

News Release



Department of Fisheries

DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR
THOR C. TOLLEFSON, DIRECTOR
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

July 31, 1967

The Washington State Department of Fisheries has been attempting to prevent a serious waste of pink salmon in the Dungeness River contiguous to the Dungeness Harbor area, a waste which if prevented would produce \$120,000 to the food fisheries of this State.

A heavy run of early pink salmon which spawns in the Upper Dungeness and Greywolf Rivers is now in progress. The Department of Fisheries is attempting to control this escapement to 50,000 spawners which has been found to produce the best return on subsequent runs the next cycle. Escapements of this level will produce up to 100,000 or more returning fish on the next two year cycle, one-half of which it is anticipated could be harvested by sport and commercial fishermen.

The Dungeness River has both an early and late run. The early run begins to enter the river the third week in July - peaks the last week of July, and continues to about August 13. This run spawns in the Greywolf & upper Dungeness. The later run enters the Dungeness the first week of August, peaks the third week in August and is over by early September. This later run spawns mainly in the lower reaches of the Dungeness.

The Department of Fisheries had plans to allow gill netters and purse seiners to fish within a small triangle in outer Dungeness Bay this year as optimum spawning occurred in 1965 from the early run and a good pink salmon run was expected this 1967 brood year return. Seven gill netters fished the area during Thursday night July 27th at which time the escapement past the lower rack or weir, was 16,000 fish and increasing rapidly. These gill netters caught less than 1,000 fish but the purse seine fishery there was not due to open until Thursday and Friday of next week.

By Friday night a crises was developing. The escapement increased rapidly toward the 50,000 fish mark. Seven purse seiners were chartered on an emergency basis Friday night and fished the outer bay Saturday and Sunday. Catch was only a few hundred fish Saturday as the seiners were unable to locate the schools of fish.

The escapement increased past the 70,000 fish mark by Sunday. The 7-8 seiners managed to take 3,500 - 4,000 pinks thru Sunday, but this effort did little to control the escapement. It appears the total run will exceed 100,000 fish.

The future of this particular early run is now in jeopardy for 1969 unless the Department increases the harvest immediately.

Records have shown large escapements can depress future runs. An escapement of 35,000 - 40,000 early pinks in 1961 produced the bountiful 190,000 run in 1963, which was not adequately cropped. This large run produced a mediocre run in 1965, but survival of the young pinks was excellent and we now have another 100,000 plus run on our hands. Unless it can be reduced a poor run could result in 1969.

Pink salmon are worth nearly \$1 each to commercial fishermen. An excess of 50,000 pink salmon would produce 4,000 cases of canned salmon, 48 pound cans per case. A case of 1 pound tall pink salmon wholesales for \$30. Therefore, this excess of pink salmon on the Dungeness River is worth \$120,000 each two year period to the economy of this State. Such cropping would not impair or hinder a valuable sport fishery which also exists on these fish from Neah Bay into the river.

In order to prevent any further excess escapement of the early run pink salmon the Department is taking three immediate steps.

1. The sport fishing regulations are being relaxed in the river to permit a harvest of pink salmon. Beginning immediately the Dungeness River downstream of the highway 101 bridge is open to any size pink salmon, with a daily bag limit of 6 pink salmon. This special opening will continue through August 13.

2. Outer Dungeness Bay is being opened to purse seines on August 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
3. As a final step the Department crews will use small beach seines to crop the fish as they enter the lower river. This cropping will operate in conjunction with a counting rack in operation near the mouth of the river to prevent overescapement while assuring an adequate seeding of the river.

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OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

August 9, 1967

The early run of pink salmon in the Dungeness River seems to be nearing its end, Thor C. Tollefson, Director of the Department of Fisheries, said today, and the relaxation of sport fishing regulations to harvest this run will end, as previously scheduled, Sunday, August 13, at midnight. It will remain closed through September 30 to all salmon fishing, then reopen under previous regulations as published in the 1967 Sport Fishing Regulation booklet.

The big run of pinks and the sport regulation relaxation (anglers were allowed to take six pinks of any size per day) has resulted in a bonanza catch in the river, Tollefson said. All reports on numbers of fishermen and catches have not been tabulated, but some partial surveys and checks reveal that the number of anglers so far is nearing 10,000 and the average catch is around one pink per man. Many limits of six were observed.

The salmon were caught by anglers from all parts of Washington as well as by many out-of-state tourists.

"This pink salmon fishery in the Dungeness was a real bonanza," Tollefson said, "According to our punch card records, sportsmen caught 68 salmon in the Dungeness in 1964, 53 in 1965 and 28 in 1966. Compare these catches with a catch which may exceed 10,000 fish this year and the bonanza immediately becomes apparent."

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August 9, 1967

REVISED, ENLARGED "MARINE FISHES" BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

The Department of Fisheries has just published a 32-page booklet on Pacific Northwest Marine Fishes. The booklet is a revised and enlarged version of a previous 20-page edition that has long been popular among students, teachers and those interested in Washington's fisheries resources.

The booklet contains pictures of Pacific salmon and rockfish and bottomfish, along with descriptions. In addition, it has descriptions of various gear used to catch fish, information on how the salmon fisheries of the state are managed, and a sketch showing salmon cycles.

Copies of the booklet are available at Fisheries headquarters in Olympia, 115 General Administration Building. There is no charge.

(A sample copy is enclosed)

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Department of Fisheries

DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR
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OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

August 28, 1967

The Department of Fisheries announced today that the fishing area scheduled to open at the Washougal River Salmon Hatchery, near Washougal, Washington, on September 1 will not open as scheduled. No water, hence - no fish and fire hazards prompted the temporary curtailment.

Because of the prolonged dry weather the Washougal River has been reduced to a trickle. Significant numbers of coho salmon are not expected until the first September rains.

There has been a great deal of interest expressed in the experimental sport fishery which will crop the "jack" coho salmon due back from the largest plant ever made at the Hatchery. Last year 50 tons of jack coho returned from a somewhat smaller release. This season the returning coho, which should average $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds each, will be confined within a 1500 foot long special fishing area near the hatchery.

This decision does not affect currently scheduled salmon angling in the Washougal River downstream from the steel bridge at Washougal Mercantile, which is open to personal use coho fishing for 6 fish not less than 10 inches, not more than 2 of which may exceed 24 inches.

The Department will issue a bulletin when the fish arrive. It appears now that the fishing area will not only be without salmon but also without water on September 1.

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Department of Fisheries

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OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

August 28, 1967

The question of jurisdiction over commercial fishing off West Beach on northern Whidbey Island has been resolved, Thor C. Tollefson, Director of the Department of Fisheries, said today. The narrow strip of water, the subject of recent controversy, lies within the Initiative 77 Line, but it also lies within waters administered at times by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, the authority of a treaty between the United States and Canada. Purse seining for salmon in waters delineated by Initiative 77 is prohibited by State law until October 5.

Tollefson recently asked the IPSFC for a decision regarding the West Beach fishery and its reply was that Washington may regulate the type of commercial fishing gear allowed to fish within 77 waters. Under this decision purse seining inside of the Initiative 77 Line on West Beach is unlawful until October 5.

The line includes all waters east of 122° 40' West longitude.

Tollefson also said that since there are no landmarks to identify the line, surveys and property arrangements will be made by the Fisheries Department so that markers may be set up to identify the closed waters. Until this is done, he said it would be extremely difficult to prove violations in a criminal court.

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Department of Fisheries

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OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

September 23, 1967

Nearing completion at Mill Creek on the Cowlitz River is the world's largest and most modern salmon hatchery, already in limited operation by the Washington State Department of Fisheries.

The hatchery is being built by Tacoma City Light as part of the overall fish facilities designed to continue runs of salmon and trout in the river which might be affected by the operation of the Mayfield and Mossyrock hydroelectric dams.

Tacoma City Light will also pay for the cost of operation of the hatchery. Bob Wiles, veteran fish culturist with the Department of Fisheries, is superintendent of the hatchery.

The hatchery facility consists of 34 large self-cleaning ponds (each 20' x 100' x 10') for rearing and holding the three species of salmon utilizing the Cowlitz River, a hatchery building, incubation facilities, frozen feed storage, office shop, laboratory, and adult salmon sorting and fish loading facility and a visitors area.

Many new fish handling, spawning and rearing techniques will be incorporated into the hatchery complex, some never tried before on a large scale. Plans call for the annual rearing of around one half million pounds of downstream migrants from an egg take of more than 28 million.

This wealth of concrete and steel, pumps, valves and water quality controls represents the fruit of years of experience and practical knowledge gained by Fisheries engineers, fish

culturists and biologists. The hatchery has been designed to handle the entire salmon run in the Cowlitz in event young salmon produced in the river above the Mossyrock Dam cannot be bypassed around the two dams.

Whether the hatchery will be that successful is a moot point, but all parties concerned are hopeful that it will be. Fisheries people are quick to say they would rather have the Cowlitz in its former unaltered condition than to have a hatchery, no matter how modern.

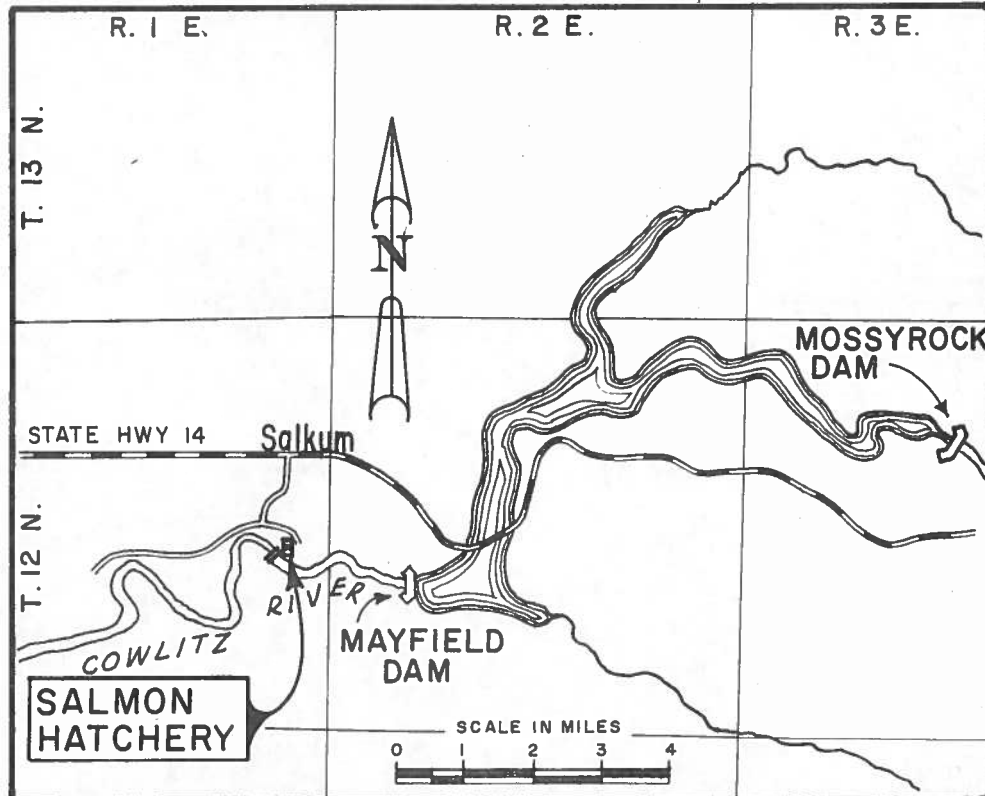
"For a great many years nature did a fine job of producing salmon in the Cowlitz." said Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson, "We estimate the return to the river, in recent years, has averaged around 25,500 coho, 17,300 spring chinook and 8,300 fall chinook annually. This was done with no help from man. Now, Tacoma City Light, according to their contract, is to maintain a run of that size by the combined production of the hatchery and natural spawning. If successful, it is easily seen that this will only be accomplished by the expenditure of many dollars and man-hours of work. While we have no guarantee of success, both parties to the contract are hopeful that it will be and certainly Tacoma City Light has been cooperative, sparing no expense to make this hatchery the best one in the world."

At present salmon being held at the hatchery for future spawning include spring and fall chinook and coho salmon. Some of each species, including about 2,000 spring chinook, have been hauled by tank truck and placed in the Cowlitz River above Mossyrock Dam for natural spawning.

When the hatchery is fully completed, spawning bound adults

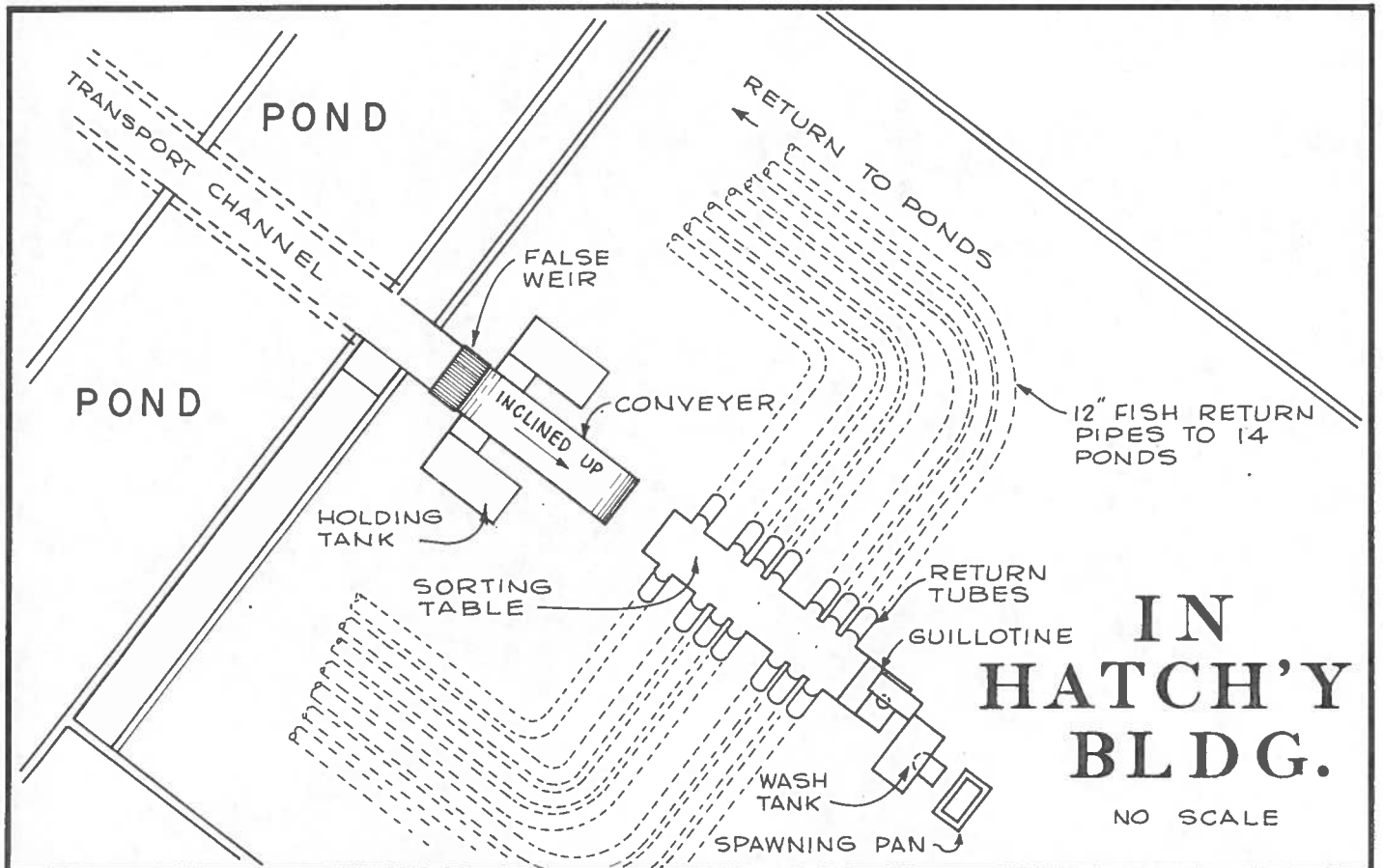
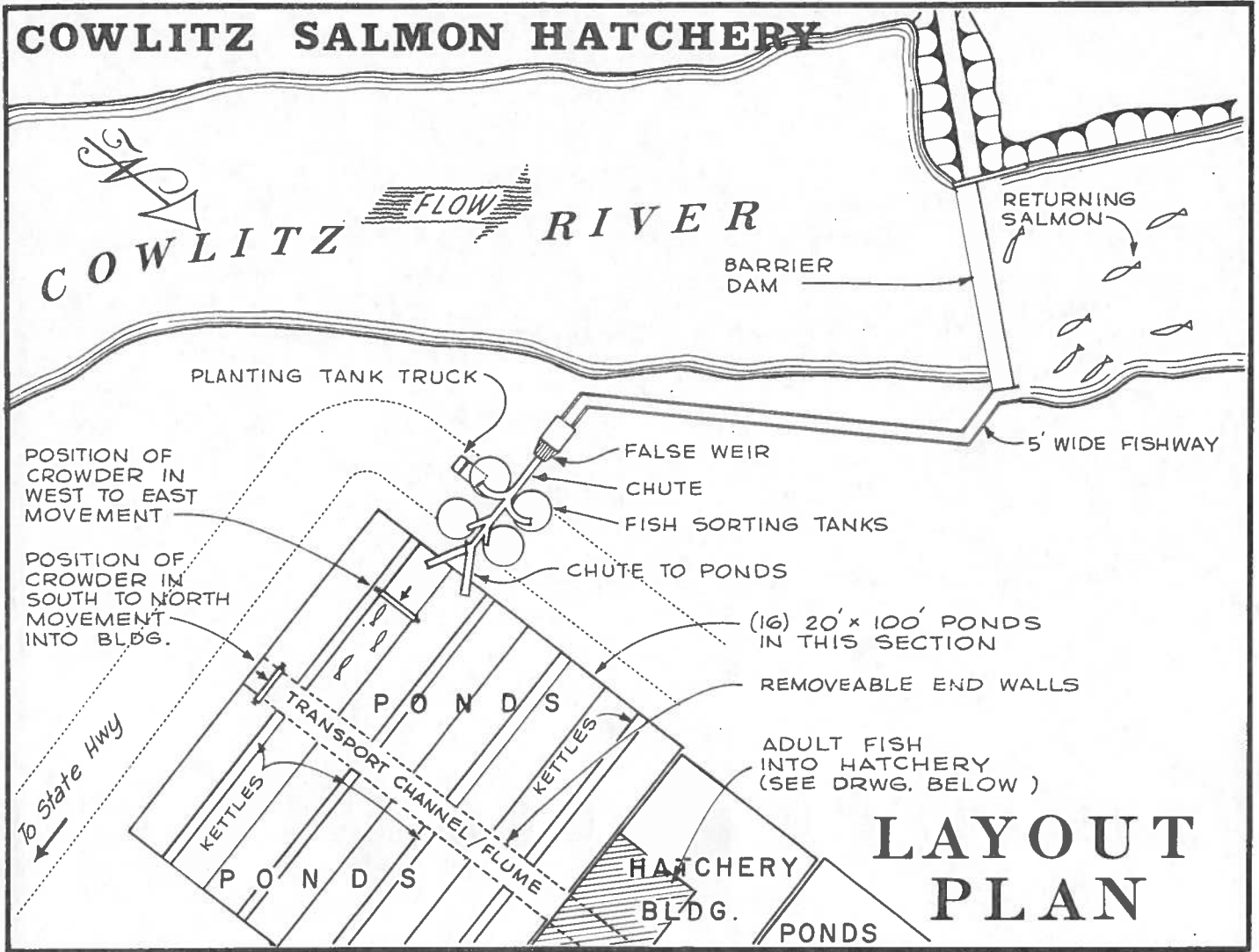
will enter a salmon separation unit via a fish ladder from a barrier dam below the hatchery and be shunted to various holding ponds according to species and degree of maturity. Those necessary to supply eggs for hatchery operations will be held at the station and the remainder transported to a release site above the proposed Mossyrock pool. When the time comes for eggs to be taken from the mature fish being held at the hatchery, they will be shunted into the main hatchery building for sorting and egg taking. All of this will be done with a minimum of actual fish handling.

"Even though the hatchery is designed to handle the entire Cowlitz run, in cooperation with Tacoma City Light we will continue to do all we can to maintain and hopefully increase spawning and production in the upper river above Mossyrock Dam," Tollefson said. "We will do this by trucking upstream migrants around the two dams for release in the upper river."



Attached are two sketches that show how fish will be handled at the Cowlitz Hatchery - they may be reproduced to illustrate the above news story... Don Reed, Information Officer

COWLITZ SALMON HATCHERY



Thor C. Tollefson, Director

Daniel J. Evans, Governor

January 10, 1968

SALMON BONANZA IN 1967 FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL AND SPORT FISHERMEN

Both commercial and sport salmon fishermen enjoyed a bonanza year in Washington waters in 1967, reveal preliminary estimates by the Department of Fisheries.

The figures for total commercial salmon landings and payments to fishermen are not final - even with electronic and computer aids it takes some time to verify, add, review, and compile several hundred thousand fish receiving tickets - but reasonably accurate estimates place value of the 50,516,904 lbs. of salmon caught by commercial fishermen in 1967 at \$13,563,354. Total catch in 1965 was 30,418,269 lbs., with a value of \$8,329,272 to the fishermen; in 1966 poundage was 32,223,225 with a value of \$10,722,997.

The value of the commercially caught salmon when processed will run around \$25,000,000 and will reach about \$35,000,000 at the retail level.

The catch of all species was greater in 1967 than during the two previous years except for coho (silver), with these down a bit from those two record-setting years. The chief reason for the good year, in addition to consistently good prices to the fishermen, was the great numbers of Fraser River pink and sockeye salmon caught by Washington fishermen. Total landings of 12,234,574 lbs. of sockeye and 20,203,754 lbs. of pinks included catches of Fraser River salmon above pre-season predictions.

The same good catch-preliminary figures prevails in sport salmon catch tabulations, with work going forward on compiling returns of hundreds of thousands of salmon punch cards, but there is no doubt that 1967 will prove to have been a record year for sport salmon catches, with more than a million fish landed by anglers.

Completed tabulations of records at Ilwaco, Westport, and LaPush show a number of new records and the fresh water catches, boosted by big catches in the Dungeness and Washougal Rivers, will be far ahead of any previous year.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS CREW OF PROFESSIONAL SKIN DIVERS

The Department of Fisheries is currently conducting surveys of sub-tidal bottoms in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to ascertain areas, abundance and species of hard shell clams available. The surveys are being conducted by a crew of professional divers, hired recently by the Department.

Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson said that as far as he knew this marks the first time any Washington State Agency has hired divers

as such on a permanent basis. The diving crew is headed by master diver Gordon Dupuis. Divers are Gary Gilhuly and Raymond Abreu. Abreu will join the crew February 1.

"We have many marine biologists who SCUBA dive," Tollefson said, "but their diving has been incidental to their other work. Our diving crew will take over some of this work and will allow us to expand our underwater investigations. Most of their work will be under the supervision of trained biologists."

The hard shell clam survey has, or will, cover central Puget Sound (Port Townsend, Hood Canal, Kilisut Harbor, etc.), all inlets in southern and northern Puget Sound. The survey is headed by biologist C. Lynn Goodwin, who has charge of survey planning and biological aspects, with Dupuis in charge of all underwater work.

The survey team is using an outboard powered catamaran, especially fitted for the task and is surveying the bottom and taking regular samples of hard shell clams out to depths of about 10 fathoms.

Information gained in the survey will be tabulated so it can be handled by computers to analyze the findings and make them readily available for further study and dissemination. The surveys initial objective is to ascertain the extent of sub-tidal clam populations with a view to establishment of a commercial fishery.

CLAM DIGGERS NUMBER UP IN 1967; CATCH SAME AS 1966

Total of razor clam diggers' trips to beaches in 1967 reached 750,000 with total clam take of 11,500,000 including wastage, reports biologist Herb Tegelberg. The number of diggers equaled the previous record set in 1963.

The increase of 70,000 diggers' trips over 1966 was accounted for chiefly at Long Beach and Mocrocks Beach (Copalis River-Moclins River).

Tegelberg said the average catch per digger-trips was 11.8 clams at Copalis, poor for this beach; 13 at Twin Harbors Beach, mediocre; 16.3 at Long Beach where digging was excellent, and 14.6 at Mocrocks. Because of a size drop in late summer, Copalis clams (average 4.4 inches) were the smallest since 1953. However, this was larger than at Twin Harbors Beach (4.3 inches as predicted) and Long Beach (4.1 inches compared to predicted 4 inches). Both Long Beach and Mocrocks had record numbers of diggers. Twin Harbors showed an increase in digging pressure with about the same number of clams taken as last year. No estimate was made on the numbers of diggers at Kalaloch.

OCEAN PINK SHRIMP LANDINGS BOOM

Landings of ocean pink shrimp in Washington during 1967 totaled just over 1,000,000 lbs., making it the best year in the past four and a 670 per cent increase over landings in 1966.

The catch rate of 628 lbs. per hour drag was the second highest on record, topped only in 1957 when stocks were first fished.

SURVEY OF CRAB FISHING UNDERWAY

The Department of Fisheries is conducting a survey of the coastal Dungeness crab fishing industry, which includes sampling of the catches.

Primary objectives of the survey are to become more familiar with the fishery and determine what the problems are. Of particular interest from a management viewpoint are the seasons as related to crab condition and the size limit with respect to maximum yield.

The initial phase of the survey consists of two parts. The first is to determine the size and condition of the crabs being taken in the fishery: the second a statistical breakdown of the fishery to determine how many boats participate, how much gear is being used, and from what areas the crabs are taken.

The coastal Dungeness crab season opened December 1, and got off to a slow start due to a price dispute and extremely stormy weather that kept most of the boats in port until December 10-12. Fishing since then has been excellent. Most of the Westport crabbers have been on limits because the potential catch has exceeded the capacity of the processing facilities.

Most of the fishing at present is in 10 to 24 fathoms between the Columbia River and Cape Elizabeth, with several boats fishing inside Willapa Bay.

SALMON HATCHERIES TAKE HUNDRED MILLION EGGS TO REAR

The Department of Fisheries Hatchery Division took more than one hundred million eggs from salmon returning to hatchery streams this past season. Exact total was 112,418,458.

The majority of these eggs will be reared to migratory age and size in the Department's 24 hatcheries and released in Washington streams. 1967 releases were around 90,000,000.

About 3/5ths of the eggs taken were from fall chinook (67,580,139), coho (silver) eggs totaled 40,040,094, spring chinook, 2,456,735, chums, 1,726,580 and pinks, 615,000. No sockeye eggs were taken as they do not lend themselves to hatchery rearing.

Top silver producer was the Washougal Hatchery with 5,781,000 eggs. Top fall chinook producer was the Green River Hatchery, followed closely by Kalama Falls with 9,985,000.

RETURNED BOTTOMFISH TAGS BRING REWARDS

Four tags from bottomfish, with a reward of \$5 for each, were turned into the Department of Fisheries during December, bringing the total number of these bonus tags recovered to 24 since the project was begun last spring. Two of the 24 tags recovered carried \$50 bonus payments. All tags recovered receive a 75¢ reward. Since August, 776 of these tags have been recovered. The bonus payments of \$5 and \$50 are paid for pre-selected tag numbers.

The continuing series of tagging trips, with the seventh set for sometime this month (Jan.) is investigating the migration and distribution of bottomfish in Washington offshore waters and is part of the increasing emphasis placed on the Fisheries Department's bottomfish research and management programs.

Bottomfish tagged include Petrale and English sole and True cod. The trip later this month will be to tag Petrale sole in the Esteban Deen.

MANY MEETINGS UPCOMING

This is the time of year for regulation hearings and meetings for the Department of Fisheries with a number scheduled for the next month and others to come.

A discussion of last summer's hectic sport salmon fishery in the lower Dungeness River will be held in the auditorium of Sequim High School Friday, January 26th at 8 p.m., followed the next morning at 10 a.m. in the same place to discuss possible regulations for the non-salmon bottomfish fishery in Discovery Bay and Washington Harbor (Sequim Bay).

A joint public hearing with the Oregon Fish Commission is set for Wednesday, January 31, in Portland to consider regulations for commercial fishing in the Columbia River for salmon and shad.

A Public hearing on razor clam regulations for this year will be held Wednesday, February 7, in Aberdeen, and plans are being laid for a hearing on 1968 Puget Sound commercial regulations in Seattle in March.

STREAM CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

Fisheries Department stream clearance crews have made walking surveys of various streams tributary to the Chehalis River, including Cedar Creek and its tributaries, Sherman Creek, Shelton Creek, Monroe Creek, North Creek, Lost Valley Creek, and several unnamed tributaries. These were all checked for log jams, beaver dams and other obstructions to migratory fish.

Two weeks time was spent by the clearance crew in the removal of one large log jam on Sherman Creek and several small log concentrations on Cedar Creek. Other log concentrations exist on Cedar Creek and these will be removed during the summer months when there are no fish in the streams.

HYDRAULIC APPLICATIONS

Hydraulic letters/applications received in November numbered 105 (Fisheries, 63; Game, 42). In December, total was 61 (Fisheries, 37, Game 24).

----- Don Reed, Editor

News Release



Department of Fisheries

January 22, 1968

DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR
THOR C. TOLLEFSON, DIRECTOR
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Director of Fisheries, Thor C. Tollefson, today advised against premature action concerning Indian fishing under treaty rights above Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River during the months ahead. He said that this spring the United States Supreme Court will hear appeals of cases involving off-reservation fishing by Indians in the Nisqually and Puyallup Rivers. He believes the fish management agencies should await the decision before acting. The Court's decision in these cases will be the law of the land, and would apply to Indians and non-Indians alike.

The fishing season on the Columbia River will begin before a decision can be rendered by our highest court. In the meantime, there is at best only partial agreement among the management agencies, the Indians, and the agencies of the Federal Government as to the extent of Indian fishing rights.

Serious discussions are being held at the State level and in Washington D. C., concerning possible future management of an exclusive Indian fishery on the Columbia River. The Washington Department of Fisheries has put forth a method of management for such a fishery. However, adoption at this time of a set of regulations for such a fishery would be premature and could lead to confusion and misunderstanding once the Supreme Court decision is reached. The regulations might even be in conflict with the Court decision.

In the meantime, Director Tollefson urges restraint by both Indians and non-Indians in their fishing activities so that the salmon runs might be perpetuated through another difficult season.

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