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DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

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DEFENSE FISHERIES TO HOLD MEETINGS IN SEATTLE

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that Maurice Rattray, Deputy Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration, will hold public meetings in Seattle, Wash., beginning Monday, March 12, to investigate the need for instituting concentration controls in certain commercial fishing areas of Alaska similar to those used in World War II.

During the national emergency, the Defense Fisheries Administration has the responsibility for devising methods by which the fishing industry can achieve the maximum production of fish and seafoods with the minimum utilization of strategic materials, shipping, and man power. As one of the first steps in discharging this duty, DFA officials are giving serious consideration to an Alaska salmon concentration plan.

In 1943, a similar plan was instituted whereby the canning of that year's catch of Alaska salmon was concentrated in 74 of the largest and most modern plants rather than in the 120 previously used. The plan was successful in accomplishing a saving of man power, strategic materials and shipping space, without any loss in production, according to DFA officials.

The discussions in Seattle will be conducted separately for each area. The meeting on Monday, March 12, will be confined to consideration of the Bristol Bay area; on Tuesday, March 13, to Cook Inlet; and on Wednesday, March 14, to North and South Peninsula including Chignik.

Persons interested in these fishing areas and in this problem, both from industry and labor, are invited to attend. The location and hour of the meetings has not yet been determined but when these details are completed, information can be obtained from Fred Morton, Seattle representative of the Defense Fisheries Administration, 706 Federal Building, Seattle, telephone Seneca 3100, Ext. 461.

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