# FRY EMERGENCE PROJECT 1999 

NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM Technical Report No. M98-6

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#### Abstract

The Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program has conducted a chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) fry emergence trapping project in the upper Nechako River since 1990 to monitor the incubation environment in the river. The index of fry emergence for 1999 was 569,703 . This translated into an index of emergence success of $77 \%$ when the estimated egg deposition above the trapping site the previous fall was taken into account. This was lower than in the two previous years (when the values were above $94 \%$ ) but above the average for 1991-1996 (47\%). The data from 1999 strengthened the positive correlation between the index and the number of spawners in the river above the trap site, which confirmed that the index was a reliable measure of fry abundance. Emergent fry in 1999 were of similar average length, weight and development index to those of previous years. Species other than chinook made up $10 \%$ of the total number of fish sampled in the four IPTs. The most common species was longnose dace (Rhinichthys cataractae) followed by largescale sucker (Catostomus macrocheilus), northern pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus oregonensis), leopard dace (Rhinichthys falcatus) and redside shiner (Richardsonius balteatus). This is slightly different from previous years, when largescale suckers are usually less abundant. Overall the 1999 results from the fry emergence trapping program indicate that the quality of the incubation environment in the upper Nechako River does not show any degradation from previous years and appears to be stable.


## INTRODUCTION

The Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program (NFCP) initiated the chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) fry emergence trapping project in 1990. It is part of the Early Warning Monitoring Program developed by the NFCP Technical Committee. With juvenile outmigration, it is one of two secondary monitoring projects aiming at providing information about the quality of salmonid rearing habitat in the Nechako River. The specific objectives of the program are to monitor changes in the quality of the incubation environment in the upper Nechako River by developing an index of fry emergence timing and abundance; to monitor egg-to-fry survival using this index; and to monitor the average size and condition of emerging chinook fry. While the index calculated is not a true estimate of the population (cf. Methods), large deviations in the index from year to year may serve as an indication of a change in the quality of the incubation environment of the Nechako River. The project also estimates emergence success to take into account the effect of the number of spawners returning the previous fall on the index and monitors the condition of the fry, as sudden changes in fry condition may also indicate a change in the quality of the incubation environment of the Nechako River.

## METHODS

## Study Site and Traps

Four $2 \times 3$ m Inclined Plane Traps (IPTs) were installed near Bert Irvine's Lodge, 19 km downstream from Kenney Dam (Figure 1). The traps were suspended from a cable strung across the river channel. The position and location of the traps were the same as in the previous eight years (1991-1998). The four traps were positioned on a line across the river channel, one on each river margin (IPTs 1 and 4), and two in midchannel (IPTs 2 and 3, Figure 2).

The left margin trap (IPT 1) was approximately 15 m from the shore with a 26 m diversion wing angled from the inshore edge of the trap to the shore upstream. The right margin trap (IPT 4) was approximately 6 m from the shore with a 14 m diversion wing angled from its inshore edge to the shore upstream. The margin traps rested on the river bed, in approximately 0.5 m of water, but the mid channel traps did not touch the bottom. Operation of the traps started on March 10 and continued until May 19, 1999.

A fifth IPT (IPT 0, Figure 2) was installed in the side channel in 1999, to provide additional fish for the mark recapture studies. It was operated from April 9


to 26 and from May 3 to 9 . The catches from this trap were not included in the index calculations to permit comparison of the emergence index with previous years.

## Nechako River - Physical Data

Mean daily water temperatures were measured by a datalogger maintained by the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) at the study site (WSC station \# 08JA017). Daily flows were also recorded at the study site by the datalogger and at Skins Lake Spillway (SLS) (WSC station \# 08JA013).

Accumulated Thermal Units (ATUs), the running total of degrees Celsius measured each day from the water temperature, were calculated from the peak of chinook spawning in mid-September to the end of the fry emergence project. Most chinook fry are expected to emerge from the gravel by approximately 1,000 ATUs (March and Walsh 1987; Shepherd 1984). Thus ATUs serve as an indicator of the start of the fry emergence program.

## Sampling Program

The IPTs and wings were cleaned of debris as necessary and the catches sampled twice a day, morning (8:00) and evening (18:00). Water temperature was measured with a hand-held thermometer and staff gauge measurements were recorded daily at the traps.

All fish found in the traps were identified to species and counted. At each sampling period, a subsample of a maximum of 10 chinook per trap (IPTs 1 to 4 ) were anaesthetized with Metomadate (MS-222) and measured to the nearest 1.0 mm (fork length) and to the nearest 0.01 g (wet weight). All fish caught were released downstream of the traps. Bams' (1970) development index (KD) was calculated for the measured fry:

$$
\text { (1) } \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{D}}=\frac{10 \sqrt[3]{\text { weight in mg }}}{\text { length in mm }}
$$

## Index of Fry Emergence

The index of fry emergence was calculated using daily catches, flows in the Nechako River below Cheslatta Falls and the volume of discharge sampled by each trap. The volume of discharge sampled by each trap was determined by measuring the cross sectional area of the trap mouth and the average velocity at three points across the mouth of each IPT. The volume of discharge sampled by each of the margin traps was estimated as the sum of the discharge through the IPT and the diversion wings. Wing discharge was estimated by measuring the upstream cross sectional area created by the diversion wing and recording several velocities along a line perpendicular to the shore, extending from the upstream edge of the diversion wing to the point opposite the junction of the trap and the downstream end of the diversion wing. Velocity was measured with a Swoffer Model 2100 current velocity meter and measurements were taken every second day when possible. An index of the total number of emerging chinook moving downstream past the IPTs was estimated from the proportion of discharge sampled by each IPT as:
(2) $N_{i}=n_{i}\left(V_{i} / v_{i}\right)$
where $N_{i}=$ expanded number of fish,
$n_{i}=$ number of fish observed,
$\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{i}}=$ total river flow,
$\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{i}}=$ flow through trap,
and $\mathrm{i}=$ the $i$ th sampling date.
Because statistical independence among IPTs could not be assumed (IPTs are not replicates), a combined fry emergence estimate was calculated for each day. This estimate is the sum of all four IPTs' estimated catches expanded by the water volume filtered by each IPT. It was equivalent to an estimate weighted by the volume filtered:
(3) Index of fry emergence $=$ $\Sigma\left(\mathrm{N}_{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{i}}\right)$ for all traps $/ \Sigma\left(\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{i}}\right.$ of all traps $)$

As the sampling program progressed in the season, the risk increased of including already emerged fry, as opposed to emerging fry, in the calculation of the fry emergence index. Already emerged fry may have
established residence along the banks in the vicinity of the IPTs, and their inclusion in the calculation was judged undesirable, as it would overestimate the index (some fry could be captured and counted more than once). A more conservative approach was to base the index of fry emergence only on fry which have just emerged from the substrate.

To separate emerging fry from already emerged ones, the date at which post-emergent fry started to make a significant contribution to the number of fry caught in the IPTs was inferred from examination of the variance in wet weight. This was based on the assumption that already emerged fry have started to feed and are thus heavier than emerging fry. Their pooling with emerging fry should result in an increase in the variance in wet weight of fry caught in the IPTs. The cutoff date was considered to be the point at which the variability in pooled wet weights was significantly affected by the addition of the next day's samples, as determined using an F-test ( $\mathrm{P}<0.05$ ). The mean pooled wet weight of all the chinook fry sampled to this date plus one standard deviation was considered to be the upper limit of mean wet weight of newly emergent fry. In order to separate growing fish from emergent fry after the cut-off date, the proportion of fry subsampled that were smaller than the limit was determined. For all days after the cut-off date, the daily index of emergence was multiplied by this percentage. For example, if $50 \%$ of the fish subsampled were smaller than or equal to the upper limit, $50 \%$ of the catches after the cut-off date were used in the calculation of the index of fry emergence.

## Estimates of Emergence Success

The percent of chinook salmon spawning above the study site (river sections 1, 2 and section 3A) were obtained from the Nechako River spawner enumeration data (unpublished data, Department of Fisheries and Oceans). The Area-Under-the-Curve estimate of the total number of spawners in the river was multiplied by the percent of spawners in these river sections to obtain an estimate of the numbers of chinook spawners in the upper river. To estimate the potential number of chinook eggs deposited upstream of the traps, the total number of spawning females was assumed to be one half of the population above the study site. A mean fecundity of 5,769 eggs per female
was assumed, based on data from Jaremovic and Rowland (1988) on Nechako chinook ( $\mathrm{N}=8$, range $=$ $5,000$ to 7,200 , standard deviation $=869)$.

## Trap Efficiency

The index of the number of emergent fry relies on the accuracy of the assessment of the proportion of the population sampled by the IPTs and is based on the proportion of the total river flow sampled by the traps. Another method of inferring fry abundance is to calculate trap efficiency through mark-recapture trials. These trials were conducted to verify the accuracy of the flow ratio method of calculating the fry emergence index.

For each trial, chinook fry caught in all five IPTs were held in a live box until there were over 1,500 fry available to mark and release or for a maximum of four days. Chinook fry from the live box were counted and transferred into an aerated staining container, where they were stained with Bismark brown for two hours. They were then transferred to transport containers and mortalities were noted and subtracted from the total released. Fry were released at dusk at km 18.3 ( 0.5 km upstream of the IPTs). On subsequent sampling days, the number of marked chinook recaptured in each trap was noted along with the total catch (marked and unmarked). The time between markrecapture trials was sufficiently long to ensure that previously marked fish would not bias the next trial. Trap efficiency was calculated as the ratio of the number of recaptured fry to the number of released fry. The estimated population was the average of the number of chinook fry estimated at each trial weighed by the number of fry released at each of these trials.

## Statistical Analyses

The influence of time of day and trap location on the biological variables (fork length, wet weight and KD) were determined through factorial ANOVAs. If the ANOVA indicated a significant effect, t-tests were used to test the effect of time of day (day vs. night) on each trap and one-way ANOVAs were used to test the effect of trap position for each time period. LSD tests ( $\mathrm{P}<0.05$ level of significance) were used as a posteriori tests to determine which traps differed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Nechako River - Physical Data

Mean daily water temperatures in the Nechako River and ATUs from September 9, 1998 (peak spawning period) to May 19, 1999 (end of the fry emergence project) are shown in Figure 3. During the incubation period, the mean daily water temperatures ranged from $15.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in September to $0.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in January. The ATUs for the fry emergence period (March 13 to May 18) ranged from 885 to 1070 . The predicted peak of fry emergence at 1,000 ATUs was on April 29-30 whereas the observed peak occurred on April 19-21 at 960-965 ATUs. This falls within previous years of the program, when the range of ATUs at that date is between 840 and 1,004, with an average of 915 (Table 1). It thus appears that the 1,000 ATUs figure is a reasonably good predictor of fry emergence.

The releases from Skins Lake Spillway and the flows measured below Cheslatta Falls from March 1 to May 31, 1999 are shown in Figure 4. Also shown are the staff gauge records at the trap site. There is a clear correlation between the discharge and the staff gauge readings. Releases from Skins Lake Spillway were maintained at approximately $30 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ from March 1 to April 26, when they were increased to $49 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$. Discharge in the river at Bert Irvine's increased from approximately $32 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ to approximately $65 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ from April 19 to May 7.

## Fry Emergence

## Trap catches

From March 10 to May 19, 1999, 31,821 chinook fry were caught in the four inclined plane traps at Bert Irvine's (Table 2). Most of these were caught at night ( $98 \%$ ), and in the two margin traps (44 and 34\%). The majority of fry thus appeared to emerge at night and to occupy the margins of the channel.

Sampling in the side channel yielded 820 chinook fry. The results from this trap are not included in Table 2 as it was only operational for a limited time (cf. Methods).

The pattern of emergence was essentially bimodal, with a first peak centered around April 19-21 and a
second, smaller and wider one, centered around May 6-15. The first peak occurred at the start of the increasing flows (Figure 5). This bimodal pattern was driven primarily by the margin traps, especially the right one (IPT 4, Figure 6).

The percentage of the flow sampled by the IPTs did not remain constant, and decreased as the Nechako River flows increased (Figure 7). This decrease averaged $29 \%$ from April 19 until the end of the sampling ( $19,38,33$ and $26 \%$ for IPTs 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively). This means that the index of fry emergence is likely to overestimate the number of emerging fry.

## Index of Fry Emergence

The variation in wet weight of chinook fry did not differ significantly among days until May 13, 1999 (Figure 8). After this date, it was estimated that $25 \%$ of the fry caught in the traps were 1 standard deviation heavier than the average wet weight of emergent fry $(0.42 \mathrm{~g}+0.07=0.49 \mathrm{~g})$, and the calculation of the daily index estimate for each trap was reduced by this proportion. Thus the index for each of the four traps ranged from 354,521 to 950,106 chinook fry, while the overall estimate (weighted by the volume of water sampled by each trap) was 569,703 (Appendix 1).

Four mark recapture trials were conducted on March 30, April 10, April 20, and May 2. The overall trap efficiency, $3.3 \%$, resulted in an estimated population of 956,992 , and all four traps ranged from $2.0 \%$ $(1,623,520)$ to $4.7 \%(672,748)$ (Table 3). The overall estimate (mean of all four trials weighed by the number of fish released) of emerging fry was $1,080,949 \pm$ 309,315 (95\% confidence interval). This is a higher estimate than the index of fry emergence.

## Emergence Success

The number of female chinook spawners above the study site in September 1998 was estimated at 129. Based on an assumed 5,769 eggs/spawner (Jaremovic and Rowland 1988), the potential number of eggs deposited was 744,201 which, based on the index of fry emergence, translated in an emergence success of 77 \%.

Figure 3
Mean Daily Water Temperatures of the Nechako River at Bert Irvine's (km 19), September 1998 to 1999 (preliminary data from WSC) and Accumulated Thermal Units (ATU) from Peak of Spawning (September 9, 1998)


Table 1
Accumulated Thermal Units (ATUs) from Peak of Spawning Recorded in the Nechako River at Bert Irvine's (km 19) at the Time of $50 \%$ of Emergence of Juvenile Chinook Captured in Inclined Plane Traps

| Year | Date of $50 \%$ of <br> Emergence | ATUs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1990 | 14-Apr | 935 |
| 1991 | 26-Apr | 840 |
| 1992 | 20-Apr | 903 |
| 1993 | 23-Apr | 938 |
| 1994 | 16-Apr | 962 |
| 1995 | 30-Apr | 856 |
| 1996 | 07-May | 887 |
| 1997 | 01-May | 862 |
| 1998 | 02-May | 1,004 |
| 1999 | 29-Apr | 962 |

## Relationship Between Escapement and Index of Fry Emergence

The index of fry emergence was significantly correlated with the number of female spawners above the study site ( $\mathrm{r}=0.73, \mathrm{P}<0.05$, Figure 9), which indicates that the index is a reliable measure of fry abundance. In 1997 and 1998, the index appeared to have been affected by the higher than usual flow conditions in the river and the indices were approximately twice as high as would be expected from the number of spawners. If these two years are excluded, the correlation jumps to 0.88 .

As previously mentioned, the index of fry emergence is likely to be an overestimate of the real number of fry because the traps did not proportionately sample the river flow as it increased. Also, the fry were clearly favouring the margins (the margin traps sampled more fish), whereas the calculation of the index as-

Figure 4
Daily Discharge of the Nechako River at Bert Irvine's (km 19) and Skins Lake Spillway Releases, March to May 1999 (preliminary data from WSC)


Table 2
Summary of Inclined Plane Trap Catches of Chinook 0+ and the Percent Contributed by Each Trap to the Total Catch at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, March to May, 1999

| Trap | Night (morning check) |  | Day (evening check) |  | Total | Total Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |  |  |
| 1 | 13,978 | 43.9 | 355 | 1.1 | 14,333 | 45.0 |
| 2 | 3,015 | 9.5 | 93 | 0.3 | 3,108 | 9.8 |
| 3 | 3,243 | 10.2 | 108 | 0.3 | 3,351 | 10.5 |
| 4 | 10,791 | 33.9 | 238 | 0.7 | 11,029 | 34.7 |
| Total | 31,027 | 97.5 | 794 | 2.5 | 31,821 | 100.0 |

Figure 5
Discharge Recorded in the Nechako River and Total Number of Chinook Fry Counted by Four IPTs at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, March 10 to May 19, 1999

sumes an equal distribution of the juvenile chinook in the water column and across the river, and equal weight is given to each trap. This means that the emergence success is also overestimated. Nevertheless, the significant correlation between the index of fry emergence and the number of spawners upstream of the trapsite during the previous year indicates that the index reflects real biological processes. And the year to year comparisons of the index values provide a valuable tool to monitor the quality of the incubation environment.

## Morphological Data

Average morphological parameters for emerging fry sampled by the IPTs are shown in Table 4. Tables 5, 6 and 7 show the results of ANOVAs on the effects of time of emergence and trap position on fork length, wet weight and the development index. Both factors and their interactions had significant effects on fish size. Significant interactions meant that the effects could not be analyzed separately. The direction of the interactions between trap position (equivalent to
trap number) and time of emergence for fork length, wet weight and development index for all four traps are shown in Figure 10. From this, it appears that there was more variation in juvenile chinook morphological characteristics during the day than during the night, when most fish caught were of similar size. Moreover, fish were consistently larger in both margin traps ( 1 and 4 ) than in the mid-river traps ( 2 and 3 ) during the day. For example, there was an average fork length difference of 1.8 mm , or $5 \%$, between fish caught in traps 1 and 3. The same fish caught in trap 1 were on average $25 \%$ heavier than those from trap 3 .

Average length, weight and development index of emergent fry have not varied much in the years of the program (Figure 11), which supports the assertion of a stable incubating environment.

## Incidental Catch

There were 3,677 fish other than chinook $0+$ caught in the four IPTs (only one fish other than chinook was caught in IPT 0), making up $10 \%$ of the total number

Figure 6
Number of Fry Sampled Daily by Four IPTs at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, March to May, 1999





Figure 7
Flow Released Below Cheslatta Falls During the Fry Emergence Program of 1999 and the Percentage of this Flow Sampled by the IPTs


Figure 8
Frequency Distributions of Juvenile Chinook Wet Weights Subsampled in the IPTs in the Nechako River at Irvine's from March 11 to May 19, 1999.
All IPTs pooled, day and night samples. $\mathrm{N}=3,165$. May 13 is the cut-off date for inclusion of all fish in the calculation of the index of fry emergence.


Table 3
Summary of Mark-Recapture Trials on Emergent Chinook Fry at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1999

| Date | Number <br> Released | Trap Number | Number Recaptured | Trap Efficiency (\%) | Total <br> Catch | Estimated <br> Population |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 31 Mar | 247 | 1 | 0 | 2.8\% | 31,821 | 1,124,417 |
|  |  | 2 | 4 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |
| 11 Apr | 1,783 | 1 | 10 | 2.0\% | 31,821 | 1,623,520 |
|  |  | 2 | 4 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | 7 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 12 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 33 |  |  |  |
| 21 Apr | 4,000 | 1 | 130 | 4.7\% | 31,821 | 672,748 |
|  |  | 2 | 16 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | 19 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 18 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 183 |  |  |  |
| 03 May | 1,669 | 1 | 12 | 2.2\% | 31,821 | 1,473,194 |
|  |  | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | 2 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 17 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 33 |  |  |  |
| Total | 7,699 |  | 256 |  |  |  |
| Weighed mean estimate |  |  |  |  |  | 1,080,949 |
| $95 \%$ confidence interval |  |  |  |  | upper | 1,390,264 |
|  |  |  |  |  | lower | 771,633 |

of fish caught. Of these, the most common species were longnose dace (Rhinichthys cataractae, $3.6 \%$ ), followed by largescale sucker (Catostomus macrocheilus, 2.0\%), northern pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus oregonensis, $1.5 \%$ ), leopard dace (Rhinichthys falcatus, $1.3 \%$ ) and redside shiner (Richardsonius balteatus, $0.7 \%$ ) (Table 8). Salmonidae (lake and rainbow trout, sockeye salmon and mountain whitefish) accounted for $4 \%$ of the incidental catch. This is below the nine years average of $9 \%$. Taking into account the increase in incidental catch from last year, largescale suckers were roughly twice as abundant. Usually, the incidence of longnose suckers ranks 4th, whereas they were the second most abundant incidental species in 1999. The overall 1999 incidental catch fell within range of previous years, both in numbers and ranking of the most common species: longnose dace are
usually the most abundant species other than chinook, and have been ranked as such for seven of the last nine years.

## CONCLUSIONS

The 1999 fry emergence project continued to monitor the incubation environment of the river. The calculated index of fry emergence appeared to reflect the biological processes as evidenced by the strong relationship between the number of spawners upstream of the trapsite and the index of emergent fry in all years but the high flow years. The trends, from index of fry emergence to morphological characteristics of emerging fry, indicate that the quality of the incubation environment in the upper Nechako River has been stable over the period of 1991 to 1999.

Figure 9
Index of Emergent Chinook vs. Spawner Escapement During the Previous Year Above Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1991-1999. 1997 and 1998 had higher flows than usual.


Table 4
Average Morphological Parameters for Emerging Fry Subsampled in the IPTs at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, March - May 1999.
Values calculated until and including cut-off date of May 13.
$\mathrm{N}=$ number of chinook fry; $\mathrm{SD}=$ standard deviation.

| Trap Number | 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Day | Night | Day | Night | Day | Night | Day | Night |
| N | 253 | 578 | 79 | 551 | 102 | 546 | 203 | 550 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean fork length (mm) | 38.6 | 37.5 | 37.4 | 37.4 | 36.7 | 37.3 | 38.0 | 37.3 |
| SD | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 |
| Mean weight $(\mathrm{g})$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SD | 0.47 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.40 | 0.43 | 0.40 | 0.44 | 0.41 |
|  | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| Mean KD (g/mm3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SD | 2.00 | 1.97 | 1.97 | 1.97 | 1.96 | 1.97 | 1.98 | 1.97 |
|  | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.05 |

Table 5
ANOVA for Fork Length of Chinook Fry Sampled at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1999

| Source of variation | Degrees of freedom | Mean square | F value | P |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time of day | 1 | 35.291 | 10.787 | $<0.001$ |
| Trap | 3 | 87.739 | 26.818 | $<0.001$ |
| Interaction | 3 | 62.482 | 19.098 | $<0.001$ |
| Residual | 2,854 | 3.272 |  |  |

Table 6
ANOVA for Wet Weight of Chinook Fry Sampled at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1999

| Source of variation | Degrees of freedom | Mean square | $F$ value | P |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time of day | 1 | 0.135 | 26.583 | $<0.001$ |
| Trap | 3 | 0.189 | 37.259 | $<0.001$ |
| Interaction | 3 | 0.14 | 27.577 | $<0.001$ |
| Residual | 2,853 | 0.005 |  |  |

Table 7
ANOVA for Development Index of Chinook Fry Sampled at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1999

| Source of variation | Degrees of freedom | Mean square | F value | P |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time of day | 1 | 0.025 | 8.209 | $<0.01$ |
| Trap | 3 | 0.04 | 13.34 | $<0.001$ |
| Interaction | 3 | 0.03 | 9.859 | $<0.001$ |
| Residual | 2,853 | 0.003 |  |  |

Figure 10
Average Fork Length, Wet Weight and Development Index ( $\pm 1 \mathrm{SE}$ ) of Chinook Fry at Each IPT at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, as a Function of Time of Day.




Figure 11
Mean Fork Length, Wet Weight and Development Index ( $\pm$ SD) of Emergent Chinook Fry Sampled by IPTs at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River, 1990-1999. N below each year.




Table 8
Percent of Total Catch and Ranking of Incidental Species Caught in IPTs at Bert Irvine's, km 19 of the Nechako River 1991-1999

| Species |  | Percent of Total Catch |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| burbot | Lota lota | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| chubbs | Mylocheilus sp. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.19 | 0.04 | 0.54 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.50 |
| lake trout | Salvelinus namaycush | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| largescale sucker | Catostomus macrocheilus | 2.69 | 2.11 | 3.11 | 4.02 | 3.52 | 2.09 | 0.50 | 0.23 | 2.03 |
| leopard dace | Rhinichthys falcatus | 0.73 | 1.63 | 0.75 | 7.24 | 3.06 | 4.07 | 0.54 | 0.38 | 1.30 |
| longnose dace | Rhinichthys cataractae | 3.78 | 2.97 | 3.23 | 21.85 | 4.29 | 4.24 | 2.34 | 0.68 | 3.69 |
| mountain whitefish | Prosopium williamsoni | 0.02 | 0.66 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 4.21 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.24 | 0.06 |
| northern pikeminnow | Ptychocheilus oregonensis | 4.26 | 1.84 | 1.68 | 1.17 | 1.64 | 1.41 | 0.63 | 0.18 | 1.49 |
| rainbow trout | Salmo gairdneri | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| redside shiner | Richardsonius balteatus | 4.32 | 2.54 | 0.78 | 3.57 | 3.12 | 3.26 | 1.69 | 0.31 | 0.70 |
| sculpin | Cottus sp. | 0.56 | 0.45 | 0.79 | 3.11 | 0.99 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| sockeye salmon | Oncorhynchus nerka | 0.02 | 2.15 | 3.32 | 0.03 | 0.89 | 0.83 | 0.82 | 0.05 | 0.38 |
| Total |  | 16.49 | 14.40 | 21.50 | 41.37 | 21.76 | 16.93 | 7.22 | 2.47 | 10.32 |
|  |  | Ranking |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| longnose dace | Rhinichthys cataractae | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| largescale sucker | Catostomus macrocheilus | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| northern pikeminnow | Ptychocheilus oregonensis | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| leopard dace | Rhinichthys falcatus | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| redside shiner | Richardsonius balteatus | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| chubbs | Mylocheilus sp. | - | - | - | 7 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| sockeye salmon | Oncorhynchus nerka | 10 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| sculpin | Cottus sp. | 6 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| mountain whitefish | Prosopium williamsoni | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 9 |
| rainbow trout | Salmo gairdneri | - | 9 | 9 | - | 10 | - | - | - | 10 |
| burbot | Lota lota | 7 | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| lake trout | Salvelinus namaycush | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - |

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## APPENDIX 1

Estimates of the Numbers of Emerging Chinook Fry, Sampled by IPTs at km 19 (Bert livine's Lodge), 1999




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## APPENDIX 2

Daily Mean Fork Length, Wet Weight and Development Index (KD) for Chinook 0+ Sampled by IPTs at km 19 of the Nechako River (Bert Invine's) in 1999

| Date | Appendix 2 <br> Daily Mean Fork Length, Wet Weight and Development Index (KD) for Chinook 0+ Sampled by IPTs at km 19 of the Nechako River (Bert Irvine's) in 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fork length (mm) |  |  | Wet weight (g) |  | Development Index (g/mm ${ }^{\text {g }}$ |  |
|  | N | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| 12/03/1999 | 8 | 36.5 | 1.3 | 0.36 | 0.06 | 1.95 | 0.05 |
| 13/03/1999 | 3 | 36.0 | 2.0 | 0.37 | 0.05 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 14/03/1999 | 18 | 36.3 | 1.7 | 0.37 | 0.05 | 1.98 | 0.05 |
| 15/03/1999 | 2 | 37.0 | 1.4 | 0.41 | 0.06 | 2.00 | 0.03 |
| 16/03/1999 | 5 | 36.8 | 1.1 | 0.38 | 0.07 | 1.96 | 0.06 |
| 17/03/1999 | 10 | 37.1 | 1.0 | 0.38 | 0.04 | 1.95 | 0.03 |
| 18/03/1999 | 11 | 37.2 | 1.6 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 19/03/1999 | 12 | 36.8 | 1.5 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 2.00 | 0.03 |
| 20/03/1999 | 30 | 37.5 | 0.7 | 0.41 | 0.02 | 1.98 | 0.03 |
| 21/03/1999 | 35 | 37.7 | 0.7 | 0.43 | 0.02 | 2.01 | 0.03 |
| 22/03/1999 | 41 | 37.6 | 1.0 | 0.42 | 0.03 | 2.00 | 0.03 |
| 23/03/1999 | 40 | 37.3 | 1.0 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 1.98 | 0.04 |
| 24/03/1999 | 35 | 37.3 | 1.3 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 1.99 | 0.04 |
| 25/03/1999 | 39 | 37.5 | 1.4 | 0.41 | 0.05 | 1.98 | 0.05 |
| 26/03/1999 | 31 | 36.9 | 1.5 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| 27/03/1999 | 39 | 36.8 | 1.2 | 0.38 | 0.04 | 1.96 | 0.04 |
| 28/03/1999 | 40 | 37.2 | 1.2 | 0.38 | 0.04 | 1.95 | 0.06 |
| 29/03/1999 | 25 | 37.3 | 0.8 | 0.39 | 0.04 | 1.95 | 0.03 |
| 30/03/1999 | 38 | 38.3 | 1.2 | 0.42 | 0.04 | 1.95 | 0.05 |
| 31/03/1999 | 21 | 37.2 | 1.2 | 0.41 | 0.05 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 01/04/1999 | 46 | 37.8 | 1.1 | 0.42 | 0.04 | 1.97 | 0.04 |
| 02/04/1999 | 39 | 37.5 | 1.2 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 1.98 | 0.04 |
| 03/04/1999 | 44 | 37.3 | 1.2 | 0.42 | 0.05 | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| 04/04/1999 | 44 | 37.8 | 1.1 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 1.97 | 0.05 |
| 05/04/1999 | 53 | 38.0 | 1.0 | 0.44 | 0.04 | 2.00 | 0.04 |
| 06/04/1999 | 48 | 37.6 | 0.9 | 0.43 | 0.05 | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| 07/04/1999 | 51 | 38.1 | 1.1 | 0.42 | 0.04 | 1.97 | 0.05 |
| 08/04/1999 | 57 | 38.3 | 1.1 | 0.45 | 0.05 | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| 09/04/1999 | 48 | 37.8 | 1.4 | 0.43 | 0.06 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 10/04/1999 | 44 | 37.6 | 1.2 | 0.43 | 0.05 | 2.01 | 0.05 |
| 11/04/1999 | 45 | 37.9 | 1.6 | 0.43 | 0.05 | 1.99 | 0.04 |
| 12/04/1999 | 49 | 37.6 | 1.7 | 0.42 | 0.06 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 13/04/1999 | 60 | 37.7 | 1.8 | 0.43 | 0.07 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 14/04/1999 | 49 | 38.0 | 1.8 | 0.44 | 0.07 | 1.99 | 0.05 |
| 15/04/1999 | 47 | 37.5 | 1.7 | 0.41 | 0.07 | 1.97 | 0.05 |
| 16/04/1999 | 52 | 38.2 | 1.8 | 0.43 | 0.07 | 1.97 | 0.05 |
| 17/04/1999 | 59 | 37.9 | 1.9 | 0.44 | 0.09 | 1.99 | 0.06 |
| 18/04/1999 | 58 | 38.7 | 1.6 | 0.45 | 0.06 | 1.98 | 0.04 |
| 19/04/1999 | 57 | 37.5 | 2.2 | 0.41 | 0.09 | 1.98 | 0.06 |
| 20/04/1999 | 60 | 38.0 | 1.9 | 0.42 | 0.08 | 1.96 | 0.05 |
| 21/04/1999 | 65 | 37.6 | 2.1 | 0.40 | 0.09 | 1.95 | 0.07 |
| 22/04/1999 | 55 | 37.5 | 2.0 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 1.95 | 0.06 |
| 23/04/1999 | 67 | 37.6 | 2.2 | 0.39 | 0.08 | 1.94 | 0.07 |
| 24/04/1999 | 58 | 37.7 | 1.5 | 0.40 | 0.06 | 1.95 | 0.05 |
| 25/04/1999 | 49 | 38.0 | 1.4 | 0.41 | 0.06 | 1.95 | 0.06 |
| 26/04/1999 | 47 | 37.7 | 1.9 | 0.39 | 0.06 | 1.94 | 0.04 |

Appendix 2 (continued)
Daily Mean Fork Length, Wet Weight and Development Index (KD) for Chinook 0+ Sampled by IPTs at km 19 of the Nechako River (Bert Irvine's) in 1999

|  |  | Fork length (mm) |  | Wet weight (g) |  | Development Index (g/mm) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Date | $\mathbf{N}$ | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| $27 / 04 / 1999$ | 54 | 37.3 | 1.8 | 0.39 | 0.07 | 1.95 | 0.06 |
| $28 / 04 / 1999$ | 46 | 37.3 | 1.8 | 0.39 | 0.07 | 1.95 | 0.05 |
| $29 / 04 / 1999$ | 53 | 36.8 | 1.7 | 0.37 | 0.07 | 1.94 | 0.05 |
| $30 / 04 / 1999$ | 53 | 37.0 | 2.0 | 0.39 | 0.07 | 1.96 | 0.04 |
| $01 / 05 / 1999$ | 63 | 37.8 | 2.1 | 0.41 | 0.08 | 1.95 | 0.06 |
| $02 / 05 / 1999$ | 53 | 37.5 | 2.1 | 0.40 | 0.07 | 1.96 | 0.04 |
| $03 / 05 / 1999$ | 69 | 37.6 | 2.0 | 0.42 | 0.09 | 1.98 | 0.07 |
| $04 / 05 / 1999$ | 58 | 37.5 | 2.2 | 0.40 | 0.09 | 1.96 | 0.05 |
| $05 / 05 / 1999$ | 55 | 37.7 | 1.9 | 0.43 | 0.10 | 1.99 | 0.07 |
| $06 / 05 / 1999$ | 59 | 37.5 | 2.2 | 0.42 | 0.10 | 1.98 | 0.05 |
| $07 / 05 / 1999$ | 59 | 37.7 | 2.0 | 0.42 | 0.08 | 1.98 | 0.05 |
| $08 / 05 / 1999$ | 67 | 37.4 | 2.4 | 0.42 | 0.11 | 1.99 | 0.07 |
| $09 / 05 / 1999$ | 57 | 36.1 | 2.4 | 0.36 | 0.07 | 1.96 | 0.06 |
| $10 / 05 / 1999$ | 52 | 36.2 | 2.7 | 0.37 | 0.11 | 1.97 | 0.06 |
| $11 / 05 / 1999$ | 55 | 36.5 | 2.9 | 0.39 | 0.11 | 1.99 | 0.06 |
| $12 / 05 / 1999$ | 59 | 37.4 | 2.4 | 0.42 | 0.10 | 1.99 | 0.06 |
| $13 / 05 / 1999$ | 57 | 37.2 | 2.4 | 0.42 | 0.11 | 2.00 | 0.06 |
| $14 / 05 / 1999$ | 59 | 37.2 | 2.1 | 0.41 | 0.09 | 1.98 | 0.06 |
| $15 / 05 / 1999$ | 56 | 38.2 | 2.4 | 0.45 | 0.13 | 1.98 | 0.08 |
| $16 / 05 / 1999$ | 58 | 38.2 | 2.3 | 0.44 | 0.11 | 1.98 | 0.08 |
| $17 / 05 / 1999$ | 56 | 37.8 | 3.0 | 0.45 | 0.16 | 1.99 | 0.08 |
| $18 / 05 / 1999$ | 57 | 38.4 | 3.0 | 0.45 | 0.17 | 1.97 | 0.08 |
| $19 / 05 / 1999$ | 44 | 38.9 | 2.8 | 0.47 | 0.14 | 1.97 | 0.07 |
| $20 / 05 / 1999$ | 33 | 38.3 | 1.8 | 0.45 | 0.09 | 1.98 | 0.06 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Appendix 3. Summary of 1999 IPT catches by month and trap number


| Month | Salmonidae |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Cyprinidae |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Day/Night | Trap No. | CH_1+ | CH_0+ | RB_A | RB_J | SK_1+ | SK_0+ | MW_A | MW_J | CSU_A | CSU_J | RSC_A | RSC_J | NSC_A | NSC_J | LNC_A | LNC_J | LDC_A | LDC_J | PCC_A | PCC_J |
| March | Day | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 4 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| March | Night | 1 | 1 | 297 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 14 | 0 | 17 |
|  |  | 2 | 1 | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  | 3 | 0 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  | 4 | 2 | 174 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 47 | 1 | 17 | 27 | 10 | 0 | 15 |
| April | Day | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | , | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 1 | 0 | 198 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 2 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 3 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 4 | 0 | 139 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| April | Night | 0 | 0 | 697 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 1 | 1 | 10,484 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 5 | 44 | 0 | 47 | 10 | 47 | 19 | 33 | 0 | 40 |
|  |  | 2 | 1 | 2,390 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
|  |  | 3 | 4 | 2,542 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
|  |  | 4 | 0 | 5,595 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 101 | 10 | 37 | 1 | 105 | 9 | 116 | 10 | 19 | 1 | 43 |
| May | Day | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 1 | 1 | 148 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 2 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 3 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 4 | 0 | 91 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| May | Night | 0 | 0 | 97 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 1 | 0 | 3,197 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 127 | 19 | 51 | 8 | 57 | 123 | 419 | 77 | 99 | 0 | 11 |
|  |  | 2 | 1 | 476 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  | 3 | 0 | 541 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
|  |  | 4 | 0 | 5,022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 264 | 5 | 46 | 0 | 247 | 79 | 446 | 38 | 34 | 0 | 30 |
| Grand | Total |  | 12 | 32,641 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 136 | 2 | 18 | 10 | 710 | 43 | 205 | 9 | 521 | 246 | 1065 | 240 | 223 |  | 176 |

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Adult
Juven

| CH | Chinook salmon | Oncorhynchus tshawytscha |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RB | Rainbow trout | Oncorhynchus mykiss |
| SK | Sockeye salmon | Oncorlhychus nerka |
| MW | Rocky Mountain whitefish | Prosopium williamsoni |
| CSU | Largescale sucker | Catostomus macrocheilus |
| RSC | Redside shiner | Richardsonius balteatus |
| NSC | Northern pikeminnow | Ptychocheilus oregonensis |
| LNC | Longnose dace | Rhinichthys cataractae |
| LDC | Leopard dace | Rhinichthys falcatus |
| PCC | Peamouth chubb | Mylocheilus caurinus |
| CC | Sculpin species | Cottus sp. |

