

Agenda Item 10. c  
September 1978

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

A CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY PROGRAM ON CHINOOK AND COHO  
SALMON IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA - 1978

Contract No. 78-7

PRELIMINARY REPORT

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT

### OCEAN TROLL FISHERY TAG RECOVERY PROGRAM

Coded wire tag recovery was initiated in May of 1978 with stationing of samplers in Cold Storages in Pelican, Sitka, Juneau, Ketchikan and Craig. These cold storage facilities receive landings from both State and Council jurisdiction waters. A laboratory for recovery of tags from heads of salmon was set up in Sitka. The heads bearing tags are shipped to Sitka from all sampling ports and the tags are read and then transmitted with associated recovery information to the respective agencies. Sampling was begun in Port Alexander, Petersburg, Elfin Cove, Excursion Inlet, and Hoonah at various times throughout the season as landings at those particular ports warranted stationing a sampler at the port.

The number of tags recovered during the 1978 sampling season has thus far exceeded expectations. The total recoveries expected by the end of the season is approximately 5000 tags. Tag recovery by agency is expected to be 2000 - Canadian, 1500 Washington, 500 Oregon and 1000 Alaskan.

The primary contributor of Canadian tags has been the Robertson Creek hatchery on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Washington origin tags were released from various coastal hatcheries with the Soleduck and Quinault hatcheries the primary contributors. The primary Oregon contributing hatcheries are the Trask, Alsea and Elk River. Alaska origin tags are primarily from a wild stock tagging program on the Taku, Speel, Berners and Chilkat Rivers. The Alaska origin

recoveries were primarily coho while the other recoveries were from Chinook. We have recovered a small number of coho released from Canada and Washington.

We are initiating during the 1978 season a program to provide machine readable recovery information to other agencies along the coast. Alaska is presently the only agency that does not provide recovery information in machine readable form. This program will involve purchase of a key punch unit and set up programming through the University of Alaska data processing center. Alaska Fish and Game employees will provide programming expertise and operating instruction. It is expected that by altering our data processing from hand processing to machine processing we will be able to provide the completion report at a much earlier date.