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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ISSUES NEW PUBLICATION ON SALMON PROPAGATION

How salmon hatchery operations on the Pacific coast are helping to maintain this valuable commercial and sport fishery resource is discussed in a new publication issued today by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This new publication--Pacific Salmon: Hatchery Propagation and Its Role in Fishery Management--describes briefly the species of Pacific salmon and their characteristics, reviews present-day methods of the artificial propagation of the Pacific salmon, outlines the human factors endangering the maintenance of the fishery, and explains the role of the hatchery in the attempt to maintain the fisheries at their highest possible level.

Throughout the development of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, salmon have played an important part. Today, the salmon fisheries are essential in the economy of these two regions. But population growth and industrial increase have intensified the problems of salmon-fishery maintenance. Natural propagation has been interfered with by pollution and by dams that cut off the salmon from their natural spawning grounds.

On the Pacific coast, industrial advancement and its demands upon water for power has discouraged and will further discourage the natural reproduction of salmon.

Pacific Salmon points out the need for hatchery-reared salmon to overcome, at least in part, the losses incurred by man-made deterrents to natural reproduction.

The author of the publication, William Hagen, Jr., is chief of the Section of Salmon Propagation of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Game-fish and Hatcheries.

Pacific Salmon, Circular 24, is available at 30 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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