

Lake Babine Nation Summary of Findings from the December 2010 Salmon Spawning Report for the Morrison Watershed

Based on the Salmon Spawning report prepared for the Lake Babine Nation by Alana Dickson in December 2010, we present the following:

1. Morrison Watershed Salmon Productivity

We are pleased to report that our findings for salmon productivity in the Morrison Watershed are consistent with numbers reported by other sources for Sockeye, and higher although comparable for Coho.

Species	Bustard (2004)	Schell (2003)	LBN (2010)
Sockeye	13,460 (1993-2002 average)	8,900 (1990's average)	10,132
Coho	503 (1998-2003 average)	263 (1990's average)	1,002

Spawning sites along Morrison Creek and shoreline spawning sites along the proposed mine area were mapped.

2. Shoreline Spawning

Seventeen shoreline redds were identified and mapped along the Morrison Lake shoreline in the area of the proposed mine. Groundwater was observed to contribute to the clean gravels at these sites and effects of the proposed mine on groundwater sources at these sites should be considered.

3. Hydrology Observations

Low flows appear to be the limiting factor at present for salmon productivity. In 2010, inadequate water flows were observed to delay spawners from reaching Morrison Lake and upper spawning tributaries. If the proposed mine would further exacerbate low flow conditions, a management plan should be considered to ensure salmon access through Morrison Creek at low flows.

4. Morrison Tributaries

The report identifies some streams (including Lower Tahlo and Haul Creeks) as providing excellent spawning habitat that is not utilized due to several beaver dams. These areas could be considered as opportunities for habitat enhancement.

5. Other Wildlife

This report also documents high wildlife use along Morrison Creek by predators during spawning season. Disturbance to salmon, wildlife and the Lake Babine Nation by mining activities during spawning season should be considered as a management issue.