

Swinomish close fish trap at state request

State Fisheries Director George C. Starlund criticized the Swinomish Indian tribe somewhat prematurely yesterday.

Starlund said the Swinomish and two other tribes had failed to respond to a request for conservation regulations.

The Swinomish tribe actually has responded to Starlund's request and has already closed its fish trap on the west side of its reservation at LaConner, the Herald learned today.

A misunderstanding apparently developed when the tribe failed to receive word of Starlund's request until Monday morning. The request originally was made late last week. Tribal officials however were away during the weekend at meetings,

Swinomish Community manager Tandy Wilbur said today.

HALT TRAP

As soon as Starlund's request was received Monday, Wilbur called a meeting of all Tribal Community officers to discuss it. They immediately halted operation of the tribal trap from Monday through Thursday this week and next.

In addition, individual gillnet fishermen who are tribal members agreed to halt fishing from Friday morning to Sunday night during the next two weeks.

Wilbur telephoned the tribe's decisions to the state Fisheries Department yesterday. Fisheries officials said then they would issue a press release on the decisions today.

Meanwhile however, Starlund late yesterday commended the Tulalip Indian tribe for cooper-

ating in the fish conservation program and said the Lummi, Swinomish and Nisqually Tribal Councils had failed to respond to his conservation request.

WANT TO GO ALONG

Associated Press reported Starlund had asked the four Indian tribal councils to halt their fishing while commercial fishing was closed down to assure the escape of silver salmon upstream so they could spawn and lay the foundation for continuation of salmon runs. Commercial fishing has been closed in all Puget Sound waters until Oct. 28.

In commenting on Starlund's request, Wilbur said today, "We want to go along with conservation practices as far as they are feasible."