



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

For Release PM's OF APRIL 16, 1951

DFA DECIDES AGAINST ALASKA SALMON CONCENTRATION ORDER FOR 1951

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today announced that the proposed salmon concentration program in Alaska would not be instituted during the 1951 packing season.

The decision was reached on the basis of recommendations by Maurice Rattray, Deputy Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration, who conducted a series of hearings in Seattle last month to investigate the situation.

Mr. Rattray explained that because supplies and materials have, for the most part, already been procured for the 1951 season, DFA officials feel that the savings in materials and manpower which would result from the concentration plan might not be sufficient to justify the cost and additional personnel necessary for DFA to administer and supervise the proposed order.

The proposed plan involved the packing of salmon in less than the total number of existing Alaska plants and would have limited the total units of fishing gear in operation. The program was proposed to save critical materials, manpower, and shipping space.

An expanded concentration plan, however, will be considered for the 1952 season, and area criteria similar to that proposed for 1951 is expected to be used in fixing the amount of plants and gear to be utilized, according to Mr. Rattray. This plan, he said, would depend entirely upon the state of the emergency existing early in 1952.

If critical materials and manpower are deemed to be in short supply early in 1952, the Defense Fisheries Administration will expect the canned salmon industry and the fishermen to do their part to effect economy in their operations. It would be inconsistent with the intent and purpose of the Defense Production Act to contemplate, in any of the fishing areas of Alaska, the use of either materials or manpower greatly in excess of the amount needed to produce a maximum production of canned salmon.

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