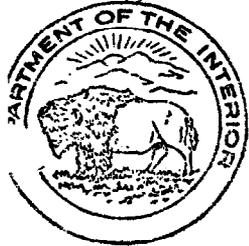


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SALMON PACK FOR ALASKA AND PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHOWS DECLINE

The smallest salmon pack since 1921 is that produced this past season in Alaska and the Pacific Coast States, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman said today.

The Alaskan pack to September 9 of this year totaled 3,177,003 standard cases, as compared to 4,217,703 cases to the same date last year. This latter figure was 96 percent of the total Alaska pack in 1949.

The Columbia River pack in mid-September was reported to be slightly below the 1949 production of 175,809 cases. The pack of salmon in the Puget Sound area was 115,361 cases to September 9. The pack on the same date last year was 463,295. The decline in Puget Sound was due to the normal reduced run of pink salmon in even-numbered years, and to a disappointing failure of the sockeye salmon run. The pack of Puget Sound sockeye by mid-September was less than half of the production in the previous cycle year, 1946.

The total U. S. and Alaskan salmon pack for 1950 is estimated at less than 4,000,000 cases. This contrasts sharply with an average of 7,642,000 cases for the years 1934-38, when the greatest salmon packs were made. The total packs for 1949 and 1948 were 5,524,916 and 4,824,966 cases respectively.

The smallest pack in recent decades -- which is comparable to this year's -- was that of 1921, when 3,600,000 cases were produced. The pack of 1921, however, was limited by economic conditions of that period, while this year's low pack is due to smaller runs of salmon.

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