



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The salmon canning industry of Puget Sound, which last year operated under a program concentrating its activities in a few plants to save manpower and equipment, was placed under a similar concentration plan for the 1945 season in an order announced today by Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes.

Repetition of the concentration program was requested by the salmon industry of the Puget Sound area, which will be faced this season with practically the same problems met in 1944—shortages of manpower and transportation facilities.

The concentration plan will result in a saving of approximately 450 cannery workers on the mainland where labor shortages are critical, and provides for the employment of 100 workers in the San Juan Islands where an abundance of labor is available. The consolidation will also release about 20 cannery tenders for use in Alaska or other localities. In addition to the saving of manpower and boats, a large saving of fuel oil, Diesel oil, gasoline and other critical materials will be effected by the concentration order.

The only important change in the concentration plan compared with last year is the addition of one plant to the number authorized to operate. Under the 1945 program, four instead of three plants will operate, and one stand-by plant will be available if the runs warrant its operation. Since there is normally a heavy run of pink salmon in Puget Sound during odd-numbered years, it is expected that larger plant facilities will be needed this year than in 1944.

One plant at Anacortes, Washington, will pack salmon for four firms; another at Friday Harbor will pack for five firms. The other two regularly operating plants will be at Deep Harbor and LaConner, each packing for one firm. The stand-by plant for emergency operation is at Anacortes.