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**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**CENSUS OF INDUSTRY**  
**FISHERIES, FURS AND DAIRY STATISTICS BRANCH**

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**ADVANCE REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**FISHERIES**  
**OF**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**1937**

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### ADVANCE REPORT ON THE FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1937

The following report on the fisheries of British Columbia for the year 1937 is issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Department of Fisheries.

#### PRODUCTION

The product of the British Columbia fisheries in 1937 had a total value of \$16,155,439, compared with \$17,231,534 in 1936. These values are for the fish as marketed, whether sold for consumption fresh, or prepared in the various ways, as canned, smoked, dried, etc. Among the different kinds of fish, the salmon is of paramount importance, and to the decrease in value of the product of this fishery is due the drop in the total value of output of the fisheries of the province. The catch of British Columbia salmon in 1937 totalled 1,691,736 cwt., and the marketed value was \$11,907,905, a decrease in the catch, from the preceding year, of 303,763 cwt., and a decrease in marketed value of \$1,479,439. The main item in the output of the salmon fishery is the canned product, and this dropped from 1,881,026 cases (48 pounds to the case), valued at \$11,128,636 in 1936 to 1,508,577 cases, valued at \$9,261,988 in 1937. A large part of the canned salmon produced is exported: in 1937 the total exports amounted to 591,793 cwt. (approximately 1,232,902 cases), valued at \$7,533,648. There were altogether 68 countries to which canned salmon was exported, the largest quantities going to the United Kingdom and Australia, with France third, the United States, fourth, and New Zealand, fifth. Compared with the preceding year the total export shows an increase in quantity of 119,955 cwt. (approximately 249,906 cases), and an increase in value of \$1,166,325.

Among the other important fisheries of British Columbia are the halibut and herring fisheries, the former with a product in 1937 valued at \$1,190,056, and the latter with \$1,181,466. Both of these kinds show increases over 1936 in quantity and marketed value. A considerable part of the herring catch is used in the manufacture of meal and oil, and this applies as well to the pilchard catch. The number of whales taken by British Columbia fishermen in 1937 was 317, with a marketed value of \$220,251, compared with a catch of 370 and marketed value of \$172,201 in the preceding year. The chief product of the whale fishery is oil, and although the quantity produced in 1937 was less than in 1936 the total value increased owing to the higher average price per gallon received for the oil.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds (exclusive of fur seals and whales) taken by British Columbia fishermen during the year was 4,954,195 cwt., with a value



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

PRODUCTION - Concluded.

at the point of landing of \$7,837,930, compared with a catch of 4,896,753, and a landed value of \$7,503,697 in 1936.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND EMPLOYEES

In Primary Operations:

Capital.- An amount of \$9,207,478 is recorded as the value of the vessels, boats and gear used in the primary operations of catching and landing the fish, compared with a total of \$9,870,417 in 1936. The principal items, in order of value, are "gasoline and diesel boats", value \$4,119,124, and "sailing, gasoline and diesel vessels", value \$2,802,790.

Employees.- The number of fishermen employed during the year was 11,184, compared with 11,393 in 1936.

In Fish Canning and Curing:

Capital.- The amount of capital invested in the fish canning and curing industry of British Columbia in 1937 is placed at \$11,771,130, of which the investment of the salmon canneries accounts for \$8,377,110 or 70 per cent. Compared with the preceding year, the total capital shows a decrease of \$760,383. The number of establishments in operation was 84, compared with 91 in 1936.

Employees.- There were 5,574 persons employed by the establishments during the year, this total comprising 3,250 male and 2,324 female employees. Comparative figures for 1936 are: male 3,859; females 2,737; total 6,596.

GENERAL TABLES

Summaries of the principal statistical data of the fisheries of British Columbia for the year 1937 and comparative statistics for previous years are contained in the following tables.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed during  
the years 1936 and 1937.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	8,099	19,380	14,306	35,645
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	6,320	20,239	6,961	18,144
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	413	3,717	1,709	15,630
Smoked	Cwt.	-	-	152	1,522
Smoked fillets	Cwt.	180	1,980	638	7,656
Total value marketed		-	25,936	-	42,952
Hake and Cusk, caught and landed	Cwt.	24	48	4	12
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	24	59	4	14
Whiting, caught and landed	Cwt.	19	49	17	42
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	19	69	17	50
Halibut, caught and landed	Cwt.	105,918	802,327	117,212	927,067
Marketed-					
Used fresh	Cwt.	105,918	943,568	117,212	1,094,214
Livers	Cwt.	1,916	96,311	1,782	94,405
Meal	Ton	-	-	42	1,269
Oil	Gal.	-	-	843	168
Total value marketed		-	1,039,879	-	1,190,056
Flounders, Brill, Plaice, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,202	3,209	650	1,980
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	1,202	3,332	650	2,339
Skate, caught and landed	Cwt.	864	2,543	668	2,004
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	864	3,233	668	2,438
Soles, caught and landed	Cwt.	6,444	33,481	5,605	28,221
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	5,790	32,659	4,633	26,705
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	218	4,360	324	6,496
Total value marketed		-	37,019	-	33,201

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed during the  
years 1936 and 1937 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Herring, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,620,625	383,298	1,929,795	440,303
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	15,908	27,628	23,511	53,717
Canned, round	Cases	51,695	155,336	27,365	87,259
Smoked	Cwt.	2,319	16,232	129	933
Kipperd	Cwt.	2,016	15,654	3,472	24,829
Dry-salted	Cwt.	383,337	347,322	203,401	203,401
Pickled	Bbl.	28	211	68	761
Used as bait	Bbl.	14,227	29,682	29,335	63,645
Meal	Ton	10,085	349,910	14,427	460,139
Oil	Gal.	782,499	200,422	1,283,658	286,782
Total value marketed			1,142,397		1,181,466
Pilchards, caught and landed	Cwt.	889,037	331,808	961,485	421,613
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	173	208	33	150
Canned	Cases	35,007	102,127	40,975	110,351
Used as bait	Bbl.	580	699	1,045	1,090
Meal	Ton	8,715	274,063	8,483	277,122
Oil	Gal.	1,217,097	290,216	1,707,276	513,906
Total value marketed			667,313		902,619
Bass, caught and landed	Cwt.	14	35	18	54
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	14	42	18	65
Perch, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,168	7,574	509	3,607
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	1,168	7,633	509	3,722
Salmon, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,995,499	5,154,784	1,691,736	5,275,666
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	212,753	1,587,213	261,363	1,761,104
Canned	Cases	1,881,026	11,128,636	1,508,577	9,261,388
Smoked	Cwt.	68	1,352	81	2,007
Kipperd	Cwt.	100	1,100	100	1,300
Dry-salted	Cwt.	149,533	331,524	108,983	314,853
Mild. cured	Cwt.	13,321	192,614	26,238	440,403
Pickled	Cwt.	2,589	8,832	23	276
Used as bait	Cwt.	197	492	237	564
Roe	Cwt.	11,719	30,163	9,360	24,982
Meal	Ton	2,083	66,701	1,845	58,838
Oil	Gal.	171,326	38,717	169,239	41,590
Total value marketed			13,387,344		11,907,905



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed during the  
years 1936 and 1937 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Smelts, caught and landed	Cwt.	859	5,722	385	3,286
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	859	7,621	385	3,523
Sturgeon, caught and landed	Cwt.	140	1,905	82	1,313
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	140	2,053	82	1,386
Black cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	7,196	41,791	13,410	54,011
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	4,965	31,585	10,328	60,793
Smoked	Cwt.	1,148	9,661	1,633	21,912
Livers	Cwt.	235	12,251	298	12,546
Total value marketed		-	53,497	-	95,251
Ling cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	68,932	363,857	42,858	238,186
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	68,212	342,344	42,750	254,172
Smoked	Cwt.	-	-	54	729
Smoked fillets	Cwt.	240	2,400	-	-
Livers	Cwt.	1,195	47,403	518	20,916
Total value marketed		-	392,147	-	275,817
Red and Rock cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	3,266	9,624	1,801	5,562
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	3,266	13,820	1,801	7,554
Livers	Cwt.	-	-	11	422
Total value marketed		-	13,820	-	7,976

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed during  
the years 1936 and 1937 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Grayfish, caught and landed	Cwt.	116,140	26,309	113,220	32,428
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	340	68	3,920	1,274
Meal	Ton	1,065	34,906	833	26,740
Oil	Gal.	164,643	34,745	124,464	28,074
Total value marketed		-	69,719	-	56,088
Octopus, caught and landed	Cwt.	206	964	202	866
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	206	982	202	923
Oulachons, caught and landed	Cwt.	222	614	120	300
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	222	803	120	337
Tom cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	14	46	-	-
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	14	55	-	-
Abalone caught and landed	Bbl.	2	34	53	133
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Bbl.	2	34	-	-
Canned	Cases	-	-	53	477
Total value marketed		-	34	-	477
Clams, caught and landed	Bbl.	25,723	48,248	23,039	51,208
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Bbl.	13,265	28,295	13,509	31,465
Canned	Cases	12,579	60,127	12,587	63,906
Total value marketed		-	88,422	-	95,371
Crabs, caught and landed	Cwt.	6,329	26,966	8,052	31,631
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	4,347	23,423	4,948	27,252
Canned	Cases	1,312	15,432	1,546	24,936
Total value marketed		-	38,855	-	52,188
Oysters, caught and landed	Bbl.	6,195	51,978	2,332	36,199
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Bbl.	2,594	38,124	1,745	30,329
Canned	Cases	3,601	21,563	587	5,870
Total value marketed		-	59,687	-	36,199

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed during  
the years 1936 and 1937 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1936		1937	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Shrimps, caught and landed	Cwt.	696	9,238	1,212	13,911
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	646	9,557	652	9,670
Canned	Cases	25	270	222	5,760
Total value marketed		-	9,827	-	15,430
Fur seals, caught and landed	No.	1,888	5,664	2,671	12,431
Skins marketed	No.	1,888	5,664	2,671	12,431
Whales, caught and landed	No.	370	172,201	317	220,251
Marketed -					
Whale bone and meal	Ton	332	6,840	268	5,896
Whale fertilizer	Ton	687	20,610	527	17,128
Whale oil	Gal.	763,740	144,751	662,355	197,227
Total value marketed		-	172,201	-	220,251
Other fish products		-	1,891	-	14,964
Total Value -					
Caught and landed		-	7,503,697	-	7,837,930
Marketed		-	17,231,534	-	16,155,439

Note.- In addition to the quantities shown in the statistical tables of the present report, there were landed at British Columbia ports by United States vessels, the following:

District No. 1 - Salmon, 60 cwt.

District No. 2 - Halibut, 70,213 cwt.; halibut livers, 1,323 cwt.; salmon, 10,657 cwt.; black cod, 4,361 cwt.; black cod livers, 233 cwt.; ling cod livers, 7 cwt.



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

2. Quantity<sup>(a)</sup> and Value<sup>(b)</sup> of Chief Commercial Fishes for the years 1934 to 1937.

Kind of Fish		1934	1935	1936	1937	Increase or decrease 1937 compared with 1936 Increase + Decrease -
Salmon	Cwt.	1,659,900	1,789,431	1,995,499	1,691,736	- 303,763
	\$	12,402,042	12,099,275	13,387,344	11,907,905	- 1,479,439
Halibut	Cwt.	97,681	101,927	105,918	117,212	+ 11,294
	\$	833,829	940,862	1,039,879	1,190,056	+ 150,177
Herring	Cwt.	820,362	1,008,507	1,620,625	1,929,795	+ 309,170
	\$	628,982	580,031	1,142,397	1,181,466	+ 39,069
Pilchards	Cwt.	860,103	911,411	889,037	961,485	+ 72,448
	\$	549,910	670,328	667,313	902,619	+ 235,306
Ling Cod	Cwt.	47,806	62,841	68,932	42,858	- 26,074
	\$	281,644	326,029	392,147	275,817	- 116,330
Clams	Bbl.	8,981	17,902	25,723	23,039	- 2,684
	\$	33,402	61,886	88,422	95,371	+ 6,949
Black Cod	Cwt.	6,391	9,698	7,196	13,410	+ 6,214
	\$	44,057	65,862	53,497	95,251	+ 41,754
Grayfish	Cwt.	117,020	76,800	116,140	113,220	- 2,920
	\$	64,715	46,668	69,719	56,088	- 13,631
Crabs	Cwt.	5,558	6,708	6,329	8,052	+ 1,723
	\$	32,325	44,525	38,855	52,188	+ 13,333
Cod	Cwt.	12,811	16,691	8,099	14,306	+ 6,207
	\$	43,025	56,461	25,936	42,952	+ 17,016

(a) Quantity caught. (b) Value marketed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

3. Value of the Fisheries of British Columbia, 1920 to 1937.

Year	Value	Year	Value
	\$		\$
1920	22,329,161	1929	23,930,692
1921	13,953,670	1930	23,103,302
1922	18,849,658	1931	11,108,873
1923	20,795,914	1932	9,909,116
1924	21,257,567	1933	12,001,471
1925	22,414,618	1934	15,234,335
1926	27,367,109	1935	15,169,529
1927	22,890,913	1936	17,231,534
1928	26,562,727	1937	16,155,439

4. - Capital Equipment of the Fisheries, 1936 and 1937.

In Primary Operations	1936		1937	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Steam vessels	6	150,000	6	150,000
Sailing, gasoline and diesel vessels	294	2,676,700	308	2,802,790
Gasoline and diesel boats	6,605	3,965,273	6,858	4,119,124
Sail and row boats	1,488	86,585	1,230	61,290
Packers, collecting boats and scows	323	1,308,110	224	351,050
Gill nets	28	4,900	39	6,900
Salmon drift nets	6,238	1,026,732	5,887	933,695
Salmon trap nets	4	60,600	5	75,000
Salmon purse seines	220	248,500	208	259,200
Salmon drag seines	9	5,800	21	10,750
Seines, other	64	96,250	59	141,250
Skates of gear	1,659	36,476	2,483	50,675
Otter trawls	14	2,050	13	2,150
Shrimp nets	25	1,775	28	2,350
Smelt nets	38	2,200	41	2,150
Oulachon nets	18	540	27	810
Hand lines	14,390	97,578	14,306	112,680
Crab traps	7,175	27,135	8,651	33,182
Fishing piers and wharves	12	14,000	10	11,500
Freezers and ice houses	3	14,300	11	28,800
Small fish and smoke houses	31	42,800	44	50,200
Other gear	-	2,113	-	1,932
Total Value	-	9,870,417	-	9,207,478

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

4. Capital Equipment of the Fisheries, 1936 and 1937,  
(Concluded)

In Fish Canning and Curing	1936		1937	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
		\$		\$
Salmon canneries	46	9,341,873	37	8,377,110
Clam canneries	2)	51,727	1)	61,256
Other fish canneries	2)		2)	
Fish curing establishments	31)	2,609,394	32)	2,474,047
Freezing plants	2)		2)	
Reduction plants	8	528,519	10	858,717
Total	91	12,531,513	84	11,771,130

5. Number of Employees in the Fisheries for the years  
1936 and 1937

Employees	1936		1937	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Men employed on vessels, boats etc.	11,393	-	11,184	-
Persons employed in fish canning and curing establishments	3,859	2,737	3,250	2,324
Total	15,252	2,737	14,434	2,324



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