

The Rogue River Fisheries

Hatchery Supplies Stocks of Fish in Basin

Butte Falls Fish Hatchery One of Oldest in State

(Editor's note: This is the ninth in a series of articles on the Rogue river fishery and its management. Today's article covers the place and use of hatcheries in the Rogue system. The Butte Falls hatchery and its production is described. The need for research and rearing ponds also is discussed.)

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State Game Commission
Built in 1916, the Butte Falls hatchery is one of the oldest hatcheries operated by the game commission. Located on the Fish lake road east of Butte Falls, the hatchery is operated to supply stocks of fish for the Rogue river basin. Periodic expansion and improvement are necessary to keep up with modern techniques and to meet the ever-increasing needs in the area.



Cole Rivers

The 1959 production at Butte Falls included 131,000 legal-sized rainbow, 396,700 fingerling rainbow, and 47,800 yearling spring chinook. Additional numbers of fish raised at other state hatcheries and brought into the Rogue watershed for release were 35,000 yearling summer steelhead, 9,100 legal rainbow, 294,800 fingerling rainbow, 17,600 fingerling eastern brook, and 201,800 kokanee salmon fry.

The total 1960 releases to the Rogue basin was 1,131,800 fish, weighing 56,166 pounds. Now Not True

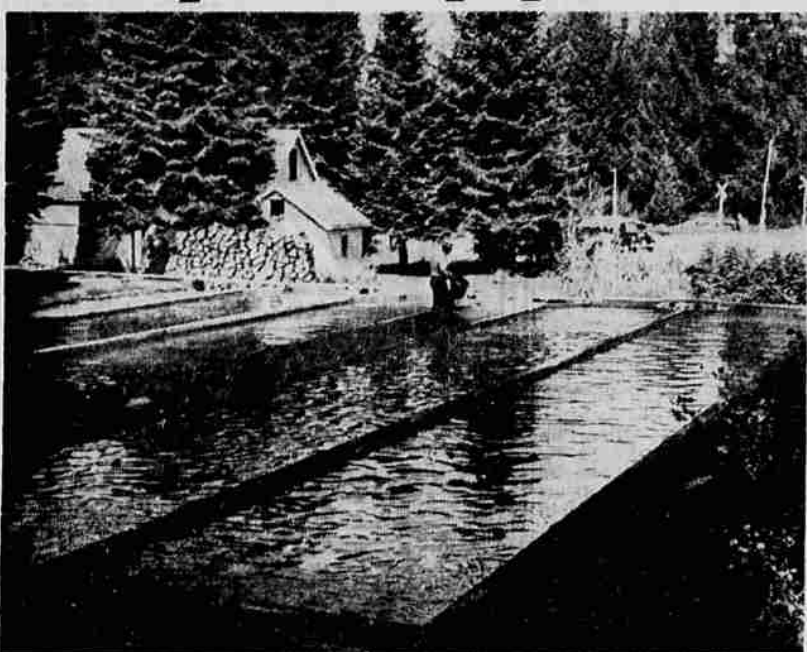
At one time people were impressed by published numbers of fish that were hatched and released annually from hatcheries. General public opinion was that fish populations and fishing were kept at high levels by the release of large numbers of fingerlings and fry. We know now that this was not true.

Public opinion was dominated by this concept of large numbers before fishery methods and techniques were able to prove which operation produced fish and which ones were useless. Most people were surprised to learn that trout planted as fry or small fingerlings in streams produced few fish that could be harvested by the angler.

Yearling trout were found to produce more fish at less cost to the angler than fingerlings. Conversely, it has been found that it is not necessary to plant large trout in most lakes.

Doing More Harm
Studies on the Rogue river showed that the large egg-takes of salmon and steelhead were doing more harm to the runs than good. With spring chinook salmon, the heaviest egg-takes resulted in a very weak run of adults returning to the egg-taking racks four years later.

All large-scale salmon and steelhead egg-takes on the Rogue were drastically reduced in 1947. The game



AT HATCHERY—Salmon and steelhead fry at the Butte Falls fish hatchery, are being fed in a series of rearing ponds

commission decided to search for ways to hatch, raise, and release salmon and steelhead that would successfully produce returning adults at reasonable costs. To raise these delicate fish a full year in the hatchery before release, many problems had to be solved. When disease problems were corrected and improved facilities added, the program was possible to start. Different techniques were developed for each species. At Butte Falls, 50,000 spring chinook were raised to yearling size each year. Individual groups were marked with fin clips and released at various times of the year at different locations in the basin. When these fish came back to the

river as adults, they were checked for the marks to determine when and where they had been released. The best pattern of rearing and releasing was indicated and practices which produced poor returns were noted.

Study Continues
The study is continuing to determine the degree of influence of temperature, silt loads, high waters, and disease losses before and after release. Some of the patterns of rearing and releasing show encouraging results, and they indicate that under certain conditions, an expanded program may be economically feasible.

To expand this program, research on a new concept of

salmon and steelhead management through the use of rearing ponds or reservoirs was initiated. For a number of years now fishery biologists throughout the state have been seeking out, surveying, appraising suitable sites for rearing pond development.

This new approach offers an additional technique to increase the numbers of fish going to sea. Trout in lakes or reservoirs often grow faster in natural habitat than they can be grown in hatchery ponds on force-fed diets. Normally they are harder fish and more disease resistant. If salmon and steelhead can be grown in wild environment as successfully, many

Gov. Hatfield in Effort To Retain Tongue Point Base

Salem—Gov. Mark Hatfield said Wednesday he has asked the Defense Department for a previously classified inventory on the Tongue Point Naval Station at Astoria and wants the department to "review" plans for cutting back the facility.

If this produces no results, Hatfield said he will recommend that the Navy expand Tongue Point for possible use as a training site for missile, submarines or Coast Guard personnel.

He said he plans to invite Oregon's congressional delegation into the effort and also will notify the House Military Affairs Committee.

Hatfield met for nearly two hours here Wednesday with four Portland men from Columbia River marine industries, representing about 25 corporations. The group has protested the shutdown at Tongue Point.

Closure Said Due
W. J. Trout, chairman, said the Navy began curtailing operations at Tongue Point two years ago and plans to close it completely by Dec. 31, 1961.

Those accompanying him were Lew Russell Jr., Arthur Farr and Walter Larsen.

At present Tongue Point supports a portion of the Navy's reserve mothball fleet. Trout displayed a letter written Dec. 23 to Rep. Edith Green, (D-Ore.), by Rep. Carl Vinson, (D-Ga.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, in which Vinson confirmed shifting of mothballed vessels away from Tongue Point.

Vinson told Mrs. Green that the action is part of an "overall reduction" in the total number of ships in the Navy reserve fleet. He concluded that this is being done throughout the nation, and the Tongue Point case "does not appear to be discriminatory."

'Fourth Rate' Base
Trout disagreed. He said California has 26 naval facilities and Washington state eight. "All first class," while Oregon has "one . . . little fourth rate establishment—Tongue Point, and now they want to take that away."

Larsen said Tongue Point seems small by comparison but it is "very important" to Oregon's economy.

Trout said for every \$17 the federal government takes from Oregon in tax money it returns \$2. In California the

Retired Columbia River Pilot Dies

Portland—Capt. Wilbur W. Babbidge, retired Columbia river pilot who worked on the river for 62 years, died Tuesday at the age of 90.

He was a member of the Columbia River Pilots Association for 32 years until his retirement in 1949. During his towboat days at Astoria, Captain Babbidge was present at the rescue of the crew of the sailing ship Peter Iredale which stranded on Clatsop Beach in 1906. Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday.

WHY CHANGE?

Swainswick, Eng.—Mrs. Harriette Fletcher angrily went ahead with birthday plans today although a check of records showed she was born Dec. 28. "I've always celebrated on the 29th and I see no reason to change now," she said. Mrs. Fletcher is 100.

ratio is \$17 with a \$34 return, he said.

All four criticized Oregon's congressional delegation for not cooperating in the fight for Tongue Point.

Hatfield said he was "disappointed that our delegation has not been more effective" in getting defense money for Oregon and he pledged "full cooperation" in working for this.

of the problems of disease, diet, crowding, and costs will be solved.

In the Rogue basin, negotiations have been completed with the Medford Corporation to develop their woods pond on the Prospect-Butte Falls road into one of these rearing ponds. This reservoir has 76 surface acres and can be used to raise perhaps 200 thousand steelhead or spring chinook each year.

Another site is being studied for the development of a 36-surface-acre reservoir in the same area. We could probably grow several times more salmon and steelhead success-

fully with the combined capacities of these two ponds as a supplement to existing production at the Butte Falls hatchery.

One of Tools Used
With the continued increase of fishermen, streams in the Rogue basin cannot supply all of the needs of the anglers. There is not a shortage of miles of streams but the quantity of wild fish that is produced is limited. The hatchery will continue to play an important role to supply the difference between wild production and the needs of the angling public.

Trout fishing in lakes is

one of the tools to be used to provide fish and fishing to the ever-increasing numbers of anglers. More angler days and more trout can be produced per surface acre of a lake than many miles of streams. Lakes are preferred by many trout anglers. One reason is that they can be enjoyed by the entire family.

Most trout lakes in the Rogue basin are in maximum production. Howard Prairie reservoir will support a large part of the increase in angler use that can be expected in the next 10 years. Increased use of the high Cascade lakes between Crater and Fourmile

lakes will take care of another large segment of this increase.

There are other anglers who prefer stream fishing and who gain little recreational value from lake fishing. In the future, probably more of our streams will be classified as "key streams" which will be used for stocking legal-sized rainbow in large quantities to satisfy the bulk of stream fishermen. In the immediate future, this program will not necessarily require more fish being raised in the hatchery since other streams will be eliminated from the list of annual stocking to use the

trout more efficiently in key streams.

It is not good economics to plant legal-sized rainbow in waters where small numbers of the planted fish are caught. Stocked fish that produce a low percentage return to the creel often cost as much as \$2 or more each.

When those same fish are placed in streams from which a large percentage is taken, the cost per fish is reduced to as low as 20 cents. Only those waters from which 35 per cent or more of the stocked fish can be taken by anglers will be considered key streams.

We Expecting

(OUR WIVES ARE, THAT IS)

Lou Schell
Bob Plankenhorn
Gordon DeVos
Ralph Matlack
(Babies)
AND—
1961
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Gerber's Strained

Baby Food

12 for \$1.00

We'll Be OPEN SUNDAY

Potatoes

Klamath No. 2

50 lbs. \$1.49

Yellow Onions

lb. 5¢

Grapefruit

Texas Pink 10 for 79¢

Grapes

Juicy Emperors 2 lbs. 25¢

APPLE SALE

Newtowns, Spitzenberg, Golden Delicious 4 lb. bag 29¢

Hams

Hormel's Ready-To-Eat SHANK HALF

55¢ lb.

Butt Half . . . 63¢ lb.

Sliced Bacon

Swift's Premium lb. 59¢

T-Bone Steaks

Swift's Premium lb. 98¢

Boneless Beef Roast

lb. 69¢

Pork Chops

Center Cut lb. 69¢

Pork Chops

End Cut lb. 49¢

Hormel TURKEYS

BRAUNTSCHWEIGER, COOKED SALAMI, BOLOGNA—14-oz. Chubs ea. 49¢

Valcrest fresh frozen Toms. Take one home for the freezer. lb. 39¢

Jello

Assorted Flavors 4 for 29¢

Cider Vinegar

Hunt gallon 59¢

Coffee

Folgers—Drip and Reg. lb. 65¢

Oysters

Finer Food—8-oz. Tiny 3 for 1.00

Tuna

Concord—1/2 Size Chunk 4 for 1.00

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Giant Ceramic Ash Trays

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Pinking Shears

Binoculars

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Matlack's SUPER MARKET

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Sale Prices Good Thru Sunday Night

NO SALES TO DEALERS



KEY STREAM SECTION—The North Fork Rogue river key-stream section of the Rogue basin for trout management, near Union Creek, shown above, is being used as a typical