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OPEN SKAGIT TO BAKER ON SILVERS

Recent efforts of the sportsmen of the upper Skagit valley paid off this week with the announcement of a special sport fishing season for silver salmon on the Skagit River. The season has been set for October 10th through November 10 by the state department of fisheries. The open season embraces the Skagit River from Gilligan Creek, below Lyman, to the confluence of the Baker and Skagit rivers at Concrete.

The present deadline at Gilligan Creek will remain in effect for chinook during the 30 day period. No sport fishing will be permitted above Concrete in the Skagit River or its tributaries.

The season was set to permit a limited sports take of silver salmon while giving maximum protection to fall Chinooks which spawn in the main channel above Lyman until mid-October. It followed a series of meetings between Robert J. Schoettler and Skagit County sports clubs this summer. The clubs had petitioned the department for full restoration of the year-around open season as far as Concrete.

The sports possession limit of salmon in stream is two fish over 20 inches in length. The fishermen are restricted to two single or one double pronged hook. The use of triple hooks is prohibited.

In a letter to Jerry Clements, secretary of the Skagit Sports Council, Mr. Schoettler stated that a survey had been made of the river below Concrete and it was found that there are two silver salmon runs. The smaller of the two occurs in the latter part of August, the larger one being around the first of October

with the height of egg-taking at Marblemount occurring near the 20th of November.

The research staff felt that a season from October 10 to November 10 would not materially effect chinook spawning in the main stream and that so far this year the returns indicate that the department is getting a fair escapement of salmon to the hatchery.