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**ADVANCE REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**FISHERIES**  
**OF**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**1939**

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ADVANCE REPORT ON THE FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1939

The following report on the fisheries of the province of British Columbia for the year 1939 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 1939 had a total value of \$17,698,980, compared with \$18,672,750 in the preceding year and \$16,155,439 in 1937. The totals given represent the value of the fish as marketed, whether sold for consumption fresh, or canned, cured, etc. The famed British Columbia salmon fishery had a product valued at \$12,994,812, this amount accounting for 73 per cent of the total fisheries output of the province. The bulk of the salmon is marketed as canned and for this product the chief markets have been found abroad, with countries of the British Empire taking the major part. The herring and halibut fisheries are second and third, respectively, on the list of the chief commercial fisheries of British Columbia in 1939. The chief products of the herring fishery are canned, dry-salted, and meal and oil. In the case of the halibut fishery the entire catch is marketed for consumption fresh, but there are included in the marketed value various by-products, such as livers, and oil and meal. The pilchard fishery, usually of importance, shows for 1939 a greatly reduced catch, and as a consequence the marketed value records a decrease of 88 per cent. Whaling operations, previously carried on from two stations on the Queen Charlotte Islands, were suspended for the season of 1939.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds, including shell fish, taken by British Columbia fishermen during the year was 4,172,224 cwt. with a value at the point of landing of \$7,890,854, compared with a catch of 4,562,864 cwt. and a landed value of \$8,668,566 in 1938.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND EMPLOYEES

Capital.— The capital investment of the fisheries of the province in 1939 recorded a total value of \$22,477,626, compared with \$24,065,263 in the preceding year. The total amount in 1939 comprises \$8,154,350 as the value of the

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND EMPLOYEES

(Concluded)

vessels, boats and gear, and \$14,323,276 as the investment in fish canning and curing establishments, the latter amount covering the value of land, buildings and machinery, materials and products on hand, and cash and operating accounts. The number of establishments in operation during the year was 67, a decrease of 8 from the year 1938.

Employees.— The number of men employed during the year in catching and landing the fish was 9,609, compared with 10,314 in 1938, while the number of persons working in fish canning and curing establishments totalled 6,271, compared with 6,103. The total number of employees credited to the fishing industry of British Columbia in 1939 was therefore 15,880, compared with 16,417 in the preceding year.

GENERAL TABLES

Summaries of the principal statistical data of the fisheries of British Columbia for the year 1939, and comparative statistics for preceding years, are contained in the following tables.

1. VALUE OF THE FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1920 to 1939

Year	Value	Year	Value
	\$		\$
1920	22,329,161	1930	23,103,302
1921	15,953,670	1931	11,108,873
1922	18,849,658	1932	9,909,116
1923	20,795,914	1933	12,001,471
1924	21,257,567	1934	15,234,335
1925	22,414,618	1935	15,169,529
1926	27,367,109	1936	17,231,534
1927	22,890,913	1937	16,155,439
1928	26,562,727	1938	18,672,750
1929	23,930,692	1939	17,698,980



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

2. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed, British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	18,635	45,205	16,322	38,275
Marketed --					
Used fresh	Cwt.	6,140	23,873	5,732	20,993
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	4,251	42,140	3,530	35,115
Smoked	Cwt.	105	1,050	-	-
Livers	Cwt.	150	750	157	1,099
Total value marketed		-	67,813	-	57,207
Hake and Cusk, caught and landed	Cwt.	42	99	27	69
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	42	104	27	83
Whiting, caught and landed	Cwt.	20	58	11	22
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	20	62	11	32
Halibut, caught and landed	Cwt.	120,247	840,667	133,967	970,021
Marketed --					
Used fresh	Cwt.	120,247	1,041,165	133,967	1,305,542
Livers	Cwt.	3,049	155,420	2,186	123,625
Liver oil	Gal.	750	18,750	650	16,250
Viscera oil	Gal.	815	57,050	688	48,160
Offal oil	Gal.	-	-	7,755	1,938
Offal Meal	Ton	-	-	70	3,175
Total value marketed		-	1,272,385	-	1,498,690
Flounders, Brill, Plaice, caught and landed	Cwt.	2,176	5,759	1,507	4,265
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	2,176	6,767	1,507	5,934
Skate, caught and landed	Cwt.	694	2,072	842	2,107
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	694	2,467	842	3,026
Soles, caught and landed	Cwt.	6,554	38,251	6,473	33,678
Marketed --					
Used fresh	Cwt.	5,435	29,679	3,863	22,426
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	373	8,000	870	17,400
Total value marketed		-	37,679	-	39,826
Herring, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,328,913	316,184	2,164,812	507,715
Marketed --					
Used fresh	Cwt.	34,855	61,316	19,102	49,755
Canned (round)	Cases	23,356	75,908	222,658	760,338
Canned (kippered)	Cases	20	140	-	-

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BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

1. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed, British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Herring - (con.)					
Marketed - (con.)					
Smoked (round)	Cwt.	52	405	10,390	29,770
Smoked, (boneless)	Cwt.	-	-	24	182
Kippered	Cwt.	2,955	23,083	3,319	23,803
Dry-salted	Cwt.	149,700	142,115	160,315	156,542
Pickled	Bbl.	20	296	1,591	24,722
Used as bait	Bbl.	19,317	43,564	18,717	39,295
Oil	Gal.	929,158	138,386	1,366,607	393,278
Meal	Ton	9,624	370,052	16,482	721,227
Total value marketed		-	855,265	-	2,198,912
Pilchards, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,035,369	452,999	110,453	17,737
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	19	50	2	10
Canned	Cases	69,473	232,311	7,300	21,347
Used as bait	Bbl.	310	620	20	30
Oil	Gal.	2,195,850	313,559	178,305	43,473
Meal	Ton	8,891	320,467	906	35,833
Total value marketed		-	867,007	-	100,693
Anchovies, caught and landed	Cwt.	-	-	19,320	3,864
Marketed -					
Oil	Gal.	-	-	12,080	3,955
Meal	Ton	-	-	161	6,462
Total value marketed		-	-	-	10,417
Bass, caught and landed	Cwt.	32	72	68	165
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	32	86	68	190
Perch, caught and landed	Cwt.	544	3,827	509	3,622
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	544	3,942	509	3,752
Salmon, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,734,664	6,331,410	1,476,372	5,827,791
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	212,754	1,590,516	232,978	1,936,140
Canned	Cases	1,707,830	12,267,465	1,539,057	10,449,945
Smoked	Cwt.	26	350	-	-
Kippered	Cwt.	113	1,269	-	-
Dry-salted	Cwt.	69,209	179,282	-	-
Mild Cured	Cwt.	19,684	355,554	24,221	512,278
Pickled	Cwt.	802	10,025	-	-
Roe	Cwt.	8,492	18,411	7,984	9,280
Used as bait	Cwt.	50	123	55	27
Oil	Gal.	114,797	22,142	128,170	29,991
Meal	Ton	1,229	46,148	1,372	57,151
Total value marketed		-	14,491,285	-	12,994,812

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

2. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed, British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Smelts, caught and landed	Cwt.	737	6,431	488	3,849
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	737	6,884	488	4,388
Sturgeon, caught and landed	Cwt.	187	2,603	156	2,206
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	187	3,013	156	2,459
Black cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	8,463	34,444	9,067	39,852
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	5,887	38,672	4,742	38,517
Smoked	Cwt.	1,288	16,854	2,028	27,166
Livers	Cwt.	397	14,521	428	11,086
Liver oil	Gal.	50	1,250	106	2,650
Total value marketed		-	71,297	-	79,419
Ling cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	46,516	208,508	47,497	247,976
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	46,486	248,895	47,168	260,943
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	-	-	282	2,746
Smoked	Cwt.	15	180	15	182
Livers	Cwt.	830	33,661	788	33,287
Liver oil	Gal.	31	775	145	3,625
Total value marketed		-	283,511	-	300,783
Red and Rock cod, caught and landed	Cwt.	6,874	17,474	2,203	6,590
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	6,806	19,242	2,063	7,556
Fresh fillets	Cwt.	-	-	56	449
Smoked	Cwt.	34	408	15	178
Livers	Cwt.	26	436	16	510
Liver oil	Gal.	88	2,200	80	2,000
Total value marketed		-	22,286	-	10,693
Tuna, caught and landed	Cwt.	-	-	2,838	14,190
Marketed -					
Canned	Cases	-	-	3,016	36,948
Livers	Cwt.	-	-	50	3,250
Total value marketed		-	-	-	40,198
Capelin, launce and silversides caught and landed	Cwt.	38	444	22	315
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	38	444	22	315
Grayfish, caught and landed	Cwt.	159,690	27,087	114,816	23,888
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	45,951	2,310	-	-
Livers	Cwt.	9,333	49,271	602	5,895
Liver oil	Gal.	-	-	17,511	13,168
Oil	Gal.	113,360	18,802	112,533	25,009
Meal	Ton	1,262	42,807	925	36,322
Total value marketed		-	113,190	-	80,394



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

2. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed, British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939 - Con.

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Octopus, caught and landed	Cwt.	223	927	138	380
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	223	1,016	138	441
Oulachons, caught and landed	Cwt.	209	716	514	1,335
Marketed fresh	Cwt.	209	760	514	1,792
Abalone, caught and landed	Bbl.	-	-	163	1,140
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Bbl.	-	-	3	60
Canned	Cases	-	-	160	1,280
Total value marketed		-	-	-	1,340
Clams, caught and landed	Cwt.	76,633	69,260	29,117	43,607
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	42,169	40,426	21,601	32,651
Canned	Cases	22,155	122,082	5,431	18,286
Total value marketed		-	162,508	-	50,937
Crabs, caught and landed	Cwt.	7,942	25,328	10,912	35,201
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	4,337	21,156	6,814	28,886
Canned	Cases	2,157	33,416	2,049	32,747
Total value marketed		-	54,572	-	61,633
Oysters, caught and landed	Bbl.	2,979	36,258	11,308	48,719
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Bbl.	1,365	28,157	2,691	37,227
Canned	Cases	1,426	9,296	3,647	22,749
Total value marketed		-	37,453	-	59,976

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

2. Quantity and Value of Fish Caught and Marketed, British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939 -Concluded

Kind of Fish	Unit of Measure	1938		1939	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Shrimps, caught and landed	Cwt.	1,054	15,333	831	10,810
Marketed -					
Used fresh	Cwt.	864	12,431	831	12,246
Canned	Cases	460	6,554	-	-
Total value marketed		-	18,985	-	12,246
Fur seals, caught and landed	No.	1,367	3,076	576	1,465
Skins marketed	No.	1,367	3,076	576	1,465
Whales, caught and landed	No.	310	184,074	-	-
Marketed -					
Oil	Gal.	543,378	162,708	-	-
Bone meal	Ton	273	6,006	-	-
Fertilizer	Ton	512	15,360	-	-
Total value marketed		-	184,074	-	-
Miscellaneous -					
Fish oil, n.e.s.	Gal.	-	-	33,066	9,957
Fish meal, n.e.s.	Ton	-	-	477	19,664
Fish fertilizer (manufactured)	Ton	-	-	30	1,650
Other products		-	104,819	-	45,656
Total Value -					
Caught and landed		-	8,668,566	-	7,890,854
Marketed		-	18,672,750	-	17,698,980



BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

3. Quantity (a) and Value (b) of Chief Commercial Fishes, British Columbia,  
1936 to 1939

Kind of Fish		1936	1937	1938	1939	Increase or decrease 1939 compared with 1938 Increase + Decrease -
Salmon	Cwt. \$	1,995,499 13,387,344	1,691,736 11,907,905	1,734,664 14,491,285	1,476,372 12,994,812	- 258,292 - 1,496,473
Herring	Cwt. \$	1,620,625 1,142,397	1,929,795 1,181,466	1,328,913 855,265	2,164,812 2,198,912	+ 835,899 + 1,343,647
Halibut	Cwt. \$	105,918 1,039,879	117,212 1,190,056	120,247 1,272,385	133,967 1,498,690	+ 13,720 + 226,305
Ling cod	Cwt. \$	68,932 392,147	42,858 275,817	46,516 283,511	47,497 300,783	+ 981 + 17,272
Pilchards	Cwt. \$	889,037 667,313	961,485 902,619	1,035,369 867,007	110,453 100,693	- 924,916 - 766,314
Grayfish	Cwt. \$	116,140 69,719	113,220 66,790	159,690 113,190	114,816 80,394	- 44,874 - 32,796
Black cod	Cwt. \$	7,196 53,497	13,410 95,251	8,463 71,297	9,067 79,419	+ 604 + 8,122
Crabs	Cwt. \$	6,329 38,855	8,052 52,188	7,942 54,572	10,912 61,633	+ 2,970 + 7,061
Oysters	Bbl. \$	6,195 59,687	2,332 36,199	2,979 37,453	11,308 59,976	+ 8,329 + 22,523
Cod	Cwt. \$	8,099 25,936	14,306 42,952	18,635 67,813	16,322 57,207	- 2,313 - 10,606
Clams	Cwt. \$	51,446 88,422	46,078 95,371	76,633 162,508	29,117 50,937	- 47,516 - 111,571

(a) Quantity caught.

(b) Value marketed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

4. Capital Equipment of The Fisheries, British Columbia, 1938 and 1939

In Primary Operations	1938		1939	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Steam vessels	6	150,000	-	-
Sailing, Gasoline and Diesel vessels-				
40 tons and over	20	397,400	24	347,468
20 to 40 tons	109	1,126,900	122	1,203,385
10 to 20 tons	127	793,600	146	795,190
Boats-				
Sail and row	1,294	60,675	1,268	43,335
Gasoline and Diesel	6,540	3,917,197	5,533	3,489,465
Carrying boats	209	547,875	298	471,300
Gill nets	32	5,800	65	10,240
Salmon drift nets	6,899	1,214,556	6,694	969,823
Salmon trap or pound nets	5	75,000	5	75,000
Salmon purse seines	262	301,200	254	328,550
Salmon drag seines	9	5,350	9	5,000
Seines	44	118,800	47	113,450
Smelt gill nets	51	2,850	47	2,550
Skates of gear	1,844	42,205	2,777	64,592
Hand lines	14,290	115,034	14,677	113,420
Crab traps	6,688	26,455	6,014	14,561
Shrimp nets	23	1,975	26	2,485
Oulachon nets	28	840	31	855
Fishing piers and wharves	10	11,000	7	13,800
Freezers and ice houses	10	26,300	18	50,300
Small fish and smoke houses	42	50,900	30	36,400
Other gear	-	8,332	-	3,181
Total Value	-	9,000,244	-	8,154,350

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES

4. Capital Equipment of the Fisheries, British Columbia, 1938 and 1939  
(Concluded)

In Fish Canning and Curing	1938		1939	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
		\$		\$
Salmon canneries	38	11,597,913	35	11,535,455
Clam canneries	4)		1)	
Other fish canneries	2)	421,194	2)	60,142
Fish curing establishments	19)		13	1,935,568
Freezing plants	2)	2,377,645	7	275,128
Reduction plants	10	668,267	9	516,983
Total	75	15,065,019	67	14,323,276

5. Number of Employees in the Fisheries of British Columbia,  
1938 and 1939

	1938			1939		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Men employed on vessels, boats, etc.	10,314	-	10,314	9,609	-	9,609
Persons employed in fish canning and curing establishments	3,445	2,658	6,103	3,824	2,447	6,271
Total	13,759	2,658	16,417	13,433	2,447	15,880



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