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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SALMON RESTORATION
ON LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER

Development of salmon spawning grounds on Columbia River tributaries located below the McNary Dam was assured when President Truman signed the Army Civil Functions Appropriation Bill for 1949 on June 26, the Fish and Wildlife Service stated today.

The bill authorizes the expenditure of \$1,000,000 for hatchery construction and river clearance by the Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating with the states of Washington and Oregon.

The fund became available on July 1. It will be used to remove old dams, rock slides, and timber obstructions on tributary rivers. This will enable salmon and steelhead trout to migrate freely to rehabilitated spawning grounds, the Fish and Wildlife Service explained.

Transfer of fish-spawning areas from headwater Columbia River streams to a number of lower-river tributaries has been made necessary by Columbia River Basin construction projects. Such dams as the McNary at Umatilla, Oreg., to be completed within the next four years, and the recently authorized power and navigation dams on the Snake River interfere with natural salmon and steelhead migratory movements.

When salmon enter the spawning period, they return from the salt sea to the fresh waters in which they were hatched. Eggs are laid and hatched in the inland rivers, and the young fish repeat the migratory ritual by heading for the ocean to acquire size and weight.

The Fish and Wildlife Service collects fish eggs from upstream migrant salmon and transfers them to man-made hatcheries. The fingerlings, or young fish, are then taken to the new spawning grounds to establish their habitat. Once acclimated, the fingerlings become so attached to these new areas that they return to them when they reach their spawning period.

Under the new Fish and Wildlife Service salmon restoration program, state fishery officials of Washington and Oregon will supervise the clearing of obstructions from the Columbia River tributaries and will operate their fish hatcheries.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the states will cooperate in rehabilitating old and constructing new hatcheries, it was explained.

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