Sater or Barber - Int. 2879

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

Office Dept. 8/21/51

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1951

NEW FOOD SOURCE FOR FISH HATCHERIES DEVELOPED

A new source of fish hatchery food to replace the Pacific Northwest's threatened supply has been successfully tested by the Fish and Wildlife Service laboratories in Seattle, Wash., and Ketchikan, Alaska, according to a report prepared by technologists from the Branch of Commercial Fisheries.

With reduction in area of the Pacific Northwest's salmon spawning grounds resulting from construction of dams, many new hatcheries are being built, while existing hatcheries are increasing output to compensate for this loss. This produces an abnormal drain on fish food supply, already too high in price and difficult to get.

A possible solution may be found in utilization of the 50,000 tons of salmon viscera or entrails thrown away each year by the Alaskan salmon fishery. So far, the problem of its disposal has been a nonprofitable nuisance.

Testing is in process on 100,000 lbs. of salmon waste which is being collected by the two laboratories, the report states. The experimental trials under way will determine whether or not the castoff matter can be frozen and shipped from Alaskan canneries to Pacific Coast fish hatcheries. Plastic-lined burlap bags are filled with waste at the salmon canneries, then trucked to cold storage plants. There it is frozen before shipment by refrigerated ships. The bags are collapsible and are used to reduce the cost of shipping heavy containers to Alaska from the States.

After 400 chemicals and mixtures were tried as preservatives for salmon eggs--best part of salmon waste for food--three chemicals were chosen: sodium benzoate, sodium chloride, and sodium bisulfite. 5,000 lbs. of salmon eggs will be preserved with sodium bisulfite and test-shipped to Pacific Coast fish hatcheries.

The Fish and Wildlife Service laboratory workers are keeping accurate cost records to find out if Alaskan salmon waste can be economically used as a fish food substitute for the present Pacific Coast supply source.

x x x

P.N. 3111