

*Revised second page  
attached. Don't submit.  
E  
L*

*Herrington*

M A I N E S A L M O N

Abstract of a Report

to

Special Maine Salmon Commission

Augusta, Maine, Sept. 13, 1945.

In your hearings and discussions on salmon you will receive many suggestions and recommendations from many persons interested in salmon, each proponent perhaps believing that his suggestion will solve the salmon problem. However, satisfactory restoration of salmon to Maine waters is no easy job and can be achieved by no magic formula. It will require a sound, thorough, and continued program of administration and study.

At the request of Mr. Baker I will very briefly outline the general overall problems involved in restoring salmon, and the work which I believe will be the most important contribution this Commission can make to the restoration program.

Your Maine rivers fall into three general groups which present different problems:

Group A. Rivers with relatively small salmon runs which appear to be increasing in size owing to general improvement in river conditions and to construction of fishways. The first problem in such cases is to see that conditions continue to improve.

This requires:

1. Control of the catch, sport, commercial, and illegal.
2. Maintenance and improvement of fishways.
3. Decrease in pollution where such pollution exists.
4. Control and reduction of predator species, if they are an important factor in the survival of young salmon.

Group B. Rivers with small runs which are static or decreasing in size in spite of extensive planting of young salmon (Penobscot).

The first problem is to determine what is limiting the runs:

1. Inability of adults to migrate upstream to the spawning grounds (dams and pollution)?
2. Inability of the young to survive in the tributaries or main river (predators and pollution)?
3. Inability of young salmon to return to the sea (dams, power turbines, pollution)?

If the limiting factor can be determined, then corrective measures can be developed and applied.

Group C. Rivers now without salmon.

The problem here is to

1. Determine what conditions make the rivers unsuitable.
2. Correct these conditions if possible.
3. Stock favorable sections with young salmon to establish runs.

The principal functions of this Commission (as I visualize them):

First of all you should reconcile yourselves to the fact that with the time and funds at your disposal you will not be able to solve the basic salmon problems.

However, you can make major contributions toward their solution by:

1. Developing and establishing the administrative set-up which will most effectively carry out the needed long-range program.
2. Drafting and getting on the books legislation needed to provide control of the taking of salmon and to implement the management measures which will be developed by a long-range research program.
3. Seeing that the Maine Legislature and public understands that satisfactory salmon runs cannot be established by any magic formula, but will require a sound, well-coordinated, and continued program of study and administration.

#### Functions of the Fish and Wildlife Service:

Basically, we are interested in the maximum utilization of our fishery resources. Therefore, we are interested in helping in the restoration of the potentially great salmon resource in Maine as well as in other North Atlantic States where suitable conditions might be established.

With our research and salmon propagation facilities we can help you find out how to bring back salmon runs and maintain them at the most productive level.

However, the State is completely responsible for applying the results we may obtain and the recommendations we might make, and for administering the fishery. It is entirely up to you to provide the most effective administrative machinery and legislation for carrying out needed management measures.

Specific suggestions for action by this Commission:

1. Provide a single administrative unit with authority over salmon in both fresh and salt water. This could consist of a three man commission made up of the Commissioner of Inland Fish and Game, Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries, and a third member appointed by the Governor.

*Remarks*

**Comment** - With present divided responsibility, authority, and interests, it is difficult to carry out a consistent, uniform policy, and apply an overall coherent management program (~~lack of action on many approved recommendations of Salmon Research Committee~~).

2. Provide the Commission with legislative authority to control the catch in both fresh and salt water, to appraise and buy up weir rights in and near the mouths of salmon rivers, to require a license for all catchers of salmon in marine as well as in fresh water, to require a license for all dealers handling Atlantic salmon and that they show that all of their purchases are from licensed fishermen, *relating to pollution, fishways, etc. which may be recommended by the Com. or such measures* and to carry out ~~such~~ other measures, as further ~~study~~ *research* may show are needed. The money from licenses should be earmarked for use in purchasing weir rights and for other salmon restoration work.

WM. C. HERRINGTON,  
In Charge, North Atlantic  
Fishery Investigations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Specific suggestions for action by this Commission:

1. Provide a single administrative unit with authority over salmon in both fresh and salt water. This could consist of a three man commission made up of the Commissioner of Inland Fish and Game, Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries, and a third member appointed by the Governor.

Remarks - With present divided responsibility, authority, and interests, it is difficult to carry out a consistent, uniform policy, and apply an overall coherent management program.

2. Provide the Commission with legislative authority to control the catch in both fresh and salt water, to appraise and buy up weir rights in and near the mouths of salmon rivers, to require a license for all catchers of salmon in marine as well as in fresh water, to require a license for all dealers handling Atlantic salmon and that they show that all of their purchases are from licensed fishermen, and to carry out other measures relating to pollution, fishways, etc., which may be recommended by this Commission, or such measures as further research may show are needed. The money from licenses should be earmarked for use in purchasing weir rights and for other salmon restoration work.

WM. C. HERRINGTON,  
In Charge, North Atlantic  
Fishery Investigations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR