

## W H A L E - P A S S A G E

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Located on the southern coast of Thorne Island and  
 Northeast coast of Prince of Wales Island.  
 North of the 56th Parallel of North Latitude.

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On September 1 a thorough inspection of the main stream was made to determine the escapement of salmon. The creek was divided into sections of 100 yards each; directions and natural features were noted in each section and when it was possible an accurate count of the salmon was made; 2.62 miles was inspected, thereby marking off within that distance 46 sections. The total number of salmon recorded was 81,473; 20% or 16,297 of which were chums and the remaining 65,176 being humpbacks. Much care was taken not to exaggerate the number of salmon.

September 2, Squaw Creek (1 Mile N. E. of main creek) was inspected. 3000 chums were found; many of which were in a semi stage of decomposition, extending along the stream for about 1/2 mile above the tide water. Apparently they had gone up about as far as they intended going.

The creek one-half mile west of the main creek was inspected September 3 for a distance of nearly 2 miles but no salmon were found.

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Following are extracts from final report submitted  
 by Stream Watchman September 15.

"From good authority I learned that a watchman should have been on hand at Whale Passage at least from August 10 to September 5, as illegal fishing must have been done in the estuary of Squaw Creek, judging from my inspection September 2. The stream is about 12 feet wide and 1 foot deep on an average riffle and at an average stage of water. It has a long-wedge-shaped estuary easily captured with seines and gill nets, therefore, it needs protection.

The main stream is much better protected, having a broad estuary and an ample play yard inside of the markers.



WHALE PASSAGE  
(continued)

When my duties as stream watchman commenced here August 21, salmon were jumping in all parts, indicating a great many. By September 5 the chums and humpback run was practically over. So this year a watchman should have been on, as stated above, at least from August 10 to September 5.

The dog salmon appear to run here early. The only run not already made must be the Cohoes. So far they have not shown up, although I have expected and watched for them after each wind storm.

There are seven streams in Whale Passage (counting the stream at the north end of Thorne Island as one). Six of these have salmon spawn in them. Judging from my investigations Sept. 1 and the number of salmon escaping since that date, it is therefore safe to say that this creek has 100,000 salmon in it, Squaw Creek 3000, Thorne Island Creek 1,000; two creeks two miles south with a total of 700 salmon, makes a grand total of 104,700 spawning salmon; which is an ample amount for supplying its waters."

S. M. Wyatt,  
Stream Watchman.

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Extract from Warden O'Connor's  
report, dated August 31, 1924.

"The writer went up the creek on the northwest side about 1-5/8 miles and found a large school of bright pink salmon in the first quarter of a mile above high tide and numerous salmon on the spawning beds for the remainder of the way. The writer estimated that there were 125,000 salmon in the 1-5/8 miles. Salmon could be seen finning on the shallow bars above that point. It was late in the day and had to return in order to get out of the timber before dark. The creek is five miles long.

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Season of 1924.  
Juneau, Alaska.