



The smelt are running

The mystery of when the annual migration of smelt would begin ended this week as a few of the small fish trickled up the Sandy River.

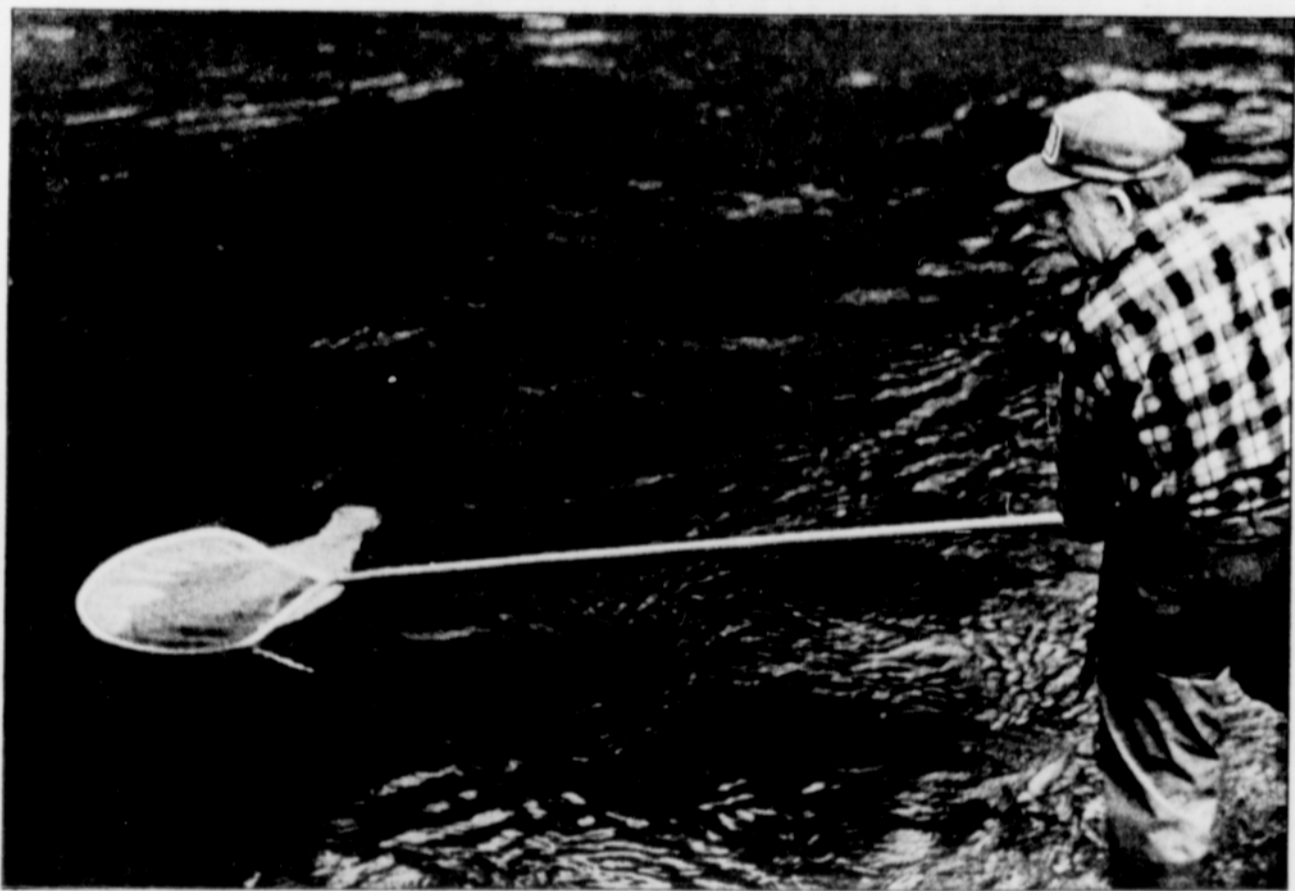
Now the question is what kind of a run will it be?

If Tuesday's fishing was any indication, the run won't be one of the greatest. Hundreds of fishermen flocked to the Troutdale area armed with plastic buckets and the long dipping nets. But the fish were few.

In fact, the fishermen would watch for individual fish and catch them, one by one. Last year, three or four good dips usually could have resulted in the 25-pound limit.

It may be a bad run. Or it may be that it was just a little too early and that things will pick up later in the week.

But, fish or no fish, smelt fever has hit in the Sandy River area and if you want a good spot on the river, you had better get up early.



Smelt fishermen were out in full force Tuesday, but the fish were quite so plentiful. The waders who braved the deeper water (top photos) seemed to do better and a lucky few came up with a bucket of smelt (above). For those without hip waders, a rickety dock proved a popular and convenient location (left).

photos by Mark Floyd