

## Salmon Packers Worried Over Prices, Poor Catch

By SAM DAWSON

SEATTLE (U-P)—A can of salmon used to be a staple "budget food" item on American pantry shelves. Now it's in the luxury class.

And, unhappy salmon canners admit today they've been pricing themselves out of the market.

Reasons given: sharply declining runs of salmon, soaring inflation in Alaska because of defense program spending, and an overcrowded industry.

As economists of the Seattle-First National Bank put it: "Too many fishermen, too many boats, and too many canneries seeking support from a resource that is not only limited but declining."

This is the sad story of the salmon industry—which up to now has taken some two billion dollars out of Alaskan waters, much more than gold miners ever got from the rivers and mountains.

**SALMON DECLINING**  
The salmon pack—declining steadily for some time—probably will be even smaller than this year in Alaska, the principal source.

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service plans to close some fishing areas entirely this year, and cut allowed fishing time by half in other waters, in the hope of restoring the depleted salmon population.

Prices paid fishermen may be cut this year too in an effort to bring the cost of a can back into the range of the average American family's budget.

The Federal Trade Commission has just announced a consent decree banning the practice by which the canners and fishermen's unions negotiate fish prices. In the free-for-all which this presumably opens up, some canneries are reported planning to offer less for fish in

the season which opens late next month.

Union leaders are on the way to Seattle to discuss the reported cuts. They say the fish price must be maintained to meet the high costs of living in Alaska and the risks of the catch.

Other cost-slashing plans include consolidation of some Alaskan canneries. These are scattered all along the southern and western coasts. They have a short season, since fishing is limited—in some instances to 16 days—and the canneries must get the fish into cans within 48 hours of the catch.

The salmon itself sets many of the rules. It must be caught as it heads for the stream of its birth, where it spawns and dies. The trick is to let enough past the fishermen to assure a new crop.

**FISH DISEASE**

W. C. Arnold, managing director of Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., with headquarters here, says that in several years recently, after the young salmon have gone to sea, their enemies and some still mysterious disease have been laying them low. Often the returning salmon are few and far between.

Salmon also are finicky about their spawning grounds, Arnold says. Men, his livestock, his lumberjacks, his industries, have spoiled for them some of their once favorite streams. He cites as examples the decline of the once flourishing salmon industries in the Sacramento and Columbia rivers and in Puget Sound.

But T. F. Sandus, president of the Columbia River Packers Assn. of Astoria, Ore., says that this year the prospects are brighter and the salmon pack in the Puget Sound and Columbia River regions should reach 500,000 cases, against 400,000 last year.

**SMALLER PACK**  
The Alaskan pack ran just under three million cases last year. This, however, was only about one third of the record pack of 1936.

Prices have climbed in recent years. In 1940 the Alaska pack of five million cases was valued at \$2 million dollars. In 1951 the much smaller pack of 3½ million cases brought \$4¼ million dollars.

Then the buying public balked. Despite the declining supply of canned salmon, prices had to be cut to sell the 1953 pack, whose value is put at \$8 million dollars. The Alaskan Salmon Industry, Inc., says many of its member canners lost money. It says they've got to cut costs somehow if they want to bring the price down and woo their market back.

And just over the horizon are the Japanese fishermen who might re-enter the market here with a lower-cost can of salmon.

Some people trust to luck. Others buy insurance from Hans Norland, 627 Pine Street.

• PICTURE FRAMING

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AARON BOE, KFLW, winner of last week's City Class B singles bowling championship, received an extra and unofficial award yesterday. While having coffee at Neal's Fountain, a group of his fellow workers presented him with an

"Agatha"—their version of the Oscar. (l to r) Hank Henry, Lyle Downing, Lou Gillespie, Aaron Boe, Bill Grimes and Floyd Wynne.

## JC's Sponsor Big Circus

The Klamath County Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the gigantic Clyde Beatty Circus May 21 and 22.

The huge show, reportedly the second largest railroad circus in the world, includes three rings and 500 performers, and features Clyde Beatty in person and his famous trained wild animals act.

There will be a night show Friday, May 21; matinee and evening performances Saturday, May 22, at the Klamath County Fairgrounds on South Sixth Street.

An outstanding feature of the two-day circus weekend will be a mammoth old-fashioned street parade.

Adult general admission tickets

are now available at Leo's Camera Shop, Ninth and Main, or can be obtained from any Jaycee member. Reserved tickets will be available later. For children's general admission tickets, contact Tom Coakley, telephone 9027. Jim Bocchi is chairman of this Jaycee event.

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## Cool, Cloudy Over Nation

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cloudy cool and wet weather covered wide areas from the Northern Rockies to New England Friday but it was mild and pleasant over most of the Southern areas.

It was below freezing in Northern Minnesota and upper Michigan early Friday.

Showers and thundershowers continued during the night from Southern Illinois through the Ohio Valley and northeastward through most of Pennsylvania, New York and Northern New England. Most falls were light. Falls were a little heavier in Southern Florida, with about 1-3 of an inch in Miami.

Showers also were reported in parts of Montana and North Dakota and along the Southern California coast.

Free CHECK DAY, SATURDAY, April 24. Bring your own containers, and receive 10 free chicks. Standard Feed Store 2710 So. 6th.

## Orions Hold Alumni Night

Tuesday evening, April 13, was alumni night for Orions at the First Methodist Church. Special invitations were issued to former members of the club.

Four charter members were present: Mrs. Wendell B. Smith, Mrs. J. T. Riker, Mrs. S. R. Balsiger and Mrs. Charles Cummings.

Hostesses were Mrs. Helen Murphy, Mrs. James Brady and Mrs. Preston Card.

A musical program was presented, with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnson, Mrs. Gib Walter, Mrs. Phil Hillecock and Mrs. George McIntyre participating.

During the business meeting it was decided to hold a baked food sale in May and a ham dinner for members and their husbands in June.

Also present at the meeting were Mrs. Robert Pryor, Mrs. Robert Harbridge, Mrs. Frank Brannan, Mrs. Don McNary, Mrs. Roland Coker, Mrs. Charles Finch, Mrs. John Ferrell, Mrs. John Weber, Mrs. Charles Larson, Mrs. Ray Williams, Mrs. Cleo Dunlap, Mrs. Charles

McFarlan, Mrs. C. A. Baker, Mrs. Helen Murphy, Mrs. Chester Newton, Mrs. Fred Blum, Mrs. Samuel Thompson, Mrs. Marion Leaman, Mrs. Carl Pernigotti, Mrs. Neil McEachern, Mrs. Harold Adkinson.

Mrs. Jack Paddock, Mrs. Charles Carlson, Mrs. Clea Paddock, Mrs. Ralph Taylor, Mrs. J. V. Wachter, Mrs. Arthur Wiggins, Mrs. Richard Teater, Mrs. Myron Murray and a guest, Mrs. Gene Merritt.

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