

California King Salmon Find New Home In South America

By DEVAN L. SHUMWAY
SACRAMENTO (UPI) — A new home has been found for about 300,000 king salmon from California.

But it looks much like the old one to the fish.

William E. Ripley, assistant chief of Marine Resources for the state Department of Fish and Game, returned from Brazil to pronounce his experiment a qualified success.

The experiment called for transplanting 340,000 salmon eggs from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Coleman to the South American nation.

By fast airliner the eggs were carried to Brazil during March, where Ripley and officials of the Brazilian Electrical Energy Commission waited for them. Fortunately, the fish arrived in fine feather.

On the airlines, the eggs got first class treatment. They rode the thousands of miles from California to New York to Brazil in boxes placed where the front seat of the airliner usually reclines.

"It was a very well coordinated program," said Ripley. "The people down there worked in excellent harmony. They were very interested in the project and wanted to see it successful."

Before the eggs arrived, Ripley and Brazilian Drs. Albert Soares and Altiero Becker de Freitas surveyed suitable planting sites along the river systems involved.

The strange thing about the river systems was that they look very much like the Sacramento-San Joaquin system of California, and they drain into a bay much like San Francisco Bay.

There were excellent physical facilities for planting of the eggs and for the fish to return and do some planting of their own in years to come.

HAIRDRESSING HER HOBBY

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Lauren Chapin, who plays the younger daughter in the "Father Knows Best" TV series, amuses herself in her spare time by pursuing the hairdresser's art.

Her mother, certain that Lauren will become a beautician if she gives up acting when she grows up, says the girl is always fussing with false hair pieces—washing, curling and combing them. When, she's free at the studio, she invariably visits the hairdressing department to try on wigs, braids and buns.

The fish may be a little confused at first. When it's winter in California, it's summer in South America. But it's not anticipated that the reversed climate will affect the fish.

Brazil is going all out for the experiment. One reason for this is that the salmon is a possibility as a food for the nation—which now depends mainly on the coffee bean for export.

So what happens now? "Conditions look favorable," said Ripley. "And the Brazilian authorities say they will try to carry out the experiment long enough to get a natural run established."

That will take four years. Ripley said that before he left Brazil the eggs had hatched and the salmon appeared to be on the way toward full development. In about three to six months they will begin their downward trek toward the Pacific Ocean.

"We hope they will return later to the same streams and areas in which they were planted," said Ripley.

But is it possible that the fish will use their homing instinct like their ancestors and return instead to California?

"No," said Ripley. "They generally return to the area in which they were spawned. That's as far back as they can remember."

When do they return to the stream to give birth to new salmon?

"In about three or four years," answered Ripley. "and the majority of them in four."

What is Brazil doing to assure that the salmon will be left alone?

"Eight years of no fishing," said Ripley.

What about the population picture?

"The layout is about the same as the Sacramento Valley of California, but the population is more rural in nature."

Pollution?

"Brazilians have taken care of that, too. They have decided to protect the stream beds and drainage areas from poor agricultural and logging practices. There will be no pollution."

What about power and flood control dams?

"They have them in the system but the government has assured that there will be adequate water for upstream and downstream migrants."

The Ripley experiment isn't a one-way street, necessarily. In return for its salmon eggs, California stands to get back some

eggs from Brazil.

Ripley said there is a chance that the South American marine catfish can survive in California waters. This bay and ocean fish grows about three feet long and weighs 35 to 40 pounds.

He also believes there may be a place in California for the South American peixe rei. A "liberal" translation of that title is "king of the fish." This sports fish reaches 18 inches long and weighs about a pound and a half.

BALD FACTS

NEW YORK (UPI)—Americans spend nearly 350 million dollars a year on hair grooming preparations, including a long list of items that claim the power to restore enough hair to be groomed. It is estimated that eight out of every 10 U.S. males over 25 are engaged in the battle of the retreating hairline.

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BIG SOMBRERO FOR LITTLE PONCHO—Eleven-year-old Gary McConwell has hard time balancing huge straw sombrero in Casper, Wyo. Gary played "Little Poncho" in school operetta.