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BAKER RIVER DAM TO BE SCENE OF IMPORTANT FISH STUDIES AGAIN NEXT YEAR

Arrangements for rearing 200,000 salmonoid "guinea pigs" have been made by the Dept. of Fisheries and the International Pacific Salmon Commission. Fifty thousand Skagit river salmon and 150,000 Cultus Lake, B.C. sockeyes will be reared at the state hatchery at Marblemount and the fish will be used next spring in testing the mortality of small down-stream migrants resulting from passage over high dams and through power turbines.

Similar tests were conducted in 1950 and 1951 at the Baker River dam of Puget Sound Power & Light Co. here in Concrete. The 1952 tests will also be held here.

The first fish will be marked by clipping fins. Some will be released above the 265-foot high spillway, others near the turbine intake. Nets below the dam will be used to recover and check the survivors.

The study is regarded as of major importance by fisheries men and the data gained will be a basis for assessing fish mortalities at dams throughout the northwest.