



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 1, 1957

### PACIFIC COAST SALMON FISHERY GIVEN MORE PROTECTION BY NEW LEGISLATION

Salmon fishing with nets is now prohibited to United States nationals on the high seas throughout the North Pacific Ocean area as the result of legislation approved by the President on July 24 and regulations issued by the Department of the Interior on July 25, Secretary Fred A. Seaton announced today.

The revision of the North Pacific Fisheries Act and the Interior Department regulations extend protection of salmon on the high seas off British Columbia. They supplement action taken by Canada and the States of Washington, Oregon and California.

To implement the new Federal legislation, Secretary Seaton issued regulations effective July 27 which prohibit any person or fishing vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to fish or take salmon, except by trolling, in the North Pacific Ocean north of 48°30' north latitude. This does not apply to fishing for sockeye salmon or pink salmon south of latitude 49° north since control of these species is covered from latitude 49° to 48° by the International Sockeye Salmon Commission.

The North Pacific Fisheries Act, as approved on August 12, 1954, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to control fishing by United States nationals on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean but restricted the authority to the waters contiguous to the waters of Alaska.

In 1956, after salmon net fishing on the high seas off the State of Washington met with considerable success, concern for the future of the fishery was expressed by the salmon industry on the Pacific Coast. As a result of meetings held with representatives of the three Pacific Coast States and Canada, laws were passed by the three States to prohibit net fishing for salmon on the high seas. Canada, by order in council, also prohibited such fishing by its nationals.

The revision of the North Pacific Fisheries Act now extends the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior southward to latitude 48 degrees 30 minutes north. This closes the gap between the southern boundary of Alaska and the State of Washington with respect to United States nationals.

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