



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RESEARCHERS PROBE PROBLEMS OF SALMON PROPAGATION

A four-point program in the continuing effort to solve problems incident to salmon propagation was announced today by the Department of the Interior. The work will consist of research on disease, nutrition, improvement of hatchery techniques for Pacific salmon and various studies related to the restoration of the Atlantic salmon.

The research will be done primarily by biologists and technologists of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service but about half of the work on salmon disease studies will be contracted to State fishery agencies in Oregon and Washington and the University of Washington. The Service biological research facilities in Seattle, Willard and Entiat, Washington, and in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, will be used in the investigations. Maine agencies are cooperating on Atlantic salmon projects.

The disease research will include studies on parasites as purveyors of disease in the hatcheries and in the streams; columnaris and related ailments, especially on recognition and control of the virulent strains; red mouth disease; and laboratory probing of marine types of disease organisms and their relation to marine survival of salmon.

There are several nutrition studies in various stages of completion and work on these will be continued. These include salmon requirements of amino acid, fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates; development of water-soluble and fat-soluble vitamin test diets; and characteristics of digestive enzymes of salmonids.

Hatchery improvement at Entiat is for the development of improved techniques and equipment--rearing pond design, high humidity incubators, diversion, holding, spawning, accelerated maturation, algae control, and practical diet testing.

The headquarters for the Atlantic salmon restoration investigations will be in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries laboratory at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, but much of the work will be done in the Sheepscot River and its estuary, and at the Craig Brook fish cultural station of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Atlantic salmon restoration research is a cooperative program with three Maine fishery agencies and the University of Maine cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The work includes freshwater and marine survival studies, stream and estuarine ecology, and experimentation in salt water rearing of salmon to smolt size. Special emphasis will be placed on the salt water rearing of salmon to smolt size and if it is successful it might have considerable bearing on similar experiments with Pacific salmon.

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