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Fishermen to Oppose Dam

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Fish Commission Tuesday opposed construction at this time of any dams in the middle Snake River which would block salmon runs.

In a policy statement approved at a meeting here Tuesday, the commission said:

"It is felt that all areas which are already blocked to anadromous fish throughout the Columbia River drainage should be fully developed before building dams which would be harmful to these runs."

The statement went on to say that the Corps of Engineers was experimenting with methods of passing fish over dams.

"It would therefore seem to be very unsound planning to construct dams which would do further harm to the fisheries resource until the findings of this research program can be incorporated in the construction plans for dams proposed for areas which are utilized by anadromous species."

The statement is to be read at a federal hearing Friday at Orofino, Idaho, on selection of possible water storage sites in the middle Snake River.

The commission also reported it will hold several preliminary hearings soon to discuss proposed salmon fishing seasons and regulations for the Columbia River.