

Located approximately 160 miles south of the Arctic Circle is this small trout hatchery near Fairbanks, Alaska. This supplies trout for sport fishing throughout Alaska. (Photo courtesy Alaska Department of Fish and Game.)

Our Farthest North Hatchery

This small station supplies Alaska with trout

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Located 55 miles south of Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway in the Interior of Alaska is a small fish cultural station used to supply trout fry and small fingerlings for the vast area which surrounds it.

This station or hatchery was started by the Alaska Department of Fisheries (now the Alaska Department of Fish and Game) in 1952 as a tool in the management of the newly created sport fish program which was inaugurated in 1951. The location and design was the responsibility of E. S. Marvich the Territory's only sport fish biologist at that time and now the head of the sport fish division for the State of Alaska.

This small station has fourteen troughs and stocks out approximately one quarter million trout each year. The season of operation is short, usually beginning in late May and closing up for the long, dark winter on about September 15. During the operation of this station there is almost complete daylight, especially during June and July. The minimum and maximum air temperatures during this period are 33 degrees and 96 degrees Fahrenheit, the mean air temperature is approximately 61 degrees.

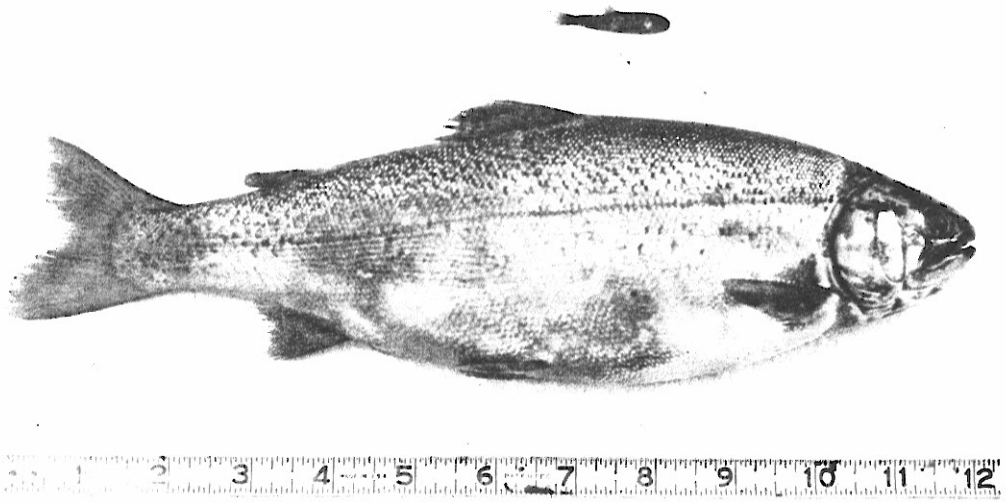
The need for hatchery stock arises from the increased demand for improvement of the accessible fishing waters near the two largest cities in Alaska — Anchorage and Fairbanks. Most of the fish stockings have been done in lakes along the highways of interior and westward Alaska. The lakes are readily accessible by vehicle or in a few cases a short hike of a mile or two.

Many of the lakes of the interior contain a whitefish, cisco, sucker, ling, and northern pike populations. Because these fish have been undesirable to the anglers, many lakes have been reclaimed and stocked with a desirable sport fish specie such as trout. The arctic grayling and migratory species of the salmon are abundant in the interior rivers and streams.

With the inception of statehood and the need for technical and scientific studies, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has set up a field research office at the University near Fairbanks. As new areas are investigated by the fishery biologist; the need for hatcheries as management tools becomes increasingly apparent. The hatchery is not to be considered as a panacea for sport fish problems, but rather an effective tool to be used in fish management.

It is hoped that the time between bites will be shortened for the sport fisherman in interior Alaska by proper management and biological concepts of which the hatchery can play an important part.

A small hatchery or rearing station in remote areas can be very useful to the fishery biologist as a tool in the sport fish program.



Here one sees the growth made by Rainbow Trout in the fourteen months from the time of stocking in Lost Lake in Alaska. At the time of stocking the trout was the size of the small fry shown above. Fourteen months later this trout measured 12½ inches in length.

Reprinted from . . .

U. S. TROUT NEWS — MAY-JUNE, 1960

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SPORTS FISH DIVISION
COLLEGE, ALASKA