

Fishways in the Inland Waters of British Columbia

SPECIAL NEED FOR PROVIDING FISHWAYS IN CONNECTION WITH WATER-POWER DEVELOPMENTS IN ORDER TO CONSERVE THE SALMON INDUSTRY

THE fisheries of British Columbia, being not only one of the chief provincial industries, but also an important source of food supply, are worthy of the best efforts that can be exerted for their conservation.

In the carrying out of development works, whether for navigation, irrigation or power, provision requires to be made for the upward migration of the adult salmon for spawning purposes and for the downward passage of the young fish to the sea. Besides the salmon, other fish require consideration.

The serious consequences to the fishing resources, resulting from obstructions which prevent the free passage of salmon and other fish, have been amply demonstrated. This subject is one so vital in its bearing upon power development and yet one so frequently passed over, that it is desirable to submit the subject to special discussion; in fact, the whole question of the effect of obstructions upon the fishing industry and the efficacy of fishways as a means of overcoming the menace of such obstructions, requires thorough investigation.

Practically all of the Pacific Coast streams of British Columbia and their tributaries are annually frequented by vast numbers of Pacific salmon, consequently the salmon fishing industry is one of the most important interests to be safeguarded in the carrying out of works which will materially affect the inland waterways.

As indicating the importance of this industry, it may be cited that in the big salmon year of 1909, canned salmon products to the value of \$7,750,000 were marketed. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1914, which includes the 'big year' run of 1913, the marketed product was valued at \$10,243,670, while the total value of all fish marketed was \$13,891,398, or over 40 per cent of the total value of the fishery products of Canada. The 1913 salmon pack comprised over 1,350,000 cases—the largest output in the history of the industry. In the twenty years prior to 1915 the canneries of British Columbia produced an aggregate of over sixteen million cases of canned salmon—each case containing 48 pounds of dressed fish—representing a catch