was informed of our findings and also told that we will continue to check on the situation.

cc: Alex McRea ✓