

Fish Runs Increased, Schoettler Declares

Salmon runs in Washington and British Columbia streams have been substantially increased after years of depletion, according to Robert J. Schoettler, director of the State Department of Fisheries.

The fish expert was the speaker at the Monday noon luncheon meeting of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club held in the Togi Room of the President Hotel.

Schoettler contrasted the rehabilitation program with the old idea of conservaion. Under the old system of thinking, he said that the use of the research was restricted as long as was possible until eventually it was all gone.

Rehabilitation on the other hand, he said, was the restoration and bringing back of the resource. In the case of the salmon that has been the reclaiming of lost spawning areas for the migrating fish and establishing new runs with hatchery plants.

Dams, pollution and the loss of the forest cover are some of the main reasons which have closed streams to the spawning salmon.

"The infamous blocking of the Hell's Gate Canyon on the Fraser River cost Washington and British Columbia in excess of \$1,000,000,000," Schoettler said.

With the establishment of a fishway at Hell's Gate canyon, the situation has been corrected, he added. In 1947 the salmon population passing the fishway was 394,000. The return in 1951 was 4,691,000, a several



ROBERT J. SCHOETTLE
...salmon's savior

hundred percent increase.

The Washington Fisheries Department, embarked on a long range program of clearing streams, building fishladders, and restocking runs in the new spawning areas.

"There can be no substitute for scientific research and applied scientific management of the salmon resource on both a state and local level," the director concluded.

Schoettler was commended by a representative of the Skagit County Sportsmen's Club for his management of the department and his interest in the salmon.