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The evolution of the salmon fishing industry on the Columbia River from an early native Indian venture to a \$10,000,000 a year business is described in a new illustrated bulletin "The History and Development of the Fisheries of the Columbia River", just issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Prepared by Joseph A. Craig and Robert L. Hacker, the publication estimates that the present-day production from the salmon banks on the River represents an annual four percent return on an invested capital of approximately \$250,000,000.

During the five-year period from 1928 to 1932 inclusive, according to the report, the average annual production of these fisheries was approximately 29,800,000 pounds. In that same period, the fishermen, averaging 3,820 in number, received a yearly average income of about \$2,425,000.

It has been estimated that the value of the products of these fisheries, plus that part of the output of the ocean fisheries which the Columbia River salmon contribute, is about \$10,000,000 annually, delivered to the consumer.

"This is probably a fair approximation," say the authors, "of the annual value of Columbia River fisheries to the people at large. However, it should be remembered that this \$10,000,000 is merely the yearly income or profit which has

been taken each year for a great many years. Therefore, it must be regarded in the same light as the interest for money invested or dividends from stock purchased.

"The capital from which this income is derived is the population of fish in the Columbia River and, as long as adequate breeding stocks are maintained, this annual profit may continue to be taken. Four percent annually is a fair rate of return from a safe and conservative investment. So, if we assume that the \$10,000,000 annual income from the fisheries is the return from an investment paying at the rate of four percent per annum, the value of the capital invested, or, in this case, the population of fish in the Columbia River, is approximately \$250,000,000."

This large industry is supported and maintained by the population of migratory fishes living and spawning in the Columbia River. The salmon are by far the most important species, both in terms of value and poundage produced. There are four species of Pacific salmon--chinook, silver salmon, blueback salmon, and chum salmon--which form the bulk of the Columbia River's contributions to our commercial fisheries. All of these species are anadromous and all die after spawning. The remainder of the catch is composed, chiefly, of steelhead trout, shad, smelt, and sturgeon.

The Columbia, incidentally, is the principal steelhead-trout stream of the Pacific coast. Chinook salmon, however, are the most important species of the river, both in point of total poundage and value.

"In the beginning of the industry," say Craig and Hacker, "they were the only species utilized. The production of this species reached an all-time production peak of over 42,000,000 pounds in 1883. A sharp drop then occurred, followed by a period of stability, with a gradual decline from 32,000,000 in 1911 to

but 15,000,000 pounds in 1935. A growing utilization of the less-desirable fall runs of chinooks has been a feature of this fishery."

Fishery resources of the Columbia River have passed through a long period of exploitation. During this time, settlement of the Basin; improvement of fishing equipment and methods, and of preserving processes; increase of export demands; and changes in fishery regulations have all exerted influence. Lumbering, mining, irrigation, hydroelectric power developments, and flood control projects, however, have adversely affected the spawning and rearing habitats of the salmon.

The survival of these important fishery resources, the authors conclude, is largely dependent upon the adequacy of the system of regulation of fishing effort and the coordinated planning of fish protection at projects for water use.

"An adequate number of spawners can be provided by regulating the fishery. The problem of providing a suitable habitat for the adult spawners, the eggs, and the young is more complex and can be solved only by coordinated planning and adequate fish protection at projects which interfere with proper conditions in regard to fish life."

Sections of general interest in the new publication deal with the "Chronicle of the Columbia Basin" since 1792, when the Yankee trader, Robert Gray, first sailed into the river which he named after his ship; the extent of the fishery and methods and gear used by the Indians in their prosecution of this fishery; and a complete exposition of the modern salmon industry. Illustrated, well-documented, and buttressed with numerous statistical tables on every phase of this fishery compiled from the earliest available records, the publication contains also an exhaustive bibliography of literature cited.

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