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U. S. AND RUSSIA EXCHANGE SCIENTIFIC FISHERY KNOWLEDGE

Five American fishery scientists have returned home following an extensive inspection of Russian salmon fisheries, and five Russian fish experts have arrived in the United States to observe American salmon activities, the Department of the Interior reports. The trips were arranged for an exchange of scientific and practical fishery information.

The Americans departed from Washington on August 20 with the Kamchatka Peninsula in Siberia as their destination. They arrived there, via Moscow, several days later and returned home, also via Moscow, on September 22. They spent one day in the Russian capital on their way to their Siberian destination, and four days on their way home.

The Russians arrived in Washington on September 24 and departed by plane for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska on September 26. They will return to Washington about October 21. Their itinerary will include inspection of salmon hatchery operations and the work of fish nutrition and fish disease laboratories in the Northwest. They will see the operations of privately owned can companies, canneries, fish freezing and cold storage facilities. They will also inspect several government laboratories on the tour.

The American mission to the Russian salmon areas had a double purpose--to give U. S. specialists an opportunity to learn of Russian fishery operations first hand, and to secure fish and fish blood samples of known Russian origin for a long-range international salmon study which has been in progress for about three years.

Members of the American group report success in both aims, stressing that their hosts were especially cooperative.

The North Pacific salmon study is a three-Nation project--Japan, Canada, and the United States. One purpose of this study is to secure data upon which Nations of Asia and North America may base salmon management plans. A specific problem is

to determine the place and the extent of intermingling of the American and Asian races of salmon during the time the salmon are at sea. This in turn necessitates the development of a system of differentiating American from Asian fish. Research has indicated that probably the most reliable way to differentiate between the two races is by blood type.

At the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory at Seattle, Washington, considerable work has been done on this project on salmon and blood samples from Japan, Canada and the United States salmon areas. No salmon unquestionably of Russian origin were available for study until this exchange visit when the Russians--although their salmon fishing season in most areas was closed--let the American visitors "catch their own" out of streams on the Kamchatka peninsula.

Places visited by the American mission included:

Khabarovsk, the big industrial center in Siberia some 225 miles from the Sea of Japan;

Okhotsk, fishery center, on the northern rim of the Sea of Okhotsk;

The October Fishery Combine's canning, salting and freezing operations at the mouth of the Bystraya River in the southern portion of Kamchatka;

Canneries, salteries and freezing plants at Ozernaya, also on the southwest coast of that peninsula;

The biological station on the Kurilian Lakes, several miles inland from the coast, and one of the great red salmon producing areas of the U.S.S.R.

Fishery facilities at Nevelsk on the southern portion of Sakhalin Island, north of Japan;

And finally the free port of Nakhodka, near Vladivostok, where cold storage and other facilities for the transhipping of ocean-borne goods to the Trans-Siberian Railway were especially interesting.

At these places important phases of the salmon fishing industry were inspected and discussed--hatchery work, biological research, technological problems, gear research and fish processing operations. Besides the "on the spot" discussions, there were meetings at what might be called area or regional levels plus four days in Moscow with the fishery research unit of the scientific committees which are in charge of research conducted in the Soviet Union.

Transportation across Siberia was by jet--10 hours on the return trip. Transportation across the Sea of Okhotsk to Kamchatka, then to Sakhalin Island and on to the mainland was by a Russian refrigerated carrier vessel which was described as efficient and with comfortable quarters. There was train transportation and truck travel for short distances. On the trip to the Kurilian Lakes part of the journey was by horseback.

The Americans who made the trip to Russia were: Charles Butler, Saltonstall-Kennedy Coordinator, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, who headed the delegation; Clinton Atkinson, Laboratory Director, Biological Laboratory, Seattle, Washington; Clarence F. Pautzke, Assistant Director, Washington State Department of Fisheries; Winston C. Arnold, General Manager, Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc.; William R. Barlow, Interpreter, Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Russians who are in this country are: Andre Sergeevich Guidukov of Moscow, Director, Section on Fish Industry, State Planning Commission, R.S.F.S.R. Aleksander Ivanovich Isaev, Moscow, Deputy Chief of Construction and Hatchery Operations; Vasali Nikiforovich Kalenov, Deputy Director of the Kamchatka Economic Council; Aleksander Nikovaevich Salinikov, trawler captain engaged in salmon operations; Igor Ivanovich Kurenkov, Deputy Director of the Kamchatka Fishery Research Institute.

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