

Annual report of Capt. J. O. Small re

Cook Inlet 1927

Seattle, Washington.
January, 23rd.
1928.

ALASKA
FEB 2 1928
FISHERIES

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

There follows a summary of operations of the U.S.F.S. "Kittiwake" in the Cook Inlet and Southeastern Alaska Districts for the season 1927.

The writer left Seattle on April 27th on board the S.S. "Admiral Farragut" accompanied by Gordon Brown, Ships cook, arriving at Seldovia May 5th. Through the courtesy of Mr. Rounsefell, of the Bureau, transportation was arranged for to Halibut Cove, where the "Kittiwake" was moored for the winter.

On May 6th the "Kittiwake" was moved from Halibut Cove to Port Graham, where we remained until May 11th, making minor repairs, beaching vessel, and copper painting hull.

PATROL MAINTAINED

A general patrol was maintained with the U.S.F.S. "Kittiwake" covering the entire district. Additional patrol work was done with a power dory on the east shore, from Ninilchik to Possession Point. Mr. Andrew Berg, of Kenai, was in charge of this patrol.

STREAM GUARDS AND OTHER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

The following temporary force was employed during the season:

James Hart,	Stream guard, stationed at Kalgin Island stream. June 1st to August 14th.
J.W. Wilson,	Investigating streams in the vicinity of Knik Arm. June 1st to August 19th.
Andrew Berg,	Patrolling east shore with power dory. May 25th to August 15th.
Walter Lippincott,	Assisting on board "Kittiwake" June 6th to June 12th.
Alex Lind,	From May 11th to May 25th constructing fish weir in English Bay. May 26th to June 3rd catching trout at Kalgin Island stream. June 4th to August 18th at Chinik Creek, where a weir was constructed and put into operation on June 23rd.

STREAM GUARDS AND OTHER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES, (Contd)

Jack Tansy, Assisted on "Kittiwake" May 5th to May 11th. May 12th to May 25th assisting with the construction of English Bay stream weir. From May 25th to August 17th was in charge of this stream with instructions to count all red salmon through the weir. Was engaged again on August 23rd to take charge of Bureau activities, as the writer was ordered to Juneau with the "Kittiwake"

CANNERY OPERATIONS

There were thirteen cannery concerns operating in this district, as follows:

<u>NAME OF OPERATOR</u>	<u>LOCATION OF PLANT</u>
Libby McNeill and Libby	Kenai River
Northwestern Fisheries Company	" "
Kenai River Packing Company	" "
Gorman and Company	Anchorage
Alaska General Fisheries	"
Snug Harbor Packing Company	Snug Harbor
North Coast Packing Company	Ninilchik
W.A. Keller Packing Company	Deep Creek
Kodiak Herring Company	" " <i>mild-cured + pickled salmon</i>
Cook Inlet Packing Company	Seldovia
Alaska Year Round Canneries, Inc.,	Seldovia
Fidalgo Island Packing Company	Port Graham
Artic Packing Company	English Bay

NEW CONCERNS OPERATING COOK INLET 1927

Snug Harbor Packing Company, At Snug Harbor. Idle 1925-26.
 Artic Packing Company, At English Bay. A very small hand cannery. Idle 1925-26.
 Kenai River Packing Company, Kenai River, a new one line plant.
 Kodiak Herring Company, At Deep Creek, mild curing on small scow.

IDLE PLANTS

Alaska Packers Association, Kasilof River.

SALMON RUN

King salmon were taken along Starishkof Beach, north of Anchor Point, as early as May 10th. The King salmon run was exceptionally large, the run lasting until the first of August.

Red salmon did not begin to run in quantities until July 15th. Prior to the above date there was a very light run of this species. A second run of Red salmon struck in above Anchor Point July 28th and continued to run heavy until August 1st, though a steady run on a diminishing scale continued until August 7th.

A good run of Pink and Chum salmon followed with the Reds. Areas in the vicinity of Kachemak Bay, Seldovia Bay, Port Graham, and lower Inlet points were especially well supplied with the Pink and Chum grades.

ESCAPEMENT

Weirs were established in English Bay stream and at Chinik Creek, (Kamishak Bay)

The total count of Red salmon at English Bay Stream	18,697.
The total count of Red salmon at Chinik Creek	7,079.
The approximate count of Red salmon at Kalgin Island stream, (No weir in this stream)	18,655.

During the latter part of the Red salmon run at English Bay stream exceptionally heavy rains set in and continued until there was approximately eighteen inches of water running over the top of the weir, which prevented any further count.

Complete reports of weirs in Cook Inlet, showing daily escapement, etc., were forwarded to the Bureau on November 15th, 1927.

While no personal inspection was made of the spawning grounds tributary to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, from reliable information given the writer the escapement was considered above the average.

Investigations made by temporary Warden, Mr. J.E. Wilson, covering various streams tributary to Knik Arm indicate a good escapement although owing to recent forest fires there were numerous obstructions in streams and salmon experienced serious difficulty in reaching the spawning beds. As many obstructions as possible were removed by Mr. Wilson during his investigations.

ESCAPEMENT (Contd)

Streams tributary to Kachemak Bay and other lower Cook Inlet areas showed a very large escapement of the Pink and Chum variety.

TOTAL PACK CANNED SALMON

The combined packs canned salmon in Cook Inlet as per reports submitted by the various packers are as follows:

Reds - - - - -	102,262 Cases	
Kings - - - - -	27,385 "	
Cohoe - - - - -	34,836 "	
Pink - - - - -	14,878 "	
Chum - - - - -	7,020 "	Total all grades, 186,381 Cases.

CANNED CLAM PACK

2,105 Cases - 1/2 lb cans - 48 to case. Total 1052 1/2 cases.

TOTAL PACK MILD CURE AND HARD SALT SALMON

Red salmon - hard salt-	37 bbls	200 lbs each.
King " - mild cure-	66 Tierces	800 " "

FISHING GEAR EMPLOYED COOK INLET

64 Beach traps
 36 Deep water pile traps
 353 gill nets - 8,725 fathoms (see letter 1/30/28)

VIOLATION

On May 18th the writer observed two traps north of the north marker at Chuit River, which appeared to be less than the legal distance apart, and upon measuring they were found to be but 1858 feet apart. The Alaska General Fisheries, J.A. Magil trap No. 1, was in and fishing approximately 1,900 feet north of the north marker and Mr. Frank Smith was erecting a trap just outside of marker. Advised both operators that, if Smiths trap was completed, both traps would be illegal structures, and subject to seizure and confiscation.

VIOLATION (Contd)

Advised the U.S. Attorney of facts, and was in turn advised by him to await further developments. On June 30th the Alaska General Fisheries applied to the District Court for an order restraining Frank Smith from fishing his trap at Chuit River. On this day the writer was subpoenaed as witness and ordered to appear in Court July 2nd, at 10:00 A.M. On July 2nd case was tried in the District Court at Anchorage before Judge E.C. Hill.

On July 12th a temporary injunction was granted to plaintiffs, Alaska General Fisheries, restraining Frank Smith, defendant, from fishing his trap. Court ordered webbing removed from trap, but permitted structure to remain.

REMARKS

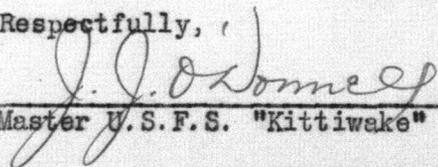
As per Mr. Winn's instructions the "Kittiwake" on August 9th proceeded to Iliamna Bay and picked up party of five employees of the Bureau, on August 10th, transporting them to Anchorage, arriving August 11th. On this date received instructions from the Commissioner to discharge all Stream Guards, excepting streams where weirs were maintained, and fish still running. Upon the completion of this work, on August 22nd, the writer returned to Anchorage and received a wire from the Commissioner to proceed with "Kittiwake" to Juneau.

"Kittiwake" left Anchorage on August 23rd, at 2:10 A.M. and arrived at Seldovia 7:10 P.M. same day. On August 24th placed Mr. Jack Tansy in charge of Bureau activities, with instructions to make regular reports to Juneau office.

"Kittiwake" left Cook Inlet on August 25th for Juneau, stops being made at Seward, Port Etches, and Yakutat, arriving at Juneau 9:45 P.M. on September 6th. Received orders in Juneau from Agent Winn to proceed to West Coast of Prince of Wales Island with Warden Suomela on board to inspect spawning grounds in that district. Left Juneau on September 10th; stops were made at Petersberg, Wrangell and Ketchikan, arriving on the West Coast the evening of September 13th.

A general inspection of all the principal streams and spawning grounds in this district was made under the direction of Mr. Suomela, accompanied by Mr. Ole Thynes, of the Naket Packing Corporation, who represented the industry. This work was completed on October 22nd, and "Kittiwake" left for Ketchikan, arriving there the evening of October 23rd. After purchasing supplies and filling fuel tanks "Kittiwake" sailed from Ketchikan October 26th, arriving in Seattle October 31st.

Respectfully,


Master U.S.F.S. "Kittiwake"