



February 7, 1968

Sport salmon fishermen should pay an annual license fee to fish for salmon in Washington, and the Department of Fisheries is doing a good job of managing the resource. These beliefs were expressed by a majority of respondents in a recently completed survey of 1967 salmon punch card holders, Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson said today.

A majority of those favoring a license fee stipulated that revenue from the license should be used to improve salmon fishing.

The survey, conducted by Frank Haw, sport salmon investigations project leader, with 869 returns by January 8th from an "at random" sample of 1,032 punch card holders is considered a fair sample of Washington salmon anglers, as well as those from Oregon and other states and contained much information of interest, Tollefson said.

The annual fee chosen by the greatest percentage of those surveyed was \$2.00 (25.7%), followed by \$5.00 (14.6%) and third, \$3.00 (14%). The majority of those rating the Department gave it a "good" rating (52.6%), 18.4% rated its operation as excellent, 3.9% said poor and 14.8% said fair, (96.1% rated the Department from fair to excellent).

Most of the respondents believed that game fish license funds support salmon programs (a false belief) and a substantial majority (78.7%) favored a license fee of \$1.00 and up.

One of the questions asked was how the Department might improve its services. Here 15.5% said "provide more salmon", 11.1% said "curtail commercial fishing" (as was to be expected from sport fishermen). A small number, 5.3%, wanted more information dealing with fish

and fisheries and others wanted the Department to do things that are not within its power, such as curtail foreign fishing off the Washington coast, perform some function currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Game, or make steelhead a game fish on the Columbia River.

Notably lacking from the surveys returned, said Tollefson, was significant support or mention of the much publicized issues of a fisheries commission to run the Department and the "fish farm" program. The results also discredit the contentions that a salmon angling license would damage the charter boat and tourist industries since both out-of-state and fishermen using charter boats showed above average support for a license fee.

A comparison of this survey with a previous detailed analysis of 1966 salmon anglers by Statisticians Dale Ward and Gene Nye (see below) clearly indicates that the respondents were a representative sample.

-Analysis of Salmon Anglers, 1966-

<u>Region</u>	<u>Per cent of anglers residing in the various regions</u>	
	<u>Survey respondents</u>	<u>1966 analysis</u>
Puget Sound Basin	57.4	59.9
Lower Columbia Basin	10.6	11.5
Washington Coast	3.5	2.9
Eastern Washington	7.5	9.1
Oregon	10.0	7.2
Other States and Countries	11.0	9.4
All regions	100.0	100.0

Note: I tried to keep this news story to essentials by summarizing, but it seems to me (understandably prejudiced) that I could have cut it too brutally. Hence these tables that might have additional news value to some. Am also attaching a copy of the questionnaire.

Don Reed, Information Officer

Types of Salmon Angling

The proportions of respondents indicating their participation in the various types of salmon angling are as follows:

<u>Type of salmon angling</u>	<u>Per cent of respondents</u>
Private outboard boat	47.3
Charter boat	34.8
River fishing for salmon	24.2
Rental outboard boat	16.5
Private cruiser	15.0
Did not fish for salmon in 1967	6.1

Other than "river fishing", all of these types of angling are assumed to have occurred in salt water. Many respondents indicated they participated in more than one type of salmon angling.

Ratings of the Washington Department of FisheriesGeneral

The respondents' ratings of the Department by region of residence are summarized as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Per cent of total respondents</u>						<u>Ave. grade 1</u>
	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Ex.</u>	<u>No res.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Puget Sound Basin	2.6	9.4	30.0	10.5	4.8	57.4	1.92
Lower Columbia Basin	0.5	1.6	6.0	1.6	0.9	110.6	1.90
Washington Coast	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.5	0.5	3.5	1.69
Eastern Washington	0.5	0.8	4.5	0.9	0.8	7.5	1.88
Oregon	0.1	1.4	4.7	2.5	1.3	10.0	2.11
Other states and countries	0.0	0.7	6.0	2.4	2.0	11.0	2.19
All regions	3.9	14.8	52.6	18.4	10.3	100.0	1.95

Calculated by the numbers of people rating the Department on the basis of a rating of 0 for poor, 1 for fair, 2 for good, and 3 for excellent. Questionnaires with no response to this question are excluded from the calculation.

Sport Club Membership

Respondents indicated their membership in organized sport groups as follows: 92.1% did not belong to clubs, 7.2% did, and 0.7% failed to respond to the question. In addition, 2.4% of the total respondents indicated they belonged to a club that was affiliated with the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, 2.4% indicated their club was not affiliated, 2.1% did not know if their club was affiliated, while 0.3% failed to indicate whether or not they knew if their club was affiliated with this organization.

A "Fair Annual Fee for a Salmon Sport Fishing License"General

The amounts selected under item 4 of the questionnaire are summarized as follows:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per cent of respondents</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per cent of respondents</u>
\$0.00	18.6	\$5.00	14.6
\$1.00	13.2	\$7.50	1.4
\$2.00	25.7	\$10.00	2.3
\$3.00	14.0	No opinion	2.9
\$4.00	7.3	Total	100.0

A total of 78.5% thus indicated that they felt some license fee (of a dollar or more) would be reasonable. The average amount, selected was \$2.49 and the average amount, excluding those selecting "\$0.00", was \$3.08.

How the Department Might Improve

Respondents' suggestions as to how the Department might improve its service to them are categorized as follows:

<u>Suggestion</u>	<u>Per 'cent of respondents</u>
Provide more salmon	15.5
Curtaill commercial fishing	11.1
Release more information dealing with fishing and/or fisheries	5.3
Curtaill water pollution	4.8
Perform some function currently under jurisdiction of the Dept. of Game	3.8
Provide more and/or improved boating facilities	3.2
Curtaill foreign fishing off the Washington Coast	2.8
Increase enforcement of fishing regulations	2.5
Alter sport fishery management practices	2.2
Curtaill Indian fishing	1.6
Combine Fisheries and Game departments	0.8
Establish reciprocal sport fishing regulations with Oregon	0.8
Reduce populations of dogfish and/or other problem fishes	0.7
Engage in more fisheries research	0.7
Increase commercial fishing license fees	0.6
Rely more on mitigation funds for the fisheries program	0.5
Make steelhead a game fish on the Columbia River	0.5
Eliminate sport-commercial fishing	0.5
Miscellaneous suggestions	5.8
No suggestion	36.3
Total	100.0

Sex: (yes, even in a fisheries survey!) Respondents included 76.5% male and 23.5% female.

Age: Respondents indicated their ages as follows: 83.1% over 21 years of age, 16.1% under 21, and 0.8% did not indicate their relative age.

Sample of the questionnaire

1. Are you over 21 years of age?
Yes No
2. Do you belong to an organized outdoor sportsmen's or sportswomen's group?

Yes No

If so, is this group affiliated with the Washington State Sportsmen's Council?

Yes No Don't know

3. None of the funds spent for sport fishing licenses in Washington can be used for salmon production or management. Were you aware of this fact?

Yes No

4. Because of the increasing pressure on the State's water resources (dams, etc.), due to the State's growth, more and more of our natural salmon spawning areas are being lost. This means that maintaining salmon runs requires increasing expenditures for artificial production (salmon hatcheries, etc.). In view of this, what do you feel would be a fair annual fee for a salmon sport fishing license (exempting youngsters and senior citizens) providing the license funds were used to make salmon sport fishing better? (Please check the one item below that best expresses your opinion.)

<u> </u> \$0.00.	<u> </u> \$ 4.00.
<u> </u> \$1.00.	<u> </u> \$ 5.00.
<u> </u> \$2.00.	<u> </u> \$ 7.50.
<u> </u> \$3.00.	<u> </u> \$10.00.

If you checked \$0.00 above, please briefly indicate your reason for doing so:

_____.

5. How do you rate the present performance of the Washington Department of Fisheries?

 Excellent. Good. Fair. Poor.

6. What do you think is the one most important thing the Department of Fisheries could do to improve its service to you?

_____.

7. What type of salmon fishing did you do in 1967? (Please check one or more of the appropriate answers.)

<u> </u> Did not fish for salmon.	<u> </u> Fished in river from boat or bank.
<u> </u> Fished from charter boat.	<u> </u> Fished from private outboard boat.
<u> </u> Fished from rental outboard motor boat.	<u> </u> Fished from private cruiser.
<u> </u> Other (please give example:)	<u>_____</u> .

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

April 22, 1968

Sport salmon fishing in the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam and the mainstem and Washington tributaries upstream from Bonneville Dam will be closed until further notice beginning April 23, the Washington Department of Fisheries announced today. The downstream closure line is projected from the inshore end of the north jetty across the river to the knuckle of the south jetty at the mouth of the river.

Extremely low flows resulting from the filling of John Day reservoir, coupled with severe problems in fish passage at this and other dams on the mainstem, have adversely affected escapement counts.

Preliminary indications on the number of spring chinook based on test fishing are for a below average run. Escapement requirements for spring chinook salmon have ranged from 80,000 to 100,000 fish for the past few years. The sport catch through Sunday, April 21, is estimated to be between 15,000 and 17,000 fish. The Indian catch through Friday, April 19, is estimated at 10,000 fish.

There has been no commercial salmon fishing below Bonneville Dam since March 5. No open gill net season has been scheduled at this time for the Columbia River spring run.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

April 29, 1968

Directors Thor Tollefson of the Washington Department of Fisheries and Robert Schoning of the Oregon Fish Commission jointly announced today that the fish passage problems reported earlier at John Day Dam on the Columbia River have eased. The Directors are extremely encouraged over the fish counts for John Day Dam on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They report that as of Sunday evening, April 28, 22,844 spring chinook salmon had passed the John Day project. However initial counts on Monday morning were considerably lower, indicating that our difficulties are not over. A cooperative team effort between the biologists and engineers of the Corps of Engineers, Oregon Fish Commission, and Washington Department of Fisheries appears to have resolved many of the immediate passage problems at the project. The two salmon management agencies expressed their appreciation for the Corps' spirit of cooperation when it became obvious that fish were being blocked at the project. It is gratifying to see the three agencies working as a team to solve this most difficult and serious condition.

The Directors wish to caution the public, however, that the team effort approach will be needed during the remainder of the spring chinook run as well as the summer chinook and sockeye run which will occur later this spring and summer. As river flows increase during the spring run-off period, steps will have to be taken to insure that flows past the project during the daylight fish passage period remain low enough to enable fish to seek and find the fishway entrances. This will undoubtedly necessitate using the John Day Reservoir as a storage pool during the remainder of the season in order to stabilize the flows below the project for fish passage. Careful surveillance of fish counts and fish passage conditions upstream from John Day will be made to insure that these fish successfully negotiate McNary Dam on the Columbia River, Ice Harbor, and Lower Monumental dams on the Snake River on their way to the spawn-

grounds. It is hoped that the counts at John Day remain high for the rest of this week so that the backlog of delayed fish between The Dalles and John Day can be passed upstream.

The Directors announced that personnel from the Washington Department of Fisheries and Oregon Fish Commission will remain on duty at the John Day project as long as needed to assure optimum fish passage conditions.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

May 9, 1968

Both good and bad news for Southeastern sport salmon fishermen were included in an announcement today by Thor C. Tollefson, Director of the Department of Fisheries.

The bad news is that the Tucannon River will be closed to salmon fishing this year because of low water flows and small snow pack in the stream's watershed, making a small run of chinook salmon, urgently needed for seeding, more than usually vulnerable. The Tucannon was previously scheduled to open May 19th.

The salmon angling closure will not affect trout fishing in the popular Little River in the Blue Mountains.

Tollefson said the Tucannon River had yielded from 350 to 1,000 spring chinook annually to anglers. The Snake River and the Columbia River and other tributaries above Bonneville Dam will remain closed to salmon angling until further notice.

The good news is that a previously closed area immediately below Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River will be opened this fall to sport fishing for an expected large return of coho salmon. The run is the result of a plant of fingerlings made in connection with an experiment by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

"If these larger coho salmon behave like the thousands of jack coho returning last year," said Tollefson, "they will home in on spring water seepage along the north bank of the Snake and will be readily available to anglers." There are no natural spawning grounds for coho in the area.

Details of the special season will be worked out and announced at a later date.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

May 10, 1968

Thor C. Tollefson, Director of Fisheries, announced today that sport fishing for salmon in the main stem of the Columbia and Snake rivers will be opened beginning on Saturday, May 11th. The Tucannon River and all other tributaries of the Columbia upstream from Bonneville Dam and the Snake River will remain closed to salmon angling until further notice.

Low river flows and adverse fish passage conditions at John Day and other dams, which plagued the early portion of the spring chinook run, have eased. Escapement counts at all dams in the path of the spring chinook are now normal for this stage of the run.

However, due to the small snow pack and expected low flows in the tributaries, vulnerability of chinook to angling gear is increased and necessitates continuing closures in these areas, Tollefson said.

Termination of sport fishing in the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers late in May will likely be necessary to protect an expected poor run of summer chinook. Fishing on this run has not been permitted for several years.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

May 13, 1968

The Washington Department of Fisheries and the Oregon Fish Commission meeting in Portland today announced a reopening of commercial gill net salmon fishing in Columbia River fishing Areas 1, 1-A and 3 for spring chinook to run from 6:00 p.m., May 13th to noon, May 18th and from 6:00 p.m., May 19th to 6:00 p.m. May 22nd. This will provide for 7-3/4 days of fishing with a normal 30 hour closure over the weekend following the first five day period.

Passage conditions are now excellent at all Columbia River dams, and on Ice Harbor Dam escapement of 32,000 chinook into Idaho streams is assured. The escapement goals will therefore be met.

The spring chinook previously blocked at John Day are making up for lost time and the McNary Dam and Ice Harbor Dam counts are now nearly normal for this time of the year.



June 25, 1968

HYDROELECTRIC DAMS LETHAL BARRIERS TO DOWNSTREAM SALMON

Getting young seaward bound salmon downstream past hydroelectric dams is still an unsolved problem, with each dam extracting a portion of the fish, Thor C. Tollefson, Director of the Department of Fisheries, said today.

The extent and urgency of this problem and the lethal effect of the dams is clearly shown in a recent investigation conducted by the Fisheries Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries on the Columbia River.

The survival rate was 20 to 1 in two groups of fish, Tollefson said. Of one group passing through four dams only one fish survived compared to 20 surviving in a similar group released below the dams.

The young chinook, about 3 to 4 inches in length, reared at Ringold Pond on the Columbia, revealed the lethal effect of the dams in stark numbers. One group of 90,000 marked chinook was released directly from Ringold; another marked group of 90,000 was hauled by tank truck and released below Bonneville Dam.

The young salmon were captured in seines at Puget Island in the lower river by BCF crews and for each one of the salmon recovered that ran the gauntlet of dams and their forebays there were 20 recovered from the groups released below Bonneville.

"We have known for some time that each dam kills a certain number of young seaward bound salmon," Tollefson said, "and much work has been done by our Department and BCF to solve the problem. This recent investigation certainly confirms our views of the lethal action of dams and reminds all of us who want to keep salmon running in the Columbia that a solution to this problem must be found."

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

Wed. July 24, 1968

The Department of Fisheries announced today that commercial salmon fishermen in U.S. convention waters east of Angeles Point were given an extra day of fishing this week to crop the early run of Chilco sockeye. Reef nets in area 1 (includes San Juan Islands, Boundary Bay and Port Angeles area) may fish until 12 noon Thursday, July 25; purse seines in Area 1 may fish until 9:30 p.m., Thursday, July 25; and gill nets in Areas 1 and 4 (Discovery Bay) and the western portion of Areas 3 and 8 until 9 a.m. Friday, July 26.

The opening of fishing next week has been delayed 24 hours to balance the catch of Fraser River system salmon with the Canadians. Reef nets in Area 1, may begin at 12 noon Monday, July 29 and fish until 12 noon Thursday, August 1. Purse Seines may begin in Area 1 at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 30 and fish until 9:30 p.m. Thursday, August 1, and gill nets may fish Area 1 and the western portion of Areas 3 and 8 from 7 p.m. Monday, July 29 until 9 a.m. Thursday, August 1.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

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

August 21, 1968

Twenty-three foreign fishing vessels were observed off the Washington Coast Tuesday in a surveillance flight by Department of Fisheries bottomfish specialists, who flew three tracks off the coast in a State Patrol plane.

Fisheries biologist Gene DiDonato, chief of bottomfish investigations for the Department, said he observed 19 Soviet stern trawlers, one side trawler, one processing vessel and two Japanese trawlers. All of the boats were concentrated in an area 15 to 20 miles west of Cape Alava northward to Cape Flattery.

Di Donato said all of the boats were fishing, but that no fish were seen in nets or on board. He said the area is considered a good one for hake, so that species is probably what the foreign fishermen were after.

He said that during the past few years some American fishermen and biologists have gone aboard Soviet vessels while they were fishing off the Washington coast and their fishing techniques and procedures are well known.

Di Donato will be visiting the Soviet fleet this week-end along with representatives of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Another Fisheries observer on the flight was biologist Nick Pasquale. It was the third surveillance flight this year and the tenth in a series that began last year. The State Patrol's Piper Aztec plane was piloted by Troopers Dick Weipert and Gary Smith.

News Release

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Department of Fisheries

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

August 28, 1968

Extensive research by the Department of Fisheries indicates that the largest coho (silver) salmon ever caught on sport gear in Washington State was a 24-pound two-ounce fish taken by an unidentified angler at Westport in 1961.

Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson said the fish was 36.2 inches long and scale samples indicate it was three years old.

Officials at Salmon Charters in Westport are attempting to identify the angler who caught the record salmon on their boat Holiday, skippered by Claude Durham, on September 21, 1961.

Tollefson said the fish was probably one of the late-run Grays Harbor coho which enter the Chehalis River system in November and December. Twenty pounders are not uncommon in this run, which enters the Chehalis, Satsop and Wynoochee rivers. Coho of similar size are taken at Dewatto in the Hood Canal in late October.

The world record coho taken on sport tackle is a 31-pounder caught at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver Island, B.C.. Most other "record" coho listed in sport publications are fish in the 15 to 20-pound class caught outside of Washington, indicating that State anglers may be failing to submit their catches for record consideration.

Most fish believed by sportsmen to be large coho are actually misidentified chinook salmon, according to Biologist Gene Deschamps, who identified the record fish. He pointed out that looking for spots is not an infallible way to tell them apart. A sure way is to examine the gum line. Coho have a white line where the teeth enter the lower jaw. On chinook the entire gum is black.

Anglers catching possible record-breaking coho should have the weight certified in writing at a sportfishing dock or sporting goods store, then contact a local Fisheries Department office to verify the species.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

September 5, 1968

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

The lower portion of the Columbia River will be open to commercial fishing beginning at noon September 5, Director of Fisheries Thor C. Tollefson announced today.

The Washington Department of Fisheries and the Oregon Fish Commission jointly agreed at a public hearing yesterday to open Grays Bay (Area 3) and 18 miles of Columbia River fishing area No. 1 downstream from a line drawn approximately from Rocky Point on the Washington shore to the tip of Tongue Point on the Oregon shore. Fishing will be conducted with 6-1/2 inch mesh or less floater gill nets from 12 noon, September 5 to 12 noon, September 7; and from 6:00 p.m. September 8 to 6:00 p.m. September 14. Tollefson further stated that an additional portion of the Columbia River will be opened beginning 6:00 p.m. September 9 and extending to 6:00 p.m. September 14. The additional fishing will be permitted in that portion of Columbia River fishing Area No. 1, extending upstream to a line drawn southerly through three lighted buoys located approximately 4/5 mile upstream from Eagle Cliff.

These fishing periods and areas have been opened to permit harvesting of expected large returns of hatchery-produced coho (silver) salmon presently in the lower river, while providing protection to fall chinook salmon migrating through the middle and upper portions of the river.

Another joint hearing will be held in Portland on September 11 to finalize fishing regulations for the rest of the year.

News Release



Department of Fisheries

Don Reed 753-6620
Emmit Glanz 753-6627

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

September 11, 1968

Resumption of the fall commercial fishing season on the Columbia River beginning at noon Friday, September 13, was announced today by the Director of Fisheries, Thor C. Tollefson.

Open dates for the period from September 13 to October 30 were agreed upon by the Washington Department of Fisheries and the Oregon Fish Commission at a meeting today in Portland. They permit a total of 24 days fishing.

Open dates for the main Columbia River (all areas from the Bonneville Dam deadline downstream to the river mouth) are:

Noon Friday, September 13 to noon Saturday, September 14, 6 p.m. Sunday, September 15 to 6 p.m. Friday, September 20; 6 p.m. Sunday, September 22 to 6 p.m. Friday, September 27; 6 p.m. Sunday, September 29 to 6 p.m. Friday, October 4.

Also from 6 p.m. Monday, October 7 to 6 p.m. Thursday, October 10; 6 p.m. Monday, October 14 to 6 p.m. Thursday, October 17; 6 p.m. Monday, October 21 to 6 p.m. Thursday, October 24; and 6 p.m. Monday, October 28 to 6 p.m. Thursday, October 31.

Open dates for Grays Bay will be the same as for the main river.

Present river mouth closures have been extended outward into the main river as follows:

Kalama River - completely across the Columbia to the Oregon shore; Lewis River - out to St. Helens Island; Cowlitz River - out to mid-channel of the main Columbia River.

No restrictions were placed on the mesh size of nets, but standard length restrictions will prevail, Tollefson said.

He stated that the commercial fishing season has been delayed and river mouth closures extended to assure adequate escapement of fall chinook salmon to Oregon and Washington Columbia River hatcheries and spawning streams.