

SPECIAL STOCK I.D. SAMPLING, 1987

By

Glen Oliver

Regional Information Report¹ No. 1J88-20

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fisheries Division
Juneau, Alaska

September 1988

¹ The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterrupted data. To accommodate needs for up-to-date information, reports in this series may contain preliminary data.

SPECIAL STOCK I.D. SAMPLING, 1987

1987 Final Report

Summary of Work

1. Work Accomplishments

A. Tasks Scheduled:

This project supports the sampling of matched biological samples from sockeye salmon. Our goals for the 1987 fishing season were: 1) to obtain representative matched scale-parasite samples from 150 sockeye per week in the District 111 gill net fishery and, 2) 300 representative matched scale-parasite-electrophoretic samples from sockeye caught in the District 106-41 gillnet fishery. Sampling was conducted at shore-based processors in Juneau and Petersburg.

B. Tasks Accomplished:

We succeeded in obtaining weekly sampling goals throughout the season. Scales have been aged and digitized, parasite presence checked, and electrophoretic samples analyzed. Development of a model utilizing all information continues at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Auke Bay Laboratory.

C. Special Problems, Differences, etc.

The logistical complexity of keeping samples matched requires a high level of organization and makes sampling labor intensive. After some practice, 4-5 experienced samplers could obtain 300 matched scale-parasite-electrophoretic samples in about 6 hours. The time required to keep samples matched by labeling and organizing is incompatible with the speed of a commercial processing line. It is very easy to mismatch samples, especially when samplers are rushed and cannot keep track of what they are doing. The cooperation and tolerance of the processors was instrumental in successfully obtaining the samples. Petersburg Fisheries Inc. were particularly helpful, allowing us to set up our own processing table and clean their fish ourselves and obtaining the samples in the process. Heads for brain parasite sampling had to be removed with the brain case intact, a more generous cut than is typical in commercial processing where they attempt to recovery every gram of flesh. We discovered that the isthmus between the opercles that remains with the head when it is removed is adequate for electrophoretic red muscle samples.

2. Expenditures

See budget summaries.