

The Rogue River Fisheries

Spring Chinook Spawn During September

Incubation Rate Depends on Water Temperatures

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles on the Rogue river fishery and its management. The articles are presented at this time as surveys of the Rogue basin looking to a water control program are nearing completion. They are designed to aid in understanding the Rogue, its fish life and proposed dams on the river and its tributaries.

(Cole M. Rivers, fisheries agent with the Oregon state game commission and author of the series, is one of the few persons considered an authority on the fishery in the Rogue.

(Today's article, a continuation of the salmon aspect, discusses the habits of salmon with answers to common questions on what constitutes a jack salmon, what makes a salmon strike, and why, where and when does he spawn.)

By COLE M. RIVERS
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The first spawning of spring chinook in the Rogue system takes place in early September in the extreme reaches of the upper river.

Week by week, the peak of spawning activity can be traced down river to places occupied by stragglers of the spring fish. This spawning pattern continues on down into the lower river with the fall chinook into late November. Early silver salmon start spawning in December and late spawning are still active in March.

Unlike the steelhead trout, all salmon die after spawning. Even those late-season fish in excellent condition which spawn near the head of tidal water die upon completion of the life cycle.

The rate of incubation of the eggs in the gravel is governed by the temperature of the water. Temperatures of the Rogue usually permit hatching in about 90 days.

Start Emerging
Spring chinook salmon fry start emerging from the grav-

el in late December and continue through April or into early May. A large portion of the juvenile chinooks spend their first year migrating slowly down river, holding through the first winter in the lower 30 miles and entering the Pacific ocean in the spring of their second year of life.

Most silvers, which leave the gravel about the same time as the last of the chinooks, spend their first year in the main Rogue channel and do not start their downstream migration until spring of their second year of life.

Most Rogue river chinook mature and return to the river in their fourth year. An average year's run contains 15 per cent jacks (fish in their third year of life) 78 per cent in their fourth, 5 per cent in the fifth, and 2 per cent in their sixth year of life. Most silvers are 3-year-old fish. About 10 per cent of the silver run is made up of 2-year-old jacks and another 10 per cent are 4-year-olds.

Greater age doesn't necessarily mean a larger salmon. Some fish naturally grow faster or enjoy better feeding conditions at sea than others. The growth of fish is often compared to that of humans. There are large and small people. Too, some of us can eat and eat without putting on weight, while others put it on in spite of a starvation diet.

All Pacific salmon have jacks in their runs. A jack salmon is not a separate species. It is a chinook, silver, or other salmon that has matured sexually at an earlier age or before it has matured in growth.

Wilsonville Holdup Suspect Arrested

Oregon City - (UPI) - Theodore M. Logsdon, 24, Portland, is under arrest on charges of armed robbery in connection with the attempted Monday night holdup by three men of Lowrie's food market at Wilsonville.

Bail for Logsdon, who was picked up for hitchhiking on the Baldock Freeway, was set at \$10,000.

Another suspect in the robbery, Donald William Farrell, 30, Hubbard, died Tuesday morning after being shot in the holdup attempt. He was shot by Terry Lowrie, who surprised men who were grappling with the youth's father at the family grocery store.

Sheriff's officers said a third suspect was still at large.

A chinook jack in the Rogue is usually a 3-year-old and a silver jack is a 2-year-old. Nearly all are males (a rare few being females) which are capable of spawning just as successfully as full-grown adults. In other words, a jack can attend an adult female just as effectively as a large 4-year-old male, that is, if he can find a female without being chased away by a large male.

To many anglers adult silvers and chinook salmon are often confused, yet each is easily identified. The two fish can readily be told apart by the examination of the gum or tooth line. The inside of a chinook's mouth is all black or dusky (it is often called "blackmouth") while the mouth of a silver is dark or dusky but the gum or tooth line is white.

There are many ideas on

the subject of why salmon bite or strike. Basically, salmon do not feed after entering fresh water. It would be safer to say that they do not particularly need to feed on the spawning migration.

One of the most popular theories is that it is difficult for them to get out of the habit of striking after spending several years at sea where they have fed voraciously on

anything and everything. Another idea that bears mentioning is that with sexual development they become progressively more irritated. The longer the fish is in, the more advanced its stage of development... and the more sensitive it becomes to aggravations.

These two reasons help explain why the spinner blade (resembling a small fish) is hit on the lower Rogue and why cluster eggs (milking estrogens) are taken in the upper Rogue. The most truthful statement would be to say that nobody knows for sure.

Few Ever Return

Chum, sockeye, and Atlantic salmon have been introduced into the Rogue system, but few ever returned. One chum salmon was found recently in the catch at the mouth of the river. Almost every year a few anglers believe they have landed an Atlantic salmon, but none of these specimens have been identified as such.

Atlantic salmon look much like steelhead or female silver

salmon and it wouldn't be difficult to be mistaken. Field agents of the game commission are always anxious to check fish that may be thought to be one of these introduced salmon.

Combining the average annual migration of all of the salmon that enter and use the Rogue today (90,000 fish) indicates that the numbers of salmon and steelhead must have been enormous before major declines occurred. The factors responsible for those declines will be covered in other articles of this series.

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LINE FORMS - An anchor line of boat fishermen forms at the mouth of the Rogue river to pursue the fall chinook and silver salmon.

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Elsie M.—He wants to quit his job because of new regulations.
Larry M.—They're snooping in things that are none of their business.

Elsie M.—My husband has been working for a big department store for 15 years. He gets his regular raises and vacations and I thought he loved the job.

Now suddenly he wants to quit. He says there's a new superintendent and every day they've been trying him in new departments. Not just him, but most of the old-timers. It has nothing to do with hiring or firing, they told him. They're just making sure each man is placed right.

Larry doesn't believe them. He's sore about all the interruptions and the questions. He thinks he'd better go while the going is good.

I say maybe this shake-up is good and he shouldn't throw away 15 years of a nice job for no good reason.

Larry M.—I have a good reason for wanting out. These

new people in charge are using me and a few other fellows as guinea pigs. I don't have to help them with their experiments. I just have to do my work, mind my business and go home.

Instead they call us for interviews and hand us questionnaires. Not for a raise or a promotion, they tell us. Just to see if we're happy! Well, I'm not happy about telling them the story of my life in exchange for my paycheck.

Imagine asking me whether I like to be flirted with, or whether I ever heckle a public speaker! What's that got to do with how I make out requisition sheets?

What right have these young upstarts to poke into my private affairs? They're making a fool of me with a lot of half-baked theories. I'm a hard worker and I just want to work, not get made over by a bunch of college professors.

The Council: Calm down, Larry. And don't quit. Wherever you go you're likely to encounter the new trend in industry: Promote the mental health of the worker. The union as well as the boss is setting up machinery to check emotional well-being as well as physical health, at regular intervals.

One utility company found that by inviting employees to talk about personal matters on their mind, with a qualified interviewer such as a psychiatrist or a social worker, many good results followed. Absenteeism was reduced, punctuality increased. Workers got along better with each other, productivity went up.

Evidently Larry's firm hasn't explained the value of such "unloading" and is asking "nosey" questions out of the blue. Handled properly, this interest in an employee's emotional health can have long-range beneficial results for him and his family.

The purpose is not to annoy or threaten Larry. Quite the contrary. The probing—which should be voluntary—is to see how Larry's strength stacks up alongside his problems. If they're about equal, if he's "coping," hurray! But if the strength wanes while the stresses pile up, he's counseled and helped well in advance of a crisis.

What's wrong, Larry, with being reassured about one's mental and emotional state? Let's hope your executives get this valuable program set up correctly, with interviews handled delicately and in strict confidence.

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SPUD SPOILAGE
Portland - Several million bushels of potatoes are lost each year as a result of sprout growth in storage periods.

HAND METHOD
Boston - Before the thermometer was invented, physicians measured the degree of bodily heat with their hands.

Dr. Diebel Attends Science Conference

Ashland-Inited by the National Science Foundation to serve on a select panel, Dr. Clarence E. Diebel, professor of science at Southern Oregon college, attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18 and 19.

Approximately 30 science teachers from the nation were included in the forum which was responsible for selecting Elementary Science Institutions for 1981.

Dr. Diebel said that out of the 150 institutions which had submitted proposals for summer institutes, about 12 to 15 would receive funds according to their needs.

The summer institutes would benefit elementary school teachers, principals, and supervisors who are paid a stipend for attending summer sessions. It is hoped that the impact these teachers have on the pupils in the field of science will warrant the granting of more funds to a larger number of institutions at a later date.

According to the professor, final selections of the science institutes will be made by the National Science Foundation from the list prepared by the panel. Among the problems involved in this program, which is still on an experimental basis, are the inability to reach large number of elementary school teachers throughout the nation with only a dozen or more science institutes and the limited amounts of funds.

Pearson Regrets Death of Smyth

Salem - (UPI) - Acting Oregon Gov. Walter Pearson expressed regret Wednesday about the death of Larry Smyth, veteran Oregon Journal political editor.

Pearson said "Larry Smyth was a dear friend, not only to me but to hundreds of public servants throughout Oregon. His loss will be felt by all those who were his interested readers. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Marie, and other loved ones."

Travis Cross, Gov. Mark Hatfield's news secretary, said "citizens of Oregon have lost an interpreter of public affairs on whose objectivity and devotion they could confidently rely. He was nationally recognized by other political writers and by public figures on both sides of the fence as extremely knowledgeable, exceptionally able, and a man of his word."

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