

SALMON INDUSTRIES

Annual Report of Fish Warden
Van Dusen.

GENERAL INCREASE APPARENT

Makes a Number of Valuable Sugges-
tions to Legislature in Behalf of
the Department—Interesting
Data Presented.

Following is a fair summary of the annual report on the Salmon Industry of Oregon for the year 1906 as rendered yesterday by Master Fish Warden H. G. Van Dusen, of this city, to the State Board of Fish Commissioners at Salem. Space does not permit the reproduction of the tabular conclusions shown by Mr. Van Dusen but the pith of the business and its careful administration by that officer, are plainly shown, along with the vital necessities for its proper maintenance and development:

The Salmon product of the Columbia River packed and handled by dealers and others on the Oregon side of the river this year amounted to 19,016,129 pounds of Chinooks; 1,553,490 pounds of Steelheads; 1,722,180 pounds of silversides; 623,000 pounds of Bluebacks; and 154,390 pounds of Tules. This is a falling off of 8 per cent with the Chinooks as compared with last year, and of 40 per cent with the Steelheads, while the Silversides show a gain of 200 per cent and the Bluebacks a gain of over 60 per cent. While the Chinooks show a shortage over last year which was an exceptional good year for that variety of salmon, they show a considerable increase over what was handled during either of the years 1901 or 1902 which should be the comparative years with this year if there is anything in the four or five year peculiarity of salmon runs. Comparing the pack of Chinooks of this year with either the 1901 or 1902 pack, we find that we have a gain of 20 per cent which is along the right line and should encourage us to continue to assist nature with the artificial hatchery work that we now have well in hand and to extend the same as fast as our own means will permit in order to make up for the vast extent of natural spawning grounds that have been taken away and that are continually being taken from the Salmon by the Power and Logging dams and Irrigation projects, which are taking from our streams all of the water for these new purposes, whereas, in former days the Salmon were free to frequent these waters for spawning purposes.

The continued pack of Chinooks, Silversides, Steelheads, and Bluebacks made this year on the Oregon side of the Columbia River amount to 22,308,700 pounds which compares very favorably with other packs made during the past six years.

On the Coast Streams conditions were very different and the vast schools of Salmon that entered all of those streams this year was far beyond all expectations and enabled the fishermen to all do well, and our canners and packers on those streams to put up full packs; they being limited by their supply of cans, which I am told interfered considerably with a much larger pack being made. From reports received, the pack shows that 3,018,900 pounds of Chinooks were taken; 472,000 pounds of Silversides; 67,000 pounds of Steelheads; and 236,710 pounds of Tules; being a very perceptible increase in the Chinook and Silverside variety over anything that has been shown for years, and speaks very highly of the hatchery work; for, the most pronounced increase has been with the Chinooks on those streams where hatchery work with this variety of Salmon has been carried on.

With the Silverside variety it has been different; they have held their own as it were until now they also show a remarkable increase and I find that the product this year has doubled last year's figures. The most remarkable increase is shown with the Chinook variety on the Stuslaw River where a hatchery has been maintained during the past six or seven years; and from figures carefully taken, we find that this year we had fully ten salmon of this variety where there was only one, ten years ago and that the pack this year exceeds any pack that has been made on the stream for fifteen years or more. This appears very encouraging to me and I want our hatchery work to have its share of the credit, but the law that was passed at the 1901 session of the Legislature prohibiting fishing above tide water and establishing dead

lines on all of the Coast Streams, some of which lines are several miles below the head of tide, and allowing no fishing above those lines, has, in my estimation, solved the entire problem; for, it has not only been the means of assuring us of a full supply of fish at our hatcheries every year but has permitted of a good supply of fish, that were entirely unfit for food, getting by to spawn naturally. It is the nature of the salmon that enter the Coast Streams to not immediately ascend the rivers, but on the contrary to slowly work their way up near the head of tide water they lie in deep pools until the full rains set in when they pass on to their spawning grounds. This gave the unscrupulous fishermen an undue advantage and it was only a question of time before the last fish was taken from these pools and none left for spawning purposes. Prior to 1901 the fishing was carried on in this way with no restrictions whatever, and on account of such excessive fishing the product kept decreasing gradually from year to year until the streams were, practically speaking, all fished out of the Chinook variety of Salmon and it became very apparent to all those interested that something had to be done or the product would be entirely lost to our State; for, the Spring Close Season under such conditions was of no apparent service, neither was the Sunday Close Season. To relieve the situation, tide water lines were agreed upon and laws enacted to that effect. Since then we have been enabled to get a full supply of fish for spawning

purposes at all of our hatcheries situated on the Coast Streams, and in addition thereto, thousands have been permitted to pass by to their natural spawning grounds; all of which has, without, doubt, had its effect in replenishing these streams.

LEGISLATIVE AND APPROPRIATION MATTER.

With the amount appropriated at the last session of the legislature to assist in operating the Salmon Hatcheries on our Coast Streams, I have carried on the entire work this year at the Umpqua River Hatchery, the expense of which amounted to the sum of \$3,044.48 and have assisted the other Coast Hatcheries as per the following:

"Yaquina Hatchery to the extent of\$544.05;
South Coos River Hatchery to the extent of\$2,517.35;
This together with the amount that was used during the year 1905 shows the disbursement of this appropriation to have been as follows:
Umpqua River Hatchery ..\$5,704.89;
South Coos River Hatchery 3,751.06;
Yaquina Hatchery\$544.05;
Total \$10,000.00;
In order to show the general increase that has been made in the matter of receipts from licenses during the past six seasons, I have prepared a table which I am submitting herewith showing the matter by years since 1901; from this table it will be noticed that the principal increase has been in District No. "1", the Columbia Ri-

ver, which is in a fair way to sustain the expense of operating all of its salmon hatchery plants, but in District No. "255 the Coast Streams, we are far short of being able to do anything like what should be done in this line of work; and in consequence thereof must still depend on State aid for the principal expense connected with the operation of the hatchery plants on those streams.

I am asking that the present legislature to provide this Department with two special deputy fish wardens, one for Eastern Oregon and the other for Southern Oregon, in order to better enable the Warden to look after the fishing interests of those sections of the State. The need of this additional help has been brought about entirely by the vast and extensive power and mill dams that are being put across our streams on every hand and the numerous irrigating projects that are not only taking the waters for irrigating purposes, but are taking therewith millions of the young fry spawned naturally that are on their way to the sea. In order to guard against this destruction, we have laws governing the construction of dams and artificial obstructions, and governing the taking of the water from the streams for irrigating and other purposes; but these laws without the proper police patrol to see to it that they are all complied with availeth practically nothing. People are not disposed to respect laws of this kind unless they are made to,

(Concluded on page 6)

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If you want to buy any kind of property come and look over our list and if we haven't it we will get it for you. We must get things to moving, and that quick, or our chance will pass us by.

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