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**TAG RETURNS IN 1993-
UNITED STATES HIGH SEAS SALMON TAGGING**

by

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ABSTRACT

Recoveries of high-seas disk tags from two sockeye salmon that were released during U.S. (1962) and cooperative U.S.S.R.-U.S. (1990) high-seas tagging operations and returned to the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), School of Fisheries, University of Washington, during September 1, 1992-August 31, 1993 are reported. Both tags were recovered in North America. The U.S. tag (no. 43968) was released on a sockeye salmon at 145° 07'W, 57°35'N on June 18, 1962, and found on the bottom of the Situk River, near Yakutat, Alaska, on August 28, 1993. Based on the age, size, and probable maturity of the fish, the tag is reported as a 1962 recovery. The U.S.S.R.-U.S. tag (no. W 524) was released on a sockeye salmon at 179°34'E, 47°18'N on April 24, 1990, and reported to FRI on July 5, 1993. The only information provided by the fisherman on tag no. W 524 was that the fish was caught in the Kvichak District, Bristol Bay. In a telephone interview, the fisherman reported that the fish was caught "about two or three years ago." Based on the age and size of the fish, and the fact that all previous recoveries (12 fish) from this operation were maturing sockeye salmon recovered in the Bristol Bay in 1990, the tag is reported as a 1990 recovery. Neither of the two new recoveries reported in this document extends the known ocean ranges of North American salmon.

INTRODUCTION

This is a report of all recoveries of salmon tags released during U.S. (1955-1978, 1980, 1982) and cooperative U.S.S.R.-U.S. (1983-1991) high-seas tagging operations and returned to the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), School of Fisheries, University of Washington, between September 1, 1992, and August 31, 1993.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two tags, one Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) tag (no. 43968) and one FRI-Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO) tag (no. W 524), were reported during the September 1, 1992-August 31, 1993 period (Table 1). The recovery of a second FRI-TINRO tag (no. EE0039) released during cooperative Japan-U.S. high-seas salmon tagging in 1993 was reported by the Fisheries Agency of Japan (Ogura 1993; Walker 1993).

The FRI tag (no. 43968) was found in the upper mainstem of the Situk River about 2-3 miles below Situk Lake on 28 August 1993. The Situk River is located near Yakutat, Alaska. The tag was found by itself on the river bottom with no fish or carcass nearby. FRI's historical high-seas tagging records show that the tag was attached to an age 1.2 (540 mm) sockeye salmon that was released during purse-seine tagging operations aboard the vessel Storm at 145°07'W, 57°35'N on June 18, 1962 (Table 1). In 1962, the Storm fished nine stations on an east-west line from Kodiak to Sitka, Alaska, along 57°N (Hall et al. 1964). Ten sockeye, 9 chum, and 18 pink salmon were released during the set at

145°07'W, 57°35'N on June 18, 1962, and two tagged sockeye salmon from this release were recovered in Cook Inlet in July 1962. Based on age and size at release, the fish was probably a maturing sockeye in its last summer at sea. Therefore, tag no. 43968 is reported as a 1962 recovery.

The FRI-TINRO tag (no. W 524) was reported to FRI in July 1993. The only information provided by the fisherman was that the fish was caught in the Kvichak District, Bristol Bay. In a telephone interview, the fisherman reported that the fish was caught "about two or three years ago." FRI's records show that the tag was attached to an age 2.2 (490 mm) sockeye salmon that was released during purse-seine tagging operations aboard the vessel Neimroy at 179°34'E, 47°18'N on April 24, 1990 (Table 1). A total of 545 sockeye salmon were tagged during this operation, and twelve recoveries, all in the Bristol Bay area, have been previously reported (Myers 1990, 1991). Based on the age and size of the fish, and the fact that all previous recoveries (12 fish) from this operation were maturing sockeye salmon caught in the Bristol Bay area in 1990, tag no. W 524 is reported as a 1990 recovery.

Neither of the two recoveries reported in this document extends the known ocean ranges of Bristol Bay or southeastern Alaska sockeye salmon.

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Table 1. Release and recovery information for U.S. and U.S.S.R.-U.S. tags returned from September 1, 1992 to August 31, 1993.

Tag No.	Species	Sex	Date		Position		Area codes	Gear		F.L. (mm)		B.W. (g)		G.W. (g)		Age	Remarks and area of recovery
			Rel.	Rec.	Rel.	Rec.		Rel.	Rec.	Rel.	Rec.	Rel.	Rec.	Rel.	Rec.		
W 524	Sockeye	-	90.04.24	90.---	47-18N,179-34E	58-43N,157-00W	47-0	P.S.	Gillnet	490	-	-	-	2.2	--		Kvichak District Bristol Bay, Alaska
43968	Sockeye	-	62.06.18	62.---	57-35N,145-07W	59-26N,139-33W	61-1	P.S.	--	540	-	-	-	1.2	--		Found on bottom of river; Situk R., Alaska