

Grant for Jobs

Approval of a \$64,669 grant to help create jobs through a fish-rearing demonstration project on Indian lands on Squaxin Island, Wash., was announced recently by William W. Blunt, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

The Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington State, Inc., 33324 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, Wash., applied for the grant from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The funds will be used to continue a program demonstrating the economic feasibility of growing salmon and oysters in rearing pens located in cove-water of Squaxin Island.

During the past year, the tribes entered into an agreement with the Washington State Department of Fisheries to rear 600,000 yearling chinook salmon and 200,000 coho salmon.

The tribes will make commercial use of a portion of the pan-sized fish and return the remainder to the state for public fishing areas.

They also have contracted to rear 85,000 coho salmon for a private firm which will make one-third of the mature fish available to the tribes.

Because of the earlier success of the project, the number of rearing pens has been increased from three to 12 and have been approved for the construction of a dock, fish-hauling tanks, storage facilities and a fish hatchery.

The Small Tribes Organization will add \$21,600 to complete the \$86,269 total cost of continuing the project for nine months.