

TROLL SALMON PROGRESS REPORT
September and October - 1950

Fishing Conditions

Fishing during these two months has been interrupted by periods of stormy weather, lasting from September 5 to 10, September 24 to 26 and October 4 to 16. After October 24, there was practically no fishing, due to continuous storms. During the first few days of September, silvers were fairly abundant off the mouth of the Columbia. Then came a stormy period. By September 11, most of the Astoria boats were fishing again, but the fish were very scarce. On September 11 to 14, Newport fishermen reported "brown water" with tremendous concentrations of herring and pilchard in the vicinity of Heceta Head. Here they encountered large numbers of silvers, and even greater numbers of immature chinooks, those kept averaging about eight pounds. During the last two weeks of September, silvers began to concentrate in the general vicinity of the mouth of the Nehalem River, and several of the larger Astoria boats brought back good catches from this area. This fishing continued until the 4th of October, when it was interrupted by storms. Between October 16 and 24, fair numbers of boats were day-fishing off the mouth of the Columbia, but the catch per boat was very poor. Fishing at Coos Bay during this period was reported to be somewhat better, but still not good. Newport fishermen apparently did very little fishing during October, due to the weather and bar conditions.

Work Accomplished

General: During this period, tagging, sampling and the recovery of tags were given priority over all other work. However, due to the prevalence of foul weather and poor fishing, considerable time was found to work on other

projects. These included the mounting of scales, the analysis of the season's stomach samples, to be presented in a forth coming report, and the preparation of graphs and tables for the seasonal report, to be submitted by December first.

During the last week of October, a trip was made down the coast to gather up log books and to pick up equipment that had been used in troll salmon work at Newport and Coos Bay.

Tagging: During these two months, 20 chinook and 87 silver salmon were tagged. Four of these fish were small second-year silvers, which were tagged with strap tags, as were most of the smaller chinooks. All fish tagged during this period are listed in Table 1.

Tag Recoveries: During this period, the canneries and receiving stations in Astoria were visited regularly to obtain any tags that were brought in. Not many Oregon troll tags were obtained in this manner, but considerable numbers of tags from upriver tagging experiments and from ocean tagging by other agencies were recovered. A total of 31 Oregon troll tags were recovered during this period, of which 16 were silvers and 15 chinooks. These recoveries are listed in Table 2 together with three August recoveries. Two of the silvers were recovered by troll fishermen in the same area in which they were tagged. One, tagged off the mouth of the Columbia River, was later recovered by a gillnet fisherman in that river. The other 13 were all recovered north of the area in which they were tagged. Three chinook salmon were recovered north and twelve south of the point of tagging. All recoveries to date, of chinooks tagged in the Coos Bay-Bandon area this season have been from California streams. No chinooks tagged off the Columbia in the 1950 season have been recovered thus far.

Sampling: Samples have been rather difficult to obtain during this period. However, it was possible to obtain a fairly adequate sample of the Astoria landings, and some samples from the other two areas. Table 3 gives a brief summary for these two months of the data taken on average weight, catch per boat per day, and mark ratio, together with the number of length-weight and length frequency samples taken; a much more complete analysis of these data will be presented in the forth coming seasonal report. This year's silver salmon have been extremely large, averaging over ten pounds in dressed weight during the latter part of the season. Chinook samples have been difficult to obtain, as only a scattering of these fish appeared in the September and October catch, with the exception of a few days good fishing off Heceta Head in September. Some of this group of fish were shipped to the CRFA cannery in Astoria, and were examined for marks, but there was no opportunity to obtain length frequencies or more than a few scales from these fish.

Log Books: Most of the log books which were distributed to troll fishermen early in the season have been collected. Some difficulty was encountered in locating some of the fishermen who had books, but the majority of the books are now in, and the whereabouts of the remainder have been determined. The books are being returned to the fishermen as soon as the data are copied. About half of the logs thus far obtained have been very well-kept, and contain a great deal of valuable data. Some books give only an incomplete record of the season, and a few were not kept at all. On the whole, the results were quite good, considering that this is the first season that log books have been used. The log book data, when analyzed, should give a good record of catch, fishing effort and fishing conditions throughout the season, as well as data on the release of undersized chinook salmon and additional data on the average weight of the fish.

Table 1
Troll Tagging, September 1 to October 24, 1950
Columbia River Area

<u>Columbia River Area</u>					
<u>Tag No.</u>	<u>Sp.</u>	<u>F.L.</u>	<u>Cond.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Astoria C-952	C	70 cm.	1	Sept. 28	Off Cannon Beach
953	C	67	2		
954	S	76	3		
955	C	55	2		
956	S	70	2		
958	S	77	2		
Astoria C-957	C	79	3	Sept. 30	Off Columbia River
959	S	53	3		
960	S	73	2		
961	S	72	3		
962	S	73	3		
963	S	67	2		
964	S	73	1		
967	S	72	3		
975	S	77	3		
Strap Tag Z-24	C	52	3		
25	C	57	2		
42	S	36	2		
45	C	46	1		
47	C	60	1		
49	C	49	1		
Astoria C-965	S	72	3	Oct. 1	Off Columbia River
966	S	75	2		
968	C	57	3		
969	S	75	3		
970	S	72	2		
971	C	84	1		
972	S	69	1		
973	S	72	3		
974	S	78	2		
976	S	69	1		
977	S	73	2		
979	C	49	1		
980	C	49	1		
981	C	44	1		
983	C	43	3		
Strap Tag Z-20	C	48 cm.	1	Oct. 1	Off Columbia River
21	S	31	2		
23	S	31	2		
40	S	43	2		
41	C	49	3		
43	C	61	1		
46	C	53	1		
48	C	53	1		

Columbia River Area

<u>Tag No.</u>	<u>Sp.</u>	<u>F.L.</u>	<u>Cond.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Astoria C-984	S	83 cm.	1	Oct. 24	Off Columbia River
985	S	74	1		
986	S	75	2		
988	S	73	1		
989	S	78	1		

Newport Area

Astoria R-207	S	70	3	Sept. 1	Off Yaquina Bay
208	S	66	3		
209	S	72	2		
210	S	67	?		
211	S	71	?		
212	S	70	2		
213	S	66	?		
214	S	71	?		
215	S	74	?		
216	S	68	?		
217	S	63	?		
218	S	71	?		
219	S	70	?		
220	S	60	?		
221	S	63	3		
222	S	75	2		
223	S	75	1		
224	S	72	1		
225	S	71	1		
226	S	75	1		
227	S	70	2		
228	S	65	2		
229	S	63	?		
230	S	66	2		
231	S	69	?		
232	S	71	?		
233	S	66	?		
234	S	69	?		
235	S	68	1		
236	S	69	1		
237	S	77	?		
238	S	73	1		
239	S	70	1		
240	S	63	1		
241	S	69	1		
242	S	72	3		
243	S	65	1		
244	S	74	3		
245	S	69	2		
246	S	75	1		
247	S	72	3		
248	S	72	1	Sept. 2	Off Yaquina Bay
249	S	74	1		

Newport Area

<u>Tag. No.</u>	<u>Sp.</u>	<u>F.L.</u>	<u>Cond.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Astoria R-250	S	72 cm.	2	Sept. 2	Off Yaquina Bay
251	S	68	2		
252	S	72	3		
253	S	70	2		
254	S	70	2		
255	S	73	2		
256	S	62	2		
257	S	58	3		
258	S	71	2		
259	S	69	3		

Table 2. Tags Recovered During Aug., Sept. and Oct. 1950

A. Silvers-

Tag No.	Released- Date-1950	Location Tagged	Cond	Recovered Date, 1950	Location	Days out	Migration (miles)	Growth
Col. River								
C-813	June 20	Off Columbia R.	2	Sept. 3	Off Columbia R.	76	0	3 cm.
C-908	July 17	" " "	1	Oct. 20	Lower Columbia	95	0	
C-912	" "	" " "	1	Oct. 24	Willapa River, Wash.	99	30	
C-939	July 26	Off Gearhart	1	Sept. 2	Fraser River, B.C.	37	250	
Newport								
R-55	August 4	Siltcoos R.-Heceta Hd.	2	Sept. 16	Off Willapa Bay	43	150	
R-91	" "	" " "	1	Sept. 18	Off Everett, Wash.	45	365	
R-92	" "	" " "	2	Sept. 12	Off Depoe Bay	39	60	
R-234	Sept. 1	Off Newport	?	Oct. 12	Fraser R. B.C.	42	335	
R-257	Sept. 2	" " "	3	Oct. 6	Lower Columbia	34	100	
R-258	" "	" " "	2	Oct. 21	" "	49	100	
Coos Bay								
C-888	June 26	Off C. Arago	2	Sept. 10	Lower Columbia	76	190	
C-863	July 8	Off Coos Bay	1	Aug. 21	Off Coos Bay	44	0	
F-673	" "	Off Coos Bay	1	Oct. 10	Siuslaw River	94	40	
F-692	July 20	S. of Bandon	1	Oct. 1	Off C. Falcon	72	165	
A-632	July 25	Siuslaw-C. Perpetua	1	Sept. 10	Nehalem River	47	90	
A-635	" "	" " "	2	Sept. 26	Alsea River	63	20	4 cm.
R-434	Aug. 6	Off Bandon	1	Sept. 11	Columbia River	35	200	
B. Chinooks-								
F-534	July 27, 49	Off Coos Bay	1	Sept. 22	Sacramento River	422	370	
Newport-1950								
R-7	July 7, 50	Off Heceta Head	1	Sept. 20	Off Golden Gate	75	400	
R-37	Aug. 3	Heceta Hd-Siltcoos R.	1	Aug. 28	Off Fort. Bragg, Cal.	25	270	0
R-85	Aug. 4	" "	2	Sept. 12	Columbia River	39	140	
R-86	Aug. 4	" "	1	Oct. 17	Sacramento River	73	420	
R-127	Aug. 5	Off Heceta Head	1	?	Lower Columbia	?	125	3 cm.
R-128	Aug. 5	" " "	1	Sept. 13	Celilo Falls	39	125	
R-140	Aug. 6	" " "	1	Oct. ?	Redwood Creek, Cal.	?	170	
R-158	Aug. 6	" " "	1	Sept. 10-16	mouth of Sacramento	35-41	420	
Coos Bay-1950								
A-656	Aug. 3, 50	Off Coos Bay	1	Oct. 19	Eel R., Cal.	77	170	
A-665	Aug. 4	Off Bandon	1	Sept. 6	Klamath R. Cal.	34	100	
A-691	Aug. 5	" "	1	Aug. 24	Mouth of Klamath R.	19	100	
R-448	Aug. 7	" "	1	Oct. 10	Eel R., Cal.	64	155	
R-450	Aug. 7	" "	1	Oct. 5	Redwood Creek, Cal.	59	105	
R-486	Aug. 7	" "	1	Oct. 10	Upper Klamath R.	64	100	0

Table 3. Summary of Troll Sampling - Sept. & Oct. 1950

A. Silvers-		Av. Weights			Mark Ratio				Catch per Day	
Area	Month	No. Fish	Tot. Wt.	Av. Wt.	No. Ex'd	Marks Found	No. L.F	No. L.W	Fish	Lbs.
Col. River Coos Bay	September	382	3556	9.3	572	1 Ad.	440	3	18	169
		14	128	9.1	332	0	332	53	14*	128*(1 sample)*
		(Single Clips)			904	1	772	56		
Col. River	October	602	6081	10.1	1099	3 RP 2 LP 1 LV 1 BV	439	43	19	191
		(Single Clips)			1099	7	439	43		
		(Single Clips)			1099	7	439	43		
B. Chinooks								L.W. & Scales		
Col. River Newport Coos Bay	September	126	1203	9.5	312	0	185	52	6	57
					239	1 RV	234	43 107		
		(Single Clips)			551	1	419	202		
Col. River	October	36	343	9.5	81	0	81	65	1	9

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