

Record Run of Pink Salmon

JUNEAU — A record run of 6,260 pink salmon returned to Auke Creek near Juneau in 1974 in the fourth year of testing of a gravel incubation system at the creek.

The average pink salmon run in Auke Creek in recent years has been about 2,500 fish. Previous known high before the installation of the gravel incubator was 3,800 pinks.

The 1974 return included 644 marked hatchery fish and 71 marked wild fish from the total pink salmon fry release of 627,000 in the spring of 1973.

Of those released, 74,000 fry came from natural spawning in the creek and 553,000 were produced by artificial incubation in the hatchery. Average survival for all fry released in 1973 was one per cent.

The Auke Creek hatchery was built and is being operated under a cooperative agreement involving the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Territorial Sportsmen.

About one million fry were released at the creek in the spring of 1974 and biologists expect about 10,000 adults to return next summer.