



Chinook salmon, largest of the Pacific salmon species, have also returned to the Columbia in great numbers with more than 169,000 fall chinook passing over Bonneville Dam, the greatest since 1959.

State and National fish hatcheries on the lower Columbia have reported a much-better-than-average year with hatching troughs filled with chinook salmon eggs. The Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery in Washington collected approximately 48 million eggs for hatching there and at other stations.

Spring-run chinook salmon also appeared in great numbers, hatcheries in Washington and Oregon reporting heavy takes of eggs.

The Carson National Fish Hatchery in Washington said 2,700 adult spring chinooks entered its holding ponds while thousands more spawned naturally. Excess numbers of spring chinook arriving at some State hatcheries were transported to other rivers to see if they would be able to find suitable spawning beds and reproduce there naturally.

Remarkable returns of adult salmon point to the success of a joint undertaking on the Columbia and its tributaries through the Columbia River Fishery Development Program, the Department of the Interior commented. The States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and the Department's Fish and Wildlife Service are cooperating in efforts to maintain and improve runs of valuable sport and commercial species of salmon.

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