

July 23, 1935

THE RECENT CAPTURE OF A KING SALMON (Oncorhynchus toshawytscha) IN LAKE ERIE.

On July 5, 1935 the Institute for Fisheries Research received a letter from Mr. F. Clatworthy of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, concerning a fish he wished identified. Part of Mr. Clatworthy's letter, which is dated July 5, 1935, is as follows:

At a meeting between this department and the Conservation Department at Lansing on Tuesday, I mentioned to Mr. Westerman that we had received in a box of white bass and yellow pickerel a particular fish that I, myself, was unable to identify.

This fish was caught in a pound net very close to Kingsville on the North shore of Lake Erie. I feel safe in assuming that it is related to the trout family, which is quite strange seeing that the fish was caught in Lake Erie, and Mr. Westerman suggested that I send this fish to Ann Arbor as he believed you could positively identify it if anybody can.

I want to apologize for the rather aged condition of this fish but we have had it here at this warehouse for two weeks already in the hope that some member of our organization would be able to identify it.

The box containing the fish arrived on July 6. An immediate examination of the fish was made. It was found that:

- (1) The fish was a King Salmon, Oncorhynchus toshawytscha.
- (2) It was 19.25 inches in total length (16.60 inches standard length) and weighed, upon arrival, 2 pounds, 7 1/4 ounces.
- (3) An examination of the scales by Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, Director of the Institute and myself definitely showed this fish to have been hatched in 1932, as three winter annuli were present.
- (4) Despite the partly decomposed state of the fish it was very evident, that at the time of the fish's capture, it was in good flesh and quite fat.

On March 25, 1933 the Ohio Division of Conservation planted both the King Salmon and the Silver Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) in Lake Erie waters. It is highly probable

that the three year old specimen referred to is one of this plant. This is indicated not only by the age of the specimen as determined from the scales, but also by a mark, produced on the scales in the first spring of the fish's life, corresponding to a known period when the fish were not well fed, and were planted.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Milton B. Trautman  
Assistant Director

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July 23, 1935

Mr. F. Clatworthy  
The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.  
5470 Hecla Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Clatworthy:

Enclosed is a report on the fish you recently sent us for identification. As you can see from the report, the fish is a King Salmon; probably one from the introduction of some 79,000 fingerlings of this species which were planted in Lake Erie by the Ohio Division of Conservation in 1933.

If you receive any more of these fish we would be pleased to learn of it. If at any time you have other fish you wish identified, send them to us and we will attempt to identify them for you.

Sincerely yours,

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Enc.  
MBT:B

Milton B. Trautman  
Assistant Director