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FISHERIES STATISTICS

of

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1923

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
FISHERIES DIVISION
OTTAWA

Dominion Statistician, R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., F.R.S.

THE FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1923.

The following preliminary statement of the Fisheries of British Columbia is today issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

PRODUCTION

The value of production of the fisheries of British Columbia in 1923, comprising fish marketed for consumption fresh and canned, cured or otherwise prepared, was \$20,808,726, an increase over the previous year of ten per cent, and an increase over the production of 1921 of 49 per cent. The increase over 1922 is due chiefly to the halibut fishery, which in 1923 reached its highest value in the history of the industry with a total product valued at \$6,271,993, an increase over the previous year of \$2,353,552 or 60 per cent. The salmon pack in 1923 totalled 1,341,677 cases, valued at \$9,233,148, compared with 1,290,326 cases, valued at \$10,076,171 in 1922. To the total quantity, pinks contributed 440,932 cases, chum 418,055, sockeye 334,647, and other species 148,643 cases. The pack of chum, which is the cheapest grade of salmon, increased over the previous year by 62 per cent and the pack of sockeye, the most valuable of the species, by 12 per cent. The total catch of salmon in 1923 was 1,514,765 cwt., an increase over the preceding year of 5,690 cwt., while the total value as marketed for consumption fresh, canned, dry-salted, etc., was \$11,935,668, a decrease of \$1,137,259. Of the other chief commercial fishes, herring, black cod, clams and crabs show increases in marketed value, while cod, soles and pilchards show decreases. The number of whales taken increased from 187 in 1922 to 455 in 1923 and the value of the product from \$158,814 to \$332,781. The principal product of the whaling industry is the oil, the output of which in 1923 amounted to 706,514 gallons, valued at \$247,280.

Capital Equipment and Employees

Primary Operations.-The amount of capital represented in the vessels, boats, nets, traps, piers and wharves, etc. engaged in the primary operations of catching and landing the fish was \$5,754,272 compared with \$6,769,327 in 1922, and the number of men employed in these operations was 8,669 in 1923 and 9,495 in 1922.

Fish Canning and Curing Establishments.-The fish canning and curing establishments in operation in 1923 numbered 128, comprising 60 salmon canneries, four clam canneries, one crab cannery, 55 fish curing establishments and 8 whale oil and fish oil factories. A decrease of four is shown in the number of salmon canneries and of 15 in the number of fish curing establishments. The capital investment of the establishments in 1923 was valued at \$17,000,000 compared with \$15,994,036 in 1922, and the number of persons employed was 5,839, compared with 6,318 in the preceding year.

Tables

The following tables show (1) the quantity and value of fish caught and marketed; (2) the total value of the fisheries for the years 1914 to 1923; and, (3) the pack of B. C. salmon by species, 1914 to 1923. The chart shows the fluctuation in the pack of each of the three principal species of B. C. salmon.

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Landed and Marketed,
British Columbia, 1922 and 1923.

Kind		1922		1923	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Cod, caught	cwt.	28,190	166,529	29,251	163,743
Marketed-					
Used fresh	cwt.	27,296	209,535	28,569	197,537
Green-salted	"	335	2,694	2	12
Smoked	"	53	642	339	5,507
Total value marketed			212,871		203,056
Hake and cusk, caught	cwt.	7	28	41	166
Marketed fresh	cwt.	7	49	41	193
Whiting, caught	cwt.	156	682	96	297
Marketed-					
Used fresh	"	116	812	96	396
Smoked	"	20	200	-	-
Total value marketed			1,012		396
Halibut, caught	cwt.	293,184	2,773,560	334,667	4,234,588
Marketed-					
Used fresh	"	293,105	3,917,816	334,527	6,270,766
Smoked	"	38	625	70	1,227
Total value marketed			3,918,441		6,271,993
Flounders, brill, plaice, etc. caught	cwt.	3,614	11,816	754	2,609
Marketed fresh	"	3,614	18,220	754	3,163
Skate, caught	"	553	2,183	930	3,249
Marketed fresh	"	553	2,709	930	4,174
Soles, caught	"	9,253	43,821	3,675	19,151
Marketed fresh	"	9,253	59,505	3,675	28,757
Herring, caught	"	1,002,519	806,732	1,035,823	902,929
Marketed-					
Used fresh	"	13,150	45,709	10,893	51,279
Canned	cases	2,114	11,427	3,099	16,270
Smoked	cwt.	6,946	43,781	6,728	57,526
Dry-salted	"	522,768	650,286	744,036	1,087,966
Pickled	bbl.	755	7,152	1,970	22,617
Used as bait	"	41,507	92,379	36,708	102,792
Total value marketed			850,734		1,338,450
Pilchards, caught	cwt.	20,342	15,255	19,492	31,939
Marketed-					
Used fresh	cwt.	-	-	5	35
Smoked	"	117	819	20	200
Dry-salted	"	-	-	128	154
Canned	cases	19,186	98,082	17,195	82,518
Used as bait	bbl.	3,125	7,154	3,625	9,129
Total value marketed			106,055		92,036
Perch, caught	cwt.	1,797	13,697	1,700	10,048
Marketed fresh	"	1,797	16,404	1,700	12,578
Bass, caught	"	74	476	29	145
Marketed fresh	"	74	608	29	145

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Landed and Marketed,
British Columbia, 1922 and 1923. -con.

Kind		1922		1923	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Salmon, caught	cwt.	1,509,075	7,610,267	1,514,765	5,470,703
Marketed-					
Used fresh	cwt.	251,526	2,209,821	228,087	2,113,874
Canned	cases	1,290,326	10,076,171	1,341,677	9,233,148
Smoked	cwt.	1,264	16,987	373	5,810
Dry-salted	"	96,671	287,749	103,116	284,016
Mild cured	"	27,691	466,767	14,624	278,520
Pickled	"	3,807	16,432	732	7,788
Used as bait	cwt.	-	-	2,400	9,695
Roe	cwt.	-	-	1,619	3,817
Total value marketed			13,073,927		11,936,668
Shad, caught	cwt.	19	190	-	-
Marketed fresh	"	19	232	-	-
Smelts, caught	"	400	3,589	1,036	7,369
Marketed fresh	"	400	4,414	1,036	9,700
Sturgeon, caught	"	322	6,365	574	8,610
Marketed fresh	"	322	6,440	574	11,487
Trout, caught	"	10	110	29	290
Marketed fresh	"	10	190	29	435
Black cod, caught	"	19,013	108,752	16,679	92,319
Marketed-					
Used fresh	"	6,709	46,327	9,477	77,332
Green-salted	"	68	690	7	91
Smoked	"	5,638	69,053	3,594	59,069
Dried	"	295	2,955	-	-
Total value marketed			119,026		136,492
Red cod, etc. caught	cwt.	3,683	18,294	3,029	13,155
Marketed-					
Used fresh	cwt.	3,573	22,994	2,811	15,924
Smoked	"	55	485	109	1,635
Total value marketed			23,479		17,559
Greyfish, caught	cwt.	40,240	10,085	48,640	12,812
Exported	"	40,240	10,085	48,640	12,812
Octopus, caught	"	394	2,876	679	3,505
Marketed fresh	"	394	3,297	679	4,848
Oulachons, caught	"	179	1,074	438	1,752
Marketed fresh	"	179	1,212	438	2,255
Tom cod, caught	"	-	-	50	150
Marketed fresh	"	-	-	50	200
Abalone, caught	"	150	750	-	-
Marketed canned cases		150	1,500	-	-
Clams and mussels					
quahaugs, caught	bbl.	11,974	15,117	14,466	28,755
Marketed-					
Used fresh	bbl.	3,142	14,312	2,661	15,016
Canned	cases	8,832	53,894	11,805	72,200
Total value marketed			68,206		87,216
Crabs, caught	cwt.	8,506	42,981	8,373	34,525
Marketed-					
Used fresh	cwt.	6,455	39,850	6,897	45,217
Canned	cases	1,035	20,835	738	13,265
Paste	cases	8	80	-	-
Total value marketed			60,765		61,482

-4-

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Landed and Marketed,
British Columbia, 1922 and 1923-concluded.

Kind	1922		1923		
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Oysters, caught Marketed fresh	bbl. bbl.	2,044 2,044	30,406 33,081	1,575 1,575	23,625 27,228
Shrimps, caught Marketed fresh	cwt. "	471 471	6,185 8,201	1,422 1,422	14,340 26,004
Fur seals, caught Skins marketed	no. no.	930 930	11,160 18,600	4,424 4,424	53,304 78,475
Whales, caught Marketed-	no.	187	98,551	455	332,781
Whale meat canned cases		-	-	9,119	36,475
Whale oil	gal.	283,314	129,954	706,514	247,280
Whale bone and meal	tons	326	15,060	485	12,625
Fertilizer	"	230	13,800	910	36,400
Total value marketed			150,814		332,781
Miscellaneous-					
Fish oil	gal.	75,461	22,655	180,318	64,696
Fish meal	tons	633	34,270	523	31,087
Fish fertilizer	"	276	14,656	300	12,360
Total value of the Fisheries of British Columbia-					
Caught and landed			11,801,531		11,466,859
Marketed			18,849,658		20,808,726

2. Value of the Fisheries of British Columbia, 1914 to 1923.

Year	Value
1914	\$ 11,515,086
1915	14,538,320
1916	14,637,346
1917	21,518,595
1918	27,282,223
1919	25,301,607
1920	22,329,161
1921	13,953,670
1922	18,849,658
1923	20,808,726

3. Pack of British Columbia Salmon by Species, 1914 to 1923.

Year	Sockeyes	Pinks	Chums	Other Species
	no. of cases	no. of cases	no. of cases	no. of cases
1914	536,696	220,340	184,474	169,529
1915	476,042	367,352	82,000	207,987
1916	214,789	280,644	240,201	259,431
1917	339,848	496,759	475,273	245,605
1918	276,459	527,745	497,615	314,338
1919	369,445	346,639	372,035	305,037
1920	351,405	520,856	84,626	230,729
1921	163,914	192,906	71,408	175,320
1922	299,614	581,979	258,204	150,529
1923	334,647	440,932	418,055	148,043

Pack of the Three Principal Species of Salmon, British Columbia, 1914 to 1923

