



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
REFERENCE SERIES

BOISE RIVER FISHERIES

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Early day emigrants fortunate enough to reach Boise had excellent opportunities to add fish to their often monotonous diet. Chinook salmon ascended Boise River in large numbers, while white sturgeon added variety to fishing opportunities. Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and mountain whitefish contributed additional interest.

Conditions began to change after 1862. Migratory salmon did not always appreciate having to pass through chocolate colored waters they encountered below More's Creek after placer mining began in Boise Basin. Most of their upstream spawning gravels remained undisturbed, but after 1906, construction of Barber Dam blocked access to all suitable river sites.

By that time upper Snake salmon access also had been shut off, so migratory fish had to survive elsewhere.

(This information has not been edited.)