

HALIBUT FISHERY.

For many years the halibut fishery has been second in importance to the salmon industry. In 1918, however, the great activity in the herring fishery placed it next in importance to the salmon, thus ~~making~~ ^{putting} the halibut industry ~~third in rank~~ ^{in third place}. A great increase occurred in the ~~halibut~~ herring industry, while the halibut fishery showed but a slight increase.

The total catch of halibut from Pacific waters in 1918 was considerably less than that of the previous year, due chiefly to withdrawals of men and ~~withdrawals~~ ^{vessels} on account of the war. There is a slight increase, however in the figures compiled by the Bureau in respect to the yield of halibut from the Alaskan banks. ~~There are great difficulties in securing absolutely accurate statistical information as to the source of catches, of halibut, as a result it is necessary to make certain estimates in connection with this industry, both in respect to investment and production credited to Alaska. It is believed, however, that the figures are so nearly correct as to be acceptable for all practical purposes.~~

~~A matter of interest in connection with the halibut fishery was the consideration given at a number of sessions of the Canadian-American Fishery Conference.~~ ^{was} ~~Details in respect to this matter appear elsewhere in this report.~~ ^{The halibut fishery of the Pacific coast and Alaska, thereto}

HALIBUT FISHERY.

Salmon 1
Herring 2
Halibut 3

In the value of its products, the halibut fishery of Alaska in 1918, as in previous years, was second only to the salmon fishery, yet production was below that of 1917. This may have been due to the fact that fewer boats were engaged in fishing, or it may be that the supply of halibut is being depleted. Some allowance should be made, however, for insufficient statistical information regarding the catch made on the Alaskan ~~flomant~~ banks as the fishing vessels make delivery not only to Alaskan ports, but also to those of British Columbia and Puget Sound. The difficulty in securing accurate data respecting the halibut fishery of Alaska can not be overcome, ~~so that~~ ^{hence} the figures submitted in connection with this industry are largely an estimate both as respects investment and production.

Statistical summary.

The halibut industry in Alaska shows an investment of \$2,607,792 in 1918 as compared with \$2,200,937, ^{in 1917} an increase of \$406,805, which amount is ~~entirely covered by~~ ^{on account of} the enhanced value of all vessels ~~incident to war con-~~ ditions. The number of persons employed was 1,136, an increase of 277 over the number reported in 1917. The products of these fisheries equalled 13,869,706 ^{1,667,686} pounds of halibut, valued at \$1,213,623. This is a ^{increase} decrease of 716,295 ^{over} ~~509,615~~ pounds from the production of 1917, ^{while} ~~but~~ the value of products increase \$98,397. ^{547,460}

The principal operators in the halibut industry were the Booth Fisheries Co., at Sitka; Glacier Fish Co., at Scow Bay; Marathon Fishing & Packing Co., at Petersburg, where the barge Amelia was used as a floating plant; National Independent Fisheries Co., at Juneau and Ketchikan; New England Fish Co., at Ketchikan; Ripley Fish Co., at Douglas, Ketchikan,

Petersburg, and Wrangell; Whiz Fish Co., at Ketchikan; and the San Juan Fishing & Packing Co., at Seward.

INVESTMENT IN THE ALASKA HALIBUT FISHERIES IN 1918.

Items.	Number.	Value.	Items.	Number.	Value
Fishing vessels:			Dories and scows .	264	16,850
Steamer and gas.	118	\$1,536,100	Fishing apparatus		44,910
Tonnage.	2270		Shore and fixed		
Launches	4	4,300	property		292,132
Outfit		700,000			
			Total		\$2,607,792

PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE ALASKA HALIBUT FISHERIES IN 1918.

Races.	Number
Whites	1183
Natives	3
Total	1186

PRODUCTS OF THE ALASKA HALIBUT FISHERY IN 1918.

Products.	Pounds.	Value.
Fresh (including local)	10,491,777	\$ 1,315,985
Frozen	10,069,033	11,267,230
<i>Dry salted</i> - - - - -	3,337,529	348,866
	2,724,602	281,864
	440,400	2,835
Total	13,869,706	1,667,686
	13,783,695	1,549,154

and to avoid restriction upon the production of food.

A preliminary result of the action of the conference ^{as an emergency war measure} was the granting ~~to~~ fishing vessels of each nation of reciprocal port privileges, which included the right of vessels to discharge fares and clear again direct for the high seas. A few Canadian fares of halibut have been landed at American ports, while there have been numerous fares caught on offshore Alaskan banks by American vessels

landed at Prince Rupert. ~~The fare~~

Action also has been taken ~~the~~ resulting in the ^{abrogation of the requirements that} discontinuance of the former

discriminatory practice of requiring Canadian fishing vessels passing through American waters en route to fishing grounds on the high seas ~~to~~ enter and clear at an American port,

Alaska Fishery Intelligence Service

~~The~~ In 1917 there was put into effect jointly by the Bureau of Fisheries and the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System an intelligence service to communicate by ~~the cable~~ ^{telegraph} to various ^{coastal} towns in Alaska the ^{daily} prices of certain species of fish, ~~thus~~ ~~being~~ offered at Seattle and Ketchikan, thus giving fishermen an opportunity of marketing their product under the most favorable conditions.

This service has been continued through 1918 and has ^{no doubt} been of genuine benefit. ~~The prices are~~

Prices are not necessarily telegraphed each day, as it ~~is not~~ infrequently happens that ~~so~~ there are no quotations. The figures as received ~~at the telegraph offices~~

at Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Sitka, ~~and~~ Skagway, Valdez, Seward, and Cordova are posted at the telegraph offices. In some

instances local papers have given these figures a place in their ^{regular news} columns. The figures are secured by representatives of the Bureau. It is the purpose to continue the service.

Captain

INTRODUCTION.

The work of the Bureau of Fisheries in Alaska falls under certain main heads, which may be stated ~~in the order of their importance~~ as follows: Enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the fisheries and fur-bearing animals; administration of the Pribilof Islands Reservation, and matters incidental thereto; the collection of statistics and the dissemination of information regarding the fisheries; the making of certain scientific investigations, chiefly in regard to the life history of the salmon and in connection with the fur-seal head; and the conduct of fish-cultural operations.

The work of the Alaska Service in regard to the fisheries and fur-bearing animals ~~consists chiefly of~~ ^{has been devoted in considerable measure to} the enforcement of the laws and regulations. ~~A number of prosecutions for violations of the laws and regulations were instituted as necessary.~~ ^{the} Patrol of the fishing districts was extended by ^{the charter of several small power boats and} the employment of a number of men temporarily as stream watchmen in the central and southeastern sections, ~~for which small boats were chartered for short periods.~~ The census of red salmon ascending Wood River was again taken, and the private hatcheries were inspected. Work was continued in the opening up of streams for the spawning of salmon.

Three formal hearings were held at Seattle in regard to fishery operations in the streams of southeastern Alaska, in the Copper River, and in the Yukon River, and as a result formal orders were issued imposing restrictions on operations. Detailed statistics ^{were assembled} covering practically all features of ~~importance pertaining to~~ ^{statistics of} the varied fisheries industries of the Territory, ~~and the shipments of furs~~ ^{were also compiled.} ~~were assembled.~~

The work in connection with the Pribilof Islands expanded greatly

in 1918 with the resumption of commercial killing of seals. A number of natives were secured from Unalaska to ^{aid} assist in the work, and temporary assistants were employed for sealing operations and general construction and repair work on the islands. Necessary transportation of supplies and products was furnished by the ^{Bureau's} steamer Roosevelt, ^{together with some cooperative assistance} Fur-seal skins and fox skins were taken and preserved as usual. A by-products plant was erected on St. Paul Island for the conversion of seal carcasses into oil and fertilizer. Cold storage facilities were planned, and the general administration of the natives' affairs was carried on. A census of the fur-seal herd was taken as heretofore. Two sales of fur-seal skins and one of fox skins were held during the year at St. Louis, Mo.

^{Acknowledgment is made of valuable aid}
~~Assistance~~ in the preparation of this report ~~was given~~ by Assistant Agent E. M. Ball, who compiled the statistics of the fisheries and prepared much of the accompanying text. Dr. G. Dallas Hanna assisted in the preparation of items regarding the Pribilof Islands.

by the Navy Department.

Violations of Regulations and Seizures of Furs.

More active efforts were made in the current calendar year to prevent violations of the regulations, and to ^{cause the infliction of} ~~punish adequately such cases~~ ~~as occurred.~~ ^{penalties when violation occurred} The ~~rapid~~ depletion of the once-plentiful supply of fur-bearing animals has aroused residents of Alaska to a realization of the necessity for proper protection of this natural resource; ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~result~~ ~~of~~ ~~which~~ ~~usually~~ in ~~consequence~~ of which excellent cooperation is given ~~(in almost every~~ ~~case)~~ in securing information for prosecutions.

them, communicate with them in the most appropriate way. An extract of the part of these instructions regarding your trip on the Vicksburg will be placed in the hands of Messrs Ball and Baker for their information and guidance.

"Promptly on the first and fifteenth of each month you will prepare semi-monthly reports of detailed nature. For the period while you are in their respective districts you will furnish Messrs. Ball and Baker with copies of your semi-monthly reports. It may be stated that Mr. Ball's district extends from Controller Bay on the east to Ikatan Bay on the west, both inclusive; Mr. Baker's district includes the Aleutian Islands, the north side of the Alaskan Peninsula from Unimak Pass to and including Bristol Bay, and Kuskokwim Bay."

a letter of March 18 from Mr. Scudder's instructions -
Copies of ~~the~~ inclosures with Mr. Scudder's instructions are attached hereto for your information.

Commissioner.

3 inclosures.

On February 18, 1918, Samuel Gowen, special fur warden of the Bureau seized from Ike Koslosky, manager of the Northwestern Fur Co., at Anchorage, Alaska, 96 beaver skins, 41 unprime mink skins and 1 unprime land otter skin. Koslosky was fined \$100 and costs, amounting to \$30, in the United States commissioner's court for having the skins in his possession. The skins were forwarded to Tacoma for sale for the account of the Government.

On February 6, 1918, the Collector of customs at San Francisco forwarded to the Bureau 4 baby sealskins which were seized at that port in 1914. No claim or application for their return was made by the owner and instructions were given by the Secretary of the Treasury for the forwarding of the skins to the Department of Commerce.

① In January, 1918, the Bureau seized at Seattle, Wash., 47 unprime red fox skins and 3 unprime cross fox skins from a shipment by O. K. Queen of Unalaska, Alaska. About the same time the master of the fisheries steamer Roosevelt seized from a seaman aboard the vessel 5 unprime fox skins which had been secured at Unalaska on the last voyage of that vessel. These skins will be sold at Seattle for the benefit

① Warden Shirley A Baker, ^{at Dillingham} stationed in western Alaska, reported that on March 18, 1918, he seized one unprime cross fox skin from John Matson at Squaw Harbor. On May 15 he seized 6 mink and 16 muskrats from Tom Tennison at Dillingham. He also confiscated 5 bottles of strychnine which were in the possession of Tennison.

Warden C. L. Larson reported that on May 4, 1918, D. O. Banville was convicted in the United States Commissioner's court at Franklin of having purchased and ~~illegally~~ shipped a marten skin illegally taken by an Indian. He was fined \$20 and paid costs amounting to \$2.75.

On June 19, 1918, Game Warden R. E. Steel reported from Eagle, Alaska, that acting under information from the deputy United States marshal at Fort Yukon, he had found and taken possession of 21 marten skins which had been mailed at Fort Yukon, addressed to a New York Firm. *The skins were forwarded to the Bureau.*

On July 17, 1918, Warden C. F. Townsend reported from Ruby, ~~Alaska~~ that a United States marshal had turned over to him 10 beaver skins seized from a trader from Seattle. *The skins were forwarded to Seattle.*

On August 5, 1918, Assistant Agent Christoffers cooperated with customs inspectors at Seattle in the examination of furs transported by the schooner Ruby. Seizures were made of the following unprime skins: 3 mink skins consigned by L. K. Goodmanson of Bethel Alaska, to Louis Levy, San Francisco; 4 mink skins, consigned by Oscar Samuelson, Bethel, Alaska, to Seattle Fur Sales Agency, Seattle; 6 mink, consigned by J. A. Dull of Bethel, Alaska, to West Coast Grocery Co., Tacoma, wash; 21 mink skins consigned from Apokak, Alaska, to the Kuskokwim Fishing & Transportation Co., Seattle; 1 weasel and 7 mink skins consigned by C. F. Calson of Bethel, Alaska, to B. B. Green for Horney-Williamson Company, New York City;

Russian Mission
Warden C. F. Townsend report from ~~Halifax~~ Alaska, on August 22 20 the seizure from August Melzer, a trader, of 3 beaver, 3 lynx, and 1 mink. The beaver were concealed in the lynx skins, and the latter although prime were accordingly confiscated also. The skins were forwarded to Seattle.

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On December 11 Special Warden Martin reported the seizure of Seward from J. H. Smith of one beaver skin. A search warrant was issued for the examination of Smith's baggage, which resulted in securing this skin. He was charged with its unlawful possession and pleaded guilty in the

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United States commissioner's court at Seward, being fined \$75, with costs in the sum of \$22.05. *The skin was forwarded to Seattle*

On November 21 Special Warden F. A. Martin at Anchorage, seized 10 beaver skins from John Brunner which had been brought in as baggage. Brunner was tried before the United States commissioner at that place and was found guilty of unlawful possession of these skins and was fined \$100 and paid costs amounting to \$24.30. *The skins were forwarded to Seattle*

Assistant Agent Christoffers reported on November 22 the seizure of at Seattle of the following furs: From shipment ^{by} ~~at~~ Capt. Louis Knafllich from Seward, Alaska, to the Kuskokwim Fishing & Transportation Co. at Seattle, 6 unprime weasel skins; from shipment by August Melzer at Nome to himself at Seattle, 5 unprime mink skins.

Assistant Agent, H. J. Christoffers confiscated from H. Roseboom of Bellingham, Wash., 9 fur seal skins which had been purchased from natives in the Bristol Bay district in 1917. The Solicitor of the Department ruled that these skins could not be ~~examined~~ properly authenticated as having been lawfully taken and must be sold at public auction for the account of the government. *After such sale* Certificates would ~~then~~ be issued to show that purchasers were lawfully entitled to their possession.

Warden C. F. Townsend, of Fairbanks, reported that he investigated the rumors as to a ~~put~~ case of poisoning at Shageluk in the fall of 1917, but obtained no definite ~~data~~ information.

On March 4, 1918, Nicholai Mudock was arrested/for having killed on complaint of Warden Shirley A. Baker two sea otters off Sutwik Island, on the Pacific Side of the Alaska Peninsula, between April 18 and 25, 1917. The case was tried at Naknek on March 13; Mudock pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months in jail. A heavier penalty was not imposed on account of the defendant's precarious physical condition. Mudock claimed to have sold one of the skins to William Rutchow, a fur trader at Cold Bay. Careful search failed to locate the skin in Rutchow's possession. Warden Baker complained to the marshal at Kodiak that Rutchow was selling whisky and making seditious remarks. He was subsequently fined \$600 and costs for these two offenses.

Sales of seized skins.

~~xxx~~ During the calendar year 1918, ~~seized~~ ^{confiscated} the following ~~seized~~ skins were sold at public auction: 41 mink, 96 beaver, 1 land otter, 51 red fox, 4 cross fox, 2 sea otters, and ¹² fur-seal skins. The gross amount received was \$~~2,494.88~~ ^{2609.90}. ~~Expenses~~ Commission and other expenses amounted to \$115.02, leaving a balance of \$2,494.88 to be turned into the United States Treasury. ~~The remaining skins will be sold later.~~ ^{A considerable number of confiscated}

skins were awaiting sale at the end of the year.

40 - 1 Reading of letters, reports and telegrams; dictating, initialing and signing of letters and telegrams to persons both in and out of the service.

20 - 2 General administrative duties of Alaska Service, including (a) planning of field work; (b) preparation of instructions to field employees; (c) examination of and action in respect to reports from field employees; (d) consideration as to action in regard to prosecutions for violations of fisheries and fur-bearing animal laws and regulations, including sales of confiscated property; (e) supervisory work regarding movements of Bureau's supply ship and three patrol vessels in Alaskan waters; (f) action in respect to construction and repairs of vessels for Alaska; and (g) conferences with officials of various other government bureaus in Washington, including Navy Dept. re vessels in Alaska service and transportation of supplies; Coast and Geodetic Survey re establishment of markers at stream mouths, Biological Survey re fur-bearing animal regulations, Bureau of Chemistry re examination of siezed samples of salmon.

10 - 3 Writing reports, chiefly for publication. This includes annual publication entitled "Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries," and articles for monthly Service Bulletin of the Bureau; preparation of material for annual report of Commissioner; and preparation of monthly report of Alaska service.

10 - 4 Conferences with Commissioner and others in Bureau regarding conduct of work.

10 - 5 Allotting of funds; preparation of estimates for appropriations; consideration of and signing of requisitions, pay rolls and vouchers; and initialing vouchers.

5 - 6 Official travel, usually to St. Louis, San Francisco and Seattle, and occasionally to Alaska; Work in connection therewith includes supervision and inspection of field employees and their operations; attendance at sales of government furs; conduct of hearings and taking of testimony in regard to limitations and prohibitions upon fishing in Alaska; and arrangements bearing upon purchase and shipment of supplies for 325 native wards of the Bureau on the Pribilof Islands.

Sales of Seized Furs.

On May 7 the Seattle Fur Sales Agency sold for the Government 51 red fox and 4 cross foxes, the same having been seized at Seattle several months ago upon arrival from Unalaska, Alaska, these skins being adjudged unprime. The gross price was \$749.65, which less the commission of \$37.48 produced a net balance of \$712.17.

On May 22 the West Coast Grocery Company of Tacoma, Wash., sold 41 minks, 96 beavers, and 1 land otter for the account of the Government. These were skins seized last spring by Special Warden Gowen at Anchorage, Alaska. The gross price was \$1,133.35. *Freight charges amounted to \$7.43* The commission for selling was \$33.70, leaving a net revenue to the Government of ~~\$1,099.65~~ *\$1082.12.*

In this connection mention is made of the sale on March 7, 1918, by the Seattle Fur Sales Agency of two sea-otter skins. These skins were taken by natives in Alaska and were later turned over to the Bureau of Fisheries by the Bureau of Education. The taking of sea-otter skins in Alaska at any time is illegal. The net proceeds of the sale were \$689.70, which amount becomes Government revenue.