

NETS FOR COHOE FISHING

It is understood your department contemplates prohibiting the use, for the taking of coho salmon, after the season of 1920, any gill net of smaller than 7" mesh. Such prohibition would cause a direct loss to the owners of nets of 6-1/2" and 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh nets, which are the sizes exclusively used in District No. 2. Many such owners are individual fisherman and the loss of the capital they have invested in coho nets would be a serious matter to them. Many thousands of dollars additional are represented by the 6-1/2" and 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh nets owned by fresh and frozen fish operators, and/or canning companies, and their investments would likewise be rendered worthless.

The Cohoe fishing season is of shorter duration than the sockeye fishing season, and coho nets are manufactured from stouter twine. As a consequence their usefulness extends over a longer period. Properly cared for these nets are easily good for three seasons. The present value of a new net is approximately \$500.

Owing to the existing difficulty of obtaining raw flax the net manufacturers have been unavoidably slow in filling orders. Buyers taking this into consideration have to place their orders in advance of their usual time of ordering. Nets wanted for the 1920 season were contracted for as early as June 1919, and in many cases these orders have not yet been completely filled, although the sockeye fishing season is practically already finished. Naturally coho nets, being the latest required, have been the last to be shipped and many of them cannot possibly arrive in time for use this season. To prohibit the use of these 6-1/2" and 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh nets for 1921, and after, would amount to confiscation of the capital invested in them. Without adequate reasons for this drastic step the owners of such nets will suffer unwarrantable loss, and we submit that at least three years should be given the fisherman and other operators

