

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

April 8, 1970

FIRST BATCHES OF SOCKEYE SALMON OF SEASON START MIGRATION TO DEEP WATER

Over 9,000 small fingerlings slipped into the creek at the north end of Baker Lake last Saturday as Vern Daves, superintendent of the Game Department's fish hatchery, released the first batch of sockeye for the season. The tiny silver streaks were about an inch and a half in length and weighed out at 5 fish to 1 gram. Daves dips the fish in sieves from the trough and weighs them to judge how many he is releasing at a time.

He said that 6¼ million were released last year. Mortality rate is extremely high with thousands lost over the dam and to birds and other predators in the lake. Only about one in a thousand survives to hit open water.

The return trip of past plants to spawn will begin in July and August when the homing salmon will be channeled into the fish trap operated by Puget Power at the Baker River headquarters. Large tanks transport the pregnant fish up to the hatchery for spawning to begin the life cycle anew. The return spawners have been doubling each year lately, said Daves.