

Informational Leaflet **8**

STANDARD METHODS OF MEASURING SALMON

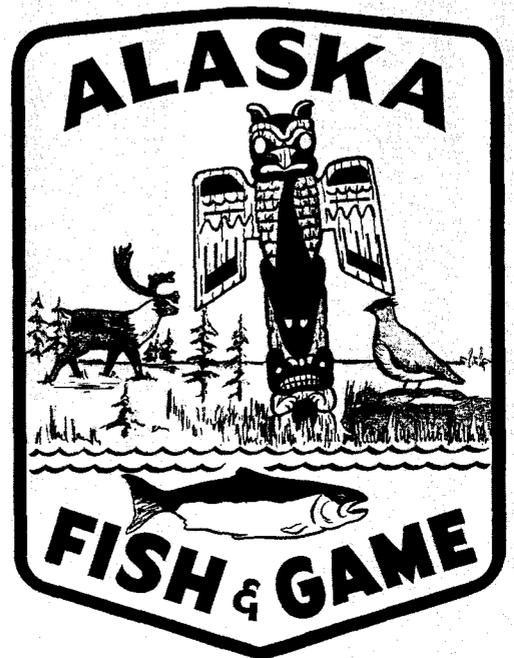
By:

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February 19, 1962

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At recent meetings attended by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and Fisheries Research Institute personnel, the need was pointed up for standardization of methods and techniques in collecting biological data in salmon research. It was agreed that the following methods would be used.

Length Measurements (See Figure 1)

Always use the metric system, as it is already a standard measurement.

1. Mid-eye to fork of tail for fish taken in river or salt water.
2. Mid-eye to hypural plate for fish taken on the spawning grounds.

However, when large numbers of fish are to be handled, use the mid-eye to fork of tail measurement where possible, or if it is necessary to use the tip of snout to fork of tail length seek a conversion factor to take into account sexual dimorphism.

3. Conversion factors are necessary to obtain true measurements for smolts, fry, and adults preserved in formalin.

The Fisheries Research Institute has extensive data on such conversion factors which are available to all agencies.

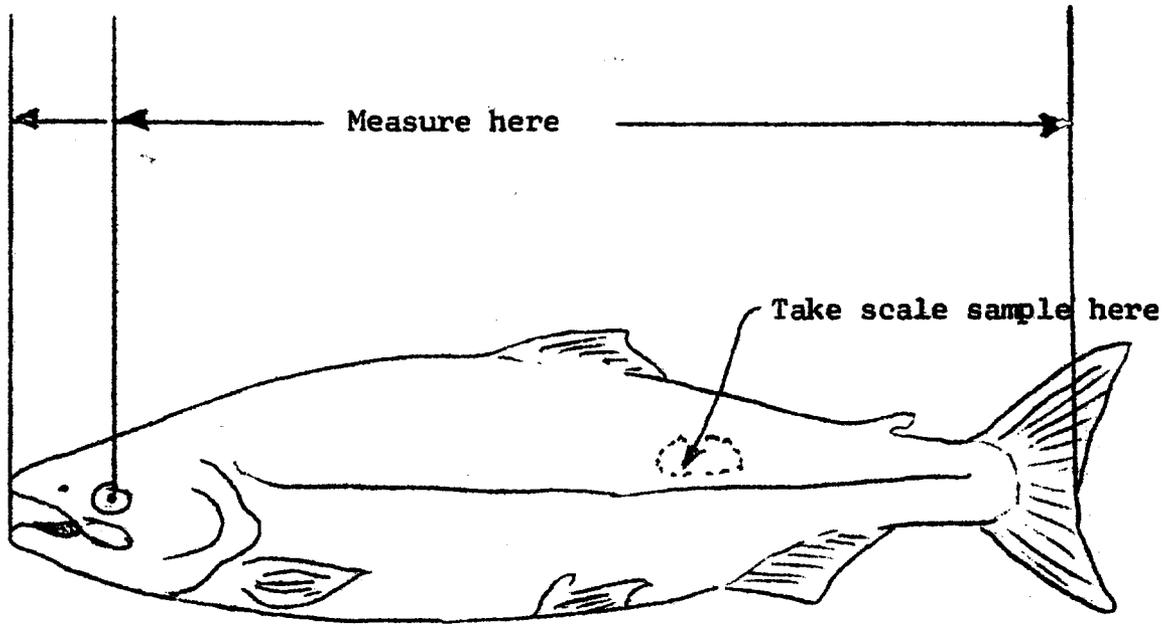
Scales (See Figure 1)

For all species of salmon, take scales from between the insertions of the adipose and dorsal fins and within 3 or 4 scale rows above the lateral line, on the left side. Take one scale. Avoid regenerated scales.

For smolts of all species, take a smear of scales.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Montlake Laboratory, Seattle, has a progress report dated October 20, 1961 concerning scale sampling of chum salmon which should be referred to in any intensive study of chums.

Figure 1.



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