

Salmon Run Cut By Heavy Catch In Snake River

Extensive fishing by commercial fisherman and Indians has cut sharply into the Snake river salmon run, the Idaho Fish and Game department said Wednesday.

Forrest R. Hauck, district three biologist, said the department's annual spawning survey between Swan Falls and Homedale showed a run of approximately 700 Chinook salmon. This is less than one third of the 1952 run.

In 1947 the department counted 10,000 spawning salmon in the area.

Boat and aerial surveys disclosed only 250 spawning nests this year, compared to about 900 in 1952 and 3700 in 1947, first year of the survey.

Hauck said the large Columbia river commercial fishery and particularly heavy Indian fishing during the past two years, especially at Celilo falls, were chiefly responsible for the reduction. Biologists failed to recover any salmon tagged at the mouth of the Columbia river and at Bonneville dam in an attempt to determine spawning habits of various types of salmon.

The Oregon Fish commission has been tagging the fish for about 10 years, but none has ever been found in the Swan Falls-Homedale area.

Aim of the tagging program is to regulate downriver commercial fishing so as to allow portions of each race of salmon to escape to spawning streams. Hauck asked sportsmen finding tagged salmon to mail them to the Idaho Fish and Game department.

The survey was made under a contract between the department and the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the fisheries research program established by the Army in 1951. Idaho's part of the job is to check destination and numbers of fish and time of appearance.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife representatives and Robert Rulifson of the Oregon Fish commission accompanied department personnel making the survey.