

This watershed was logged extensively in the 1930's and suffered a severe forest fire in 1951. Much of the spawning gravel was lost; the water was considered unstable and a bad run-off was noted in 1961. Peak escapements occurred in 1937 with 7,500 each of Chum and Pink and 1,500 Coho. Recent records (1983-2000) show that the maximum annual escapement for Coho was 1,100; the Pink maximum (1989-1998) was 2,500 and the Chum 1,500 (1990-2000).

In 1994, the terrain was mapped with evaluations of slope stability and hazard potential to aid in the development of forestry in the upper reaches of the watershed. Another report that year noted the logging related impacts to fish habitat and the requirement for remedial wildlife estuarine works and grizzly bear oriented riparian improvements.

According to the Sechelt Land Use Plan (Draft 2007), all of the Brittain River watershed is considered to have an extremely high cultural and spiritual value; and the key management issue is rehabilitation of fisheries values. A Preliminary Anadromous Salmonid Assessment (2008) conducted in the lower two reaches assessed those habitats as poor with opportunities for remedial work. In 2009, the river was nonetheless considered to be one of the major systems for Pinks and one of 36 Chum spawning streams identified within the Jervis Inlet Management Area, Statistical Area 16.

In addition, there are observations recorded for Dolly Varden, Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout and Steelhead. Steelhead were observed in the river in 1976 -77, and in 1979. As of 2004, this winter run was evaluated as an extreme conservation concern suggesting that it was at 10% or less of habitat capacity and likely to become extinct.

BRITTAIN River Watershed

	SOCKEYE	COHO	PINK	CHUM	CHINOOK	TOTALS	STEELHEAD
1947	-	-	3,500	750	-	4,250	-
1948	-	1,500	750	1,500	-	3,750	-
1949	-	750	3,500	7,500	-	11,750	-
1950	-	75	200	3,500	-	3,775	-
1951	-	400	3,500	1,500	-	5,400	-
1952	-	75	75	750	-	900	-
1953	0	75	3,500	1,500	0	5,075	UNK
1954	0	75	75	1,500	0	1,650	UNK
1955	0	200	3,500	750	0	4,450	200
1956	0	25	25	400	0	450	UNK
1957	0	400	3,500	1,500	0	5,400	UNK
1958	0	75	N/O	1,500	0	1,575	UNK
1959	0	200	750	750	0	1,700	UNK
1960	0	400	0	1,500	0	1,900	UNK
1961	0	1,500	3,500	750	0	5,750	UNK
1962	0	75	N/O	400	0	475	25
1963	0	750	75	25	0	850	75
1964	0	400	0	25	0	425	25
1965	0	75	N/O	750	0	825	25
1966	0	400	0	200	0	600	75
1967	0	200	N/O	10	0	210	100
1968	0	200	N/O	100	0	300	200
1969	0	500	2,003	3,000	0	5,503	200
1970	0	100	0	150	0	250	UNK
1971	0	100	100	N/O	0	200	UNK
1972	0	300	0	1,000	0	1,300	UNK
1973	0	50	300	100	0	450	UNK
1974	0	100	0	500	0	600	UNK
1975	0	N/O	50	25	0	75	N/O
1976	0	N/O	0	50	0	50	N/O
1977	0	500	100	450	0	1,050	UNK
1978	0	500	0	75	1	576	UNK
1979	0	500	200	75	0	775	UNK
1980	0	100	0	500	0	600	UNK
1981	0	50	900	150	0	1,050	UNK
1982	0	50	0	50	0	100	UNK
1983	0	100	100	160	0	360	UNK
1984	N/O	100	N/O	100	N/O	200	UNK
1985	N/O	150	300	300	N/O	750	UNK
1986	0	6	UNK	410	UNK	416	UNK
1987	0	0	600	500	0	1,100	UNK
1988	0	UNK	0	200	0	200	UNK
1989	UNK	UNK	1,000	100	UNK	1,100	UNK

Brittain River

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(If you have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can click the link above to open a placemaker for this watershed.)