

THORNE BAY
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(Indenting the Eastern Shore of Prince of Wales ~~Island.~~)

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When Thorne Bay was inspected August 24 the main stream was found to have a run of approximately 8000 salmon, the majority of which were humpbacks and apparently same had been in stream for some time. All the way from the entrance up into the streams there were Cohoes jumping together with a few chums.

Creek in South Arm was inspected August 25 at which time there were 500 humpbacks and chums in shallow water.

The Alaska Territorial Fish Commissioner's representatives arrived at Thorne Bay August 30 and established their camp near the first still hole in creek above the tide limit, preparatory to gathering humpback eggs.

All streams tributary to Thorne and Tolstoi Bays were unusually high, resulting from heavy rainfalls. On September 5, after a heavy continuous rainfall for 56 hours, streams had risen 5 feet. One could not determine the number of salmon escaping with water being so discolored.

On September 14 when I visited camp of Commissioner, who was collecting humpback eggs I was surprised to see the number of humpbacks still in stream below their camp. There were over 10,000 or more in a portion of stream that had almost no salmon when inspection was made about September 1; furthermore, the Commissioner informed me that they get some humpbacks each haul that are quite fresh. During operations on September 14 they made one haul and caught 4 humpbacks with scales on and just as bright as trap fish.

In conclusion, I wish to say, that a large number of salmon eggs were destroyed by the unusual high and prolonged freshet. I noticed in both streams in Tolstoi Bay that a great quantity, perhaps millions, of eggs laying on bars and in still spots in creek bed had been washed out when the bars were torn up by the freshet. The creek beds in Thorne and Tolstoi Bays are now white with sea gulls feeding upon exposed eggs.

J.A.Kelley,
Stream Watchman.

Season of 1924.