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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA SALMON PACK SHOWS SMALL INCREASE

An increase in this year's Southeastern Alaska salmon runs--although offset by a decline in other Alaskan areas--raised the pack for the whole of Alaska slightly above 1950's low levels, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior reported today.

The pack this year in Southeastern Alaska was 1,847,127 cases, as compared with 1,143,913 cases in 1950, an increase of 703,214 cases.

Total Alaska pack to September 6 amounted to 3,338,418 cases, an increase of 161,415 over last year's total of 3,177,003. The yield in a normal year averages about 5,500,000 cases.

The Columbia River pack in mid-September was reported to be about 20 per cent above the 1950 production of 192,990 cases, or around 230,000 cases.

In the Puget Sound area, the pack at the end of the first week in September came to 413,420 cases, which compares with 123,135 at the same time last year. This large increase in Puget Sound was due to normal recurrence of pink salmon in abundance in the odd years, and better than average sockeye production.

Although the Southeastern Alaska pack was up, the Central and Western sections showed a disappointingly small total. Runs of salmon were especially low in Bristol Bay, Chignick, Kodiak, and Prince William Sound.

The total United States and Alaska salmon pack for 1951 is estimated to be about 4,500,000 cases. This represents an increase of around 500,000 cases over the 1950 figure of slightly over 4,000,000. The total packs for 1949 and 1948 were 5,524,916 and 4,824,966 cases respectively.

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