

Salmon Increase In Skagit Noted

Seattle — State Department of fisheries surveys in the Skagit and Stillaguamish river systems revealed that pink salmon escapement in these streams was greatly improved over the last cycle year of 1945, State Director Milo Moore, announced today.

The Stillaguamish river showed the greatest improvement with an escapement figure approximately 50 per cent larger than 1945. The Skagit river system showed 30 per cent greater escapement than 1945.

The survey party found 150,000 pink salmon and 11,000 king salmon spawning in the area between Newhalem dam and Faber ferry on the Skagit river.

These figures are not estimates, but based on actual counts taken by the party which drifted down the rivers in a boat recording every fish sighted on a counter, Moore said.

Moore said the increased escapement was gratifying in view of the commercial and sport fishing at the mouths of these rivers — especially the Skagit.

Despite the encouraging results of these surveys, Moore said he would close northern Puget Sound to all commercial fishing from 4 p. m. October 3, to 4 a. m. October 13. The ten-day closure includes all waters of Puget Sound north of a line commencing at Sandy Point, in Whatcom county, and extending in a westerly direction through the Patos Island lighthouse to the international boundary.

Moore said this closure was ordered to assure Canadian rivers an escapement equally as large as Washington streams. He said A. J. Whitmore, Canadian supervisor of fisheries, had agreed to a closure on the Fraser river.