

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Roppel, Patricia

Alaska fish hatchery records and related material, 1903-1982

MS 79

3 boxes
1.9 linear ft.

Processed by: Staff
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, June 2014

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated by Patricia Roppel in April 1984. The records and material were gathered during a research project for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service. Her work *ALASKA'S SALMON HATCHERIES, 1891-1959* (Portland, Oregon, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1982) was published as Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History, No. 20. No accession number.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The majority of this collection has been described at the item. Folders 5 and 6 in Box 3 have been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. Some items have been placed into pH-neutral folders. All items have been housed in archival boxes.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Control of Alaska's fisheries, including regulation and hatcheries has been under various federal agencies. In the collection are photocopies of records from the U.S. Commission of Fisheries under the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor. Within this Commission was the Bureau of Scientific Inquiry and the Bureau of Fisheries including the Alaska Fisheries Service. In 1910 the two bureaus merged to form the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of Commerce.

Alaska's fish hatcheries were operated by private companies on a voluntary or mandatory basis; also by the federal and territorial government. The first hatchery at Karluk, Kodiak Island in 1891, was built on a voluntary basis by several cannery - operators. It spawned a limited number of sockeye salmon. In 1900, the U.S. Congress amended the 1889 Fisheries Act requiring any person, company or corporation taking salmon in Alaskan waters must establish a hatchery producing at least four times the number of mature salmon taken each year. There are some logbooks and records of the Quadra Hatchery established pursuant to this law.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The federal government operated hatcheries at Yes Bay, this collection includes eleven logbooks of the station operation from 1906-1934. Three logbooks related to the Quadra Hatchery, which was a mandatory hatchery, are included in this collection. The logbooks cover the years 1908 - 1935. Also included is a logbook of the Hetta Hatchery on Prince of Wales Island, a voluntary enterprise, which closed in 1918. Copies of correspondence and a history of the government operated Afognak Hatchery are also a part of this collection. Also included are copies of some correspondence and reports on the Karluk Hatchery which closed in 1930.

Other materials in this collection are the FEDERAL FISH HATCHERY MEMOIRS compiled by William M. Morton and BIOGRAPHIES OF PACIFIC FISHERY BIOLOGISTS by W.M. Morton and Ralph P. Silliman. These works include helpful information on people who worked in Alaska such as Lillie M. Anderson, Frederick A. Davidson, Clarence E. Rowland (Yes Bay), Eric O. Kuehl (Yes Bay), Blendon H. Cook (Yes Bay), Harry D. Baer (Afognak Hatchery), Frederick W. Bittle (Kodiak), Marcus W. Meyer (Quadra and Kodiak) and others.

While this collection has no records of the Fortman Hatchery, which was the largest mandatory hatchery, the Historical Library holdings include the Alaska Packers Association Records (Microfilm Manuscript 30 and MS 9). The APA Journals series includes data on both the Fortman and Karluk Hatcheries. There are also some details on the hatchery operations of the Territorial Fish Commission in the Urban C. Nelson

Collection (MS 65) which includes papers of A.J. Sprague, first superintendent of the Territorial Fish Hatcheries.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Federal Government Hatcheries

U.S. Bureau of Fisheries. Alaska Station, **Yes Bay** (Northeast coast of Cleveland Peninsula, Southeast Alaska) LOGBOOKS. 1906-1934. 11 vols.

Daily work record of hatchery duties, employees, fish and egg records.

Vol. 1 March 10, 1906 through July 1, 1907.

Vol. 2 July 1, 1907 through June 30, 1912.

Vol. 3 July 1, 1912 through June 30, 1917 (including August 2, 1916 through September 16, 1916 log for Smeaton Bay, field station of Yes Bay hatchery).

Vol. 4 July 1, 1917 through Dec. 31, 1919.

Vol. 5 Jan. 1, 1920 through May 31, 1924.

Vol. 6 June 1, 1924 through Sept. 30, 1926.

Box 2

Federal Government Hatcheries

U.S. Bureau of Fisheries. Alaska Station, **Yes Bay** (Northeast coast of Cleveland Peninsula, Southeast Alaska) LOGBOOKS. 1906-1934. 11 vols.

Daily work record of hatchery duties, employees, fish and egg records.

Vol. 7 Oct. 1, 1926 through June 30, 1929.

Vol. 8 July 1, 1929 through Feb. 28, 1931.

Vol. 9 March 1, 1931 through Sept. 30, 1932.

Vol.10 Oct. 1, 1932 through Sept. 19, 1934. Station closed and abandoned as noted by Alphonse Kimmerich, Foreman.

Vol.11 Log of Watchman on Bay. July 14, 1924 through Aug. 24, 1931.

Box 3

Mandatory Hatcheries

Quadra Hatchery (Hugh Smith Lake or Quadra Lake, Southeast Alaska)
LOGBOOKS.

1908-1935. 3 vols. and 1 folder.

Data on numbers of sockeye salmon spawned and numbers of eggs taken, daily air and water temperatures A.M. and P.M.; one word weather report daily; dead eggs removed weekly; fish released and ponds into which released. There is a daily activity log for employees.

- 1-1. Aug. 18, 1908 through April 7, 1922.
- 1-2. Aug. 1, 1922 through Jan. 2, 1935.
- 1-3. Jan. 1, 1935 through Dec. 31, 1935.
- 1-4. (folder) Statement in accordance with the Act for the protection and regulation of the fisheries of Alaska, approved June 26, 1906. Reports of the Superintendent, B. Caspersen, of the Quadra Lake Hatchery to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court. Div. no. 1, Juneau. Reports for the Northwestern Fisheries Company at the Quadra Hatchery 1918-1932; Pacific American Fisheries, 1933-1936.

Box 3

Voluntary Hatcheries

Hetta Hatchery (Southern edge of Prince of Wales Island)

The facility was established by the Pacific Steam Whaling Company at Hetta Lake before hatcheries became mandatory. This company operated a cannery at nearby Hunter Bay and began the hatchery facility in 1898. Operations covered two periods: 1899 to 1903 and 1908 to 1918. Logbook data includes number of female and male sockeye salmon used each year for spawn, dates spawn taken, number of eggs taken; some water temperature data; number of dead eggs removed monthly; number of sac-fry liberated, date of release and place of liberation in some entries. There is a daily log of activities usually comprised of one line entries.

- 2-1 LOGBOOK, August 16, 1910 through June 27, 1918.

Box 3

Fish Catch Data/Pack Reports

Cordova Fish Records. Contains fish catch, cannery and fishermen's accounts. 4 vols.

- 3-1. 1913 Fish catch, pack reports.
- 3-2. 1916 Fish catch, pack reports.
- 3-3. 1916-1917. Fish caught.

3-4. 1929. Fishermen's accounts.**Box 3****Miscellaneous**

Copies of Bureau of Fisheries records, in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Record Group 22 (National Archives); publications, articles, correspondence.

4-1 Afognak Hatchery.

Afognak, 1917-18. Relations with Canada. 6 items. Correspondence concerning shipments of eyed sockeye salmon eggs to British Columbia from Afognak Hatchery in 1917 and 1918. Reasons for Canada's need for Alaskan Stocks.

Afognak Station. Historical files, Division of National Fish Hatcheries. 2 items. Correspondence: 1924 radio station and mail service problems. Egg collection numbers, 1909-1919 for each salmon species, cost per thousand for fry in 1907-09 for Afognak and Yes Bay hatcheries. Describes all buildings in 1926. A history dated May 20, 1915, includes different totals of fish released than the Bureau of Fisheries published numbers.

4-2 Yes Bay Station.

Historical files, Division of National Fish, Hatcheries. 14 items. Includes several inventories of building, one of which is dated 1930. Letters dated 1903 to withdraw catchment basin of Yes Bay; executive order 11446 dated Feb. 9, 1906, establishing salmon hatchery site; costs of operation, 1909-1911; salmon eggs collected, 1906-1922; station history, probably 1915.

4-3 Karluk Hatchery. Records from several files in Reports and Related-Record, Division of Alaska Fisheries, Record Group 22 (National Archives). 5 items.

Ball, E.M. INSPECTION OF THE KARLUK HATCHERY. April 27, 1916. 9 t (doc. stamped 12115). From file "Correspondence concerning collection of salmon scales, 1916-1918." Includes calculations used to determine number of salmon eggs and fry on hand and discrepancies in totals as carried on hatchery record books. Diseased fish and methods of sampling for identification by pathologist. Description of conditions of nursery pond. Mortality rate on adult sockeye salmon held for ripening.

Ball, E.M. REPORT ON KARLUK HATCHERY. July 23, 1916. 5 t (doc. 12584). Covers problems with record keeping procedures, gives numbers of sockeye salmon incubated, fish hatched and released in 1916, and eggs transferred to Afognak hatchery. Hatchery closed June 30, 1916.

Fassett, H.C. REPORT ON THE SALMON HATCHERY OPERATED BY THE ALASKA PACKERS ASSOCIATION ON KARLUK LAGOON, KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA. 25 l (doc. 4727). From file "Correspondence Concerning Karluk Hatchery, 1903-1917.1" Fish culture methods used, capacity, arrangement of troughs, description of adult salmon ripening ponds and suggestions for improving water system, description of nursery ponds, overflow and drainage systems with sketch, liberation of sac-fry in nursery ponds, feeding of fry, fry passage to sea. Salinity of Karluk Lagoon. Migration of natural yearlings from Karluk Lake. Recommended changes for disposition of fry.

Memorandum dated April 16, 1916 (9 t.); April 24, 1916 (4 f-). From file "Alaska Packers Association - Closure of Karluk, 1916." Correspondence between the Commission of Fisheries and APA on discrepancies in actual and reported numbers of salmon sac-fry, fry and eggs on hand. Dr. Charles Gilbert's use of salmon scales to analyze hatchery efficiency. Decision of APA to close hatchery. Memorandum summarizing Bureau of Fisheries decision no to close hatchery before this time.

- 4-4** Morton, William Markham and Ralph P. Silliman. Articles, compilations, etc., 8 items.

FEDERAL FISH HATCHERY MEMOIRS, vol. 1-2, August 1978-November 1979. 6 issues. Biographical sketches of retired fish hatchery personnel from Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Includes Alaskan personnel. Also a copy of a letter used by Mr. Morton to obtain memoirs.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PACIFIC FISHERY BIOLOGISTS. Compiled and edited by William Markham Morton and Ralph P. Silliman. vol. 1, no. 3, January 1982 (final issue).

GOODBYE DOLLY, by William Markham Morton 15 Z typescript. The author presents his views on the misconceptions regarding the "Dolly Varden" and premise that the fish should be identified and a "charr" and not a trout.

- 4-5** Roppel, Patricia. Letters received.
Letter from William L. Paul, Sr., Seattle dated Sept. 27, 1973. 2 Z. Describes his interest and efforts for hatchery development, political situation in the fishing industry.

Letter from Harry D. Baer, Shingletown, Calif., dated Sept. 8, 1979. 5 Z.
Afognak hatchery recollections where Baer worked from 1927-1932.

- 4-6** Sprague, A. J. THE ALASKA SALMON AND THEIR PRACTICAL PROPAGATION. Juneau, 1921.
24 p.

Sprague served as Superintendent of Territorial Hatcheries of Alaska.

Box 3

Later Additions to Hatchery Records

- 5** Reference materials and notes on the Afognak federal hatchery, used in Patricia Roppel's book, SALMON FROM KODIAK: A HISTORY OF THE SALMON FISHERY OF KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA, c1986.
- 6** Copies of newspaper articles related to Southeast Alaska fish hatcheries, covering the time period between October 22, 1983 to April 10, 1985.