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State reduces salmon stocking in Oahe

Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. - Most of the eggs collected from spawning salmon in Lake Oahe will go to Montana to be stocked in Fort Peck Reservoir, according to state fisheries biologist Bob Hanten.

Workers collected more than 1 million eggs from the 728 chinook salmon that entered the Whitlock Bay Spawning Station on Lake Oahe this fall.

A small number will be stocked back into Lake Oahe, but the state fisheries staff wants the lake's population of rainbow smelt to increase substantially before stocking more salmon in the lake, Hanten said.

Salmon feed on smelt, which also are a prime food source for walleyes.

"The main concern is that if salmon eggs are not taken this fall and salmon are not stocked into Lake Oahe next spring, then there would likely not be a salmon egg source from Lake Oahe after the fall of 2003," Hanten said.

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