

# Starrigavan, Kachemak Bays Selected Rearing Pens for Salmon.

JUNEAU—Governor William A. Egan announced today that Starrigavan Bay at Sitka, Little Port Walter on Baranof Island and Kachemak Bay near Cook Inlet have been selected as sites

for experimental salt water rearing pens for salmon.

The project is designed to determine the feasibility of rearing king and coho salmon in salt water and is part of the Fish and Game Department's rehabilitation and enhancement program, Governor Egan said.

"There are many unknown factors in a project such as this and we have selected these sites as being the most desirable from a scientific and logistic standpoint," Governor Egan said.

The Kachemak Bay site was picked because it will provide a test of rearing in water which is colder than that found in Southeastern Alaska.

Sitka was selected because conditions there approach those found in the open sea and because of the technical knowledge

and support available from Sheldon Jackson College and Department of Fish and Game staff members.

Selection of Little Port Walter was based on oceanic conditions and the existence there of an experimental salt water rearing project being conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The project will continue as an expanded cooperative venture with NMFS.

Plans call for about 300,000 coho fry and 50,000 king salmon fry to be placed in each rearing facility in late May.

A portion of the fish will be released in the fall, others the

following spring and another small group will be held for release in the late summer of 1973.

Governor Egan stressed that if the program is successful, other areas of Alaska could be used to provide expanded production facilities.

"Our object now is to evaluate the feasibility of the system with a moderate expenditure of funds," Governor Egan said.