

Joint Fisheries Commission.

the Strait of Juan de Fuca and those parts of the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound (Washington Sound) lying between the parallels of 48° 10' and 49° 20' north latitude, together with their adjacent bays and tributary streams. We consider, however, that it would be advantageous to extend the scope of any joint regulations which may be agreed upon to all parts of this inclosed sea, and the information necessary to accomplish that purpose satisfactorily could readily be obtained.

2. In the salt waters comprised within the state of Washington we see no reason for prohibiting at present any of the kinds of apparatus now employed there, namely, trap nets, purse seines, drag seines, reef nets and gill nets, the bulk of the sockeye catch being made in the form of net first mentioned.

3. We are in accord with the Canadian regulation which restricts commercial fishing on the Fraser River and off its mouths to the use of drift gill nets, and recommend that the rivers in Washington be subject to the same regulation.

4. Being uncertain as to the capacity of the contiguous waters in question in respect to fishing operations, we are not prepared to suggest a direct limitation upon the quantity of apparatus to be employed, but consider that the present requirements of the case will be met by the restrictive measures which follow.

5. The mesh in trap nets to measure, in extension, not less than three inches in the crib and 6 inches in the leader when actually in use.

Trap net leaders not to exceed 2,000 feet in length.

Not more than two traps to be placed in one continuous line, and when so arranged to be separated by a gap of at least 100 feet between the inner crib and the beginning of the outer leader.

All traps or strings of two traps to be separated by lateral passage-ways of at least 2,500 feet.

The inner end of all trap net leaders to begin in a depth of not less than 1 fathom at low tide, and the space intervening between it and the shore to remain entirely unobstructed.

All trap net stakes to be removed from the water, in the interest of navigation, within 30 days from the close of the fishing season.

6. Drift gill nets not to exceed 150 fathoms each in length.

The drift gill nets employed for taking quinnat salmon to have not less than 7½-inch mesh extension measure, and to be used only from April 1 to September 15.

The drift gill nets employed for taking the sockeye and other smaller species of salmon to have not less than 5½-inch mesh extension measure, and to be used only from July 1 to October 1.

All drift nets when in use to be kept at least 250 yards apart, and to obstruct not more than one-third of the width of the river.

7. We are not prepared to suggest any changes in the dimensions or in the manner of employing drag seines, purse seines and reef nets, nor do we consider any such changes essential while the extent of fishing by these methods remains as small as at present.

8. It is recommended that in all rivers commercial fishing with nets be restricted to the tidal part of the river.

9. We consider it very important that the movement of the salmon toward their spawning grounds be facilitated by weekly close times of 36 hours duration, which we suggest extend from 6 a. m. on Saturday to 6 p. m. on Sunday of each week, during the continuance of the fishing season.

10. We also recommend an annual close season, extending from October 1 to April 1 of each year, during which all net fishing shall be prohibited.

11. We recommend that the Indians be allowed to fish at all times by their customary methods, except the use of drift nets and spears on the rivers during the close seasons, during which periods, moreover, they should be permitted to take salmon only for the purpose of supplying themselves with food, and not for sale or barter.

12. As no evidence of a decrease in the abundance of any of the salmon species has been obtained, we do not feel justified in recommending joint action at present in the matter of their artificial propagation. While we feel confident that the