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LOGGERS WARNED AGAINST PRACTICE HARMFUL TO FISH

A warning was issued yesterday to logging companies throughout the state by Fred J. Foster, Director of Fisheries, against unauthorized removal of gravel from stream beds and other practices by some of the operators that seriously affect the natural habitat and passage of migratory fish.

Foster said that under the provisions of Chapter 40 of the laws of 1943, removal of materials from the stream beds, diversion or obstruction of the natural flow of any river or stream by any persons, firm or government agency without the specific approval of the directors of fisheries and game is a gross misdemeanor.

In commenting upon the warning to loggers Foster said, "Many of the state's best salmon producing streams have been rendered impotent by practices that completely blocked the passage of spawning fish. Others have been seriously affected by gouging out valuable spawning beds for the purpose of securing gravel for road construction, while some have actually been completely diverted in order to use the stream bed for a truck road. This is especially destructive during the time the fish are spawning and when the eggs are in the gravels.

"Prior to the unanimous passage of this act by the 1943 legislature," Foster continued, "the state was powerless to prevent this serious destruction of spawning beds the cumulative effect of which over many years has been a big factor in the depletion of salmon and other fish runs most of which could have been eliminated with proper

cooperation.

"Protection of the stream flows and spawning beds is just as vital toward maintaining a prosperous fisheries industry in this state as keeping fire out of the woods is to the logging industry," Foster said.