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Seattle, Washington,
December 2, 1931.

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D.C.

ALASKA
DEC 11 1931
FISHERIES

Sir:

There follows a summary of Bureau operations in the Alaska Peninsula District for the season of 1931.

The seasons operations commenced with the departure from Seattle, Washington, of the U.S.F.S. "Eider" on April 23, and the U.S.F.S. "Crane" on April 29. The "Eider" transported approximately 15 tons of supplies and 7 Bureau employees to False Pass, where the vessel arrived on May 4. After discharging freight and passengers the "Eider" left for Kodiak, Alaska, on May 5.. The "Crane" escorted the U.S.F.S. "Scoter" across the Gulf of Alaska and arrived at False Pass on May 10. The "Crane" had a capacity load of freight for Bristol Bay and 16 Bureau employees.

At False Pass the "Crane" and "Scoter" each picked up two employees for the Bristol Bay Area, who had proceeded from Seattle to False Pass on board the "Eider". The "Crane" sailed from False Pass on May 12, for Naknek and Port Moller, returning to the south side of the Alaska Peninsula on May 31.

Two weeks were required to discharge four thousand feet of lumber and three tons of miscellaneous supplies thru' the surf at Bear River.

PATROL MAINTAINED.

The tender "Auk" was again chartered from the Pacific American Fisheries. Extensive repairs were made by the owners, assisted by Bureau employees, and upon completion of this work the "Auk" was assigned to the Shumigan Island Area. A continuous patrol was maintained in these waters and the mainland coast, from Cape Tolstoi to Kupreanof Point, until the end of the season.

The "Merganser" was reconditioned at False Pass and placed in commission on June 1. In charge of Captain Clipper patrolled the area from False Pass to Thinpoint. In addition to her patrol duties the "Merganser" acted as tender for the Morzhovoi weir, and was used to collect salmon scales at Thinpoint Cove and Ikatan Bay.

PATROL MAINTAINED. (Cont'd)

The "Crane" commenced a general patrol of the entire district on June 1, and continued on this detail until June 13, on which date this vessel was transferred to the Priblof Islands and was replaced by the "Eider" in the Peninsula District until the end of the season.

One trip was made to Dutch Harbor and Akutan by the "Eider" on July 28, and 29, to observe fishing operations in that district. Apprentice Fish Culturist Marcus W. Meyer, having finished patrol activities in the Port Moller district, was transported to Dutch Harbor and placed in charge of Bureau activities there during the herring fishing season. A patrol of Unalaska Bay was maintained, using an outboard motorboat and trips were made to other Aleutian Island points on Coast Guard vessels.

Marcus W. Meyer, in charge of the Port Moller district, patrolled fishing operations in that district, using a skiff with an outboard motor and traveling on various fishing vessels and cannery tenders to different waters in the district. The crew at Bear River weir made several patrols of the fishing grounds when not engaged in duties at the weir.

STREAM GUARDS AND OTHER TEMPORARY LABOR EMPLOYED.

The following temporary force was employed during the season:

<u>Name and address.</u>	<u>Position.</u>	<u>Place of duty.</u>
✓ Francis Baldrige, Tacoma, Wash.	Streamguard,	U.S.F.S. "Merganser"
✓ Roy A. Buck, King Cove, Alaska.	Weir watchman,	<u>Orzinoi Weir.</u>
✓ Mike Clipper, King Cove, Alaska.	Master,	U.S.F.S. "Merganser"
✓ Harry Hegman, King Cove, Alaska.	Weir watchman,	<u>Morzhovoi Weir.</u>
✓ Vernon Hilliker, Mount Vernon, Wash.	Laborer,	"Auk"
✓ Teander Olson, Quinault, Wash.	Weir watchman,	<u>Bear River Weir.</u>

STREAM GUARDS AND OTHER TEMPORARY LABOR EMPLOYED. (Cont'd)

<u>Name and address.</u>	<u>Position.</u>	<u>Place of duty.</u>
✓ Onnie Siikanen. Seattle, Wash.	Engineer,	"Auk"
✓ Lowell E. Smith, Seattle, Wash.	Acting Master,	U.S.F.S. "Crane"
✓ C.R. Sullivan, Leavenworth, Wash.	Weir watchman,	Bear River Weir.

CANNERIES OPERATED.

Six canneries operated in this district during the season 1931, a reduction of four plants from the previous season, with a corresponding reduction of fishing gear and pack.

<u>Name of concern.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>Type of plant.</u>
P.E. Harris & Co.,	False Pass,	Salmon Cannery.
Pacific American Fisheries,	King Cove,	" "
" " "	Squaw Harbor,	" "
" " "	Port Moller,	" "
Herendeen Bay Consolidated, Canneries,	Herendeen Bay,	" "
Unga Fishing Co.,	Sand Point,	Floater "International"

The Ikatan plant of the Pacific American Fisheries did not operate, their traps being fished by the King Cove plant of the same company.

The floating cannery "Santa Flavia" which operated in Coal Harbor the previous year did not operate in the Area during 1931.

The floating cannery "Anvil" which operated at Port Heiden the previous year was not in operation during 1931.

The Unga Fishing Company are new cannery operators in this district, but operated two traps on Unga Island in 1930, selling their catch to the Squaw Harbor plant of the Pacific American Fisheries.

CANNERIES OPERATED (Cont'd)

The floating cannery "Mazama" which operated at Sand Point during the latter part of the previous season was not operated as a cannery during 1931, but was used as a supply ship for the Herendeen Bay Consolidated Canneries.

The floating cannery "International" operated by the International Packing Company at Kuskokwim River, Fox Bay and Makushin Bay the previous year was operated under contract by the Unga Fishing Company at Sand Point during 1931.

CANNED SALMON PACK.

The total pack of salmon canned, as reported by the several operators, was as follows:

<u>Company.</u>	<u>Location of plant.</u>	<u>Total cases.</u>
P.E. Harris,	False Pass,	120,281
Pacific American Fisheries,	King Cove,	78,813
" " "	Squaw Harbor,	65,438
" " "	Port Moller,	30,825
Unga Fishing Co.,	Sand Point,	65,972
Herendeen Bay Consolidated Canneries,	Herendeen Bay,	32,838
		<hr/> 394,167.

The total pack by species was as follows:

<u>Reds.</u>	<u>Kings.</u>	<u>Pinks.</u>	<u>Chums.</u>	<u>Cohoos.</u>
201,130	3,281	66,336	111,403	12,017.

This, compared with a total of 555,044 cases in 1930, shows a reduction in pack accounted for by the fewer number of operators, and the corresponding reduction of fishing gear.

FISHING GEAR.

A total of thirty two trap permits were reported issued by the War Department in the Peninsula Area. Only twenty four of these were actively fished, six being fished as dummy traps and two were not hung with web or fished.

FISHING GEAR (Cont'd)

The Pacific American Fisheries Port Moller plant operated one trap at Port Moller and one trap at Nelson Lagoon.

The P.E. Harris Company False Pass plant operated three traps in Ikatan Bay, one at East Anchor Cove, one at Belkofsky Bar and three in Pavlof Bay.

The Pacific American Fisheries King Cove plant operated four traps in Ikatan Bay and one in Morzhovia Bay, previously fished by the Ikatan plant of the same company. One trap in Ikatan Bay, for which a permit was issued, was not hung with web and one trap in Morzhovia Bay was fished only as a dummy. Two traps in the vicinity of Moss Cape were fished, one at Volcano Bay and one in Pavlof Bay, making a total of nine traps fished by this cannery. One trap in Pavlof Bay, for which a permit was issued, was not hung with web and four traps in Pavlof Bay and one at Kitchen Anchorage were fished as a dummy.

The Pacific American Fisheries Squaw Harbor plant operated two traps on Unga Island.

The Unga Fishing Company operated one trap on Unga Island, and fished an independent trap at Popof Head, owned by Helen R. Mellick. This trap, and operator, are new and a good catch was taken.

D. Hotovitsky operated an independent trap in Belkofsky Bay and sold his catch to the Pacific American Fisheries King Cove cannery, as in previous seasons.

Seines. The Herendeen Bay and Port Moller canneries each operated four full purse seines in the Port Moller district, a total of 2,400 fathoms of web being used.

P.E. Harris Company operated four beach seines in False Pass, Morzhovoi Bay and Pavlof Bay.

The King Cove cannery operated five beach seines in waters between Thinpoint and Cape Tolstoi.

The Squaw Harbor cannery operated nine beach seines with only moderate success in Shumagin waters and along the mainland coast, between Beaver Bay and Kupreanof Point.

The Unga Fishing Company operated two beach seines in the Shumagin district during the last two weeks of the season.

FISHING GEAR (Cont'd)

Five independent seines were operated in various waters during the season, the catch being sold to canneries or pickled by small operators.

A total of 1,625 fathoms of beach seines were operated in the Area, 1,300 fathoms by the canneries and 325 fathoms by independent fishermen. This is a reduction of 910 fathoms of cannery gear and an increase of 260 fathoms of independent gear, as compared with 1930.

WEIRS.

Bear River. The weir was put in operation on June 24, after much trouble in landing and transporting supplies to the site. After one attempt to install the weir on the former site had proved unsuccessful the material was moved down-stream, about seventy five yards, and a site selected where the stream is wider, but shallower, and the current less swift. The weir was erected at this point with little trouble. The first fish were counted through on the date of completion, 14 reds passing upstream, the count gradually increasing until July 11, when 18,438 reds were counted. During the next ten days the count averaged 6,400 reds daily, and on July 22, the record count of the season was made, a count of 28,507. From July 23 to August 21 the count varied from 12,666 reds on July 23 to 504 reds on August 5, the average daily count for the period being 3,063 reds. The last count was made on August 21, the weir removed and stored the following day. About fifteen thousand fish were estimated in the river below the weir on the date of removal. Total count for the season, by species, is given below:

<u>Reds</u>	<u>Kings</u>	<u>Humps</u>	<u>Chums</u>	<u>Total</u>
210,308	112	84	3,145	213,649

Compared with the 1930 count of 37,376 reds the above would indicate a good escapement, but is far below the estimate of 600,000 reds for 1929.

Orzenoi weir. This weir was installed on June 14, and though fish were showing in the bay as early as June 3, the first count was made on June 24, when 17 chums passed. Eleven reds were counted the next day and the peak of the red run arrived on July 20, when 831 reds were counted. The last reds were counted on August 3, the weir removed and stored on August 11.

WEIRS (Cont'd)

Final counts for the last three years are given below, for comparison, but as commercial fishing was allowed during the two preceding seasons, and prohibited during 1931, the increase in escapement was less than expected.

<u>Reds</u>	<u>Humps</u>	<u>Cohoos</u>	<u>Chums</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>
5,740	4,997	None	None	10,737	1929
1,923	1,505	"	15	3,443	1930
5,756	14,470	558	2,092	22,876	1931

In addition to duties at the weir the watchman had fair success removing trout from the stream, but as fishing operations interfered with ascent of salmon they were discontinued during the run.

Morzhovoi weir. Morzhovia weir, at Middle Lagoon, was installed during the last week of June, and the watchman placed in charge on July 1. On July 2nd twelve red salmon were counted and the count increased gradually till July 16, when 1,912 reds passed through. Another peak count of 2,244 reds occurred on July 27, and the best daily record of 4,712 was made on August 29. The last fish passed through on September 7, and the weir removed on September 11. Final counts for the six years the weir has been in operation are given below:

<u>Reds</u>	<u>Kings</u>	<u>Humps</u>	<u>Cohoos</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>
13,590	3		176	13,769	1926
23,932		252	1,586	25,770	1927
8,904		1	530	9,435	1928
15,974			45	16,019	1929
24,551				24,551	1930
28,588				28,588	1931

ESCAPEMENT.

The counts at the three weirs in the Peninsula Area are representative of escapement in red salmon streams in their vicinity. The Bear River count may be taken to indicate a relatively good escapement in all red salmon streams along the northern shore of the Peninsula, likewise the count at Morzhovoi weir compared with escapement observed in other red salmon streams from Morzhovoi Bay to Pavlof Bay. The Orzenoi count is comparable only to a small stream in Clarke Bay, nearby, and apparently has no connection with the run at the red salmon streams of the Shumagin Islands.

Streamguards Olson and Sullivan reported a good showing in streams examined northeast of Port Moller and Marcus W. Meyer reported a good escapement in Port Moller, Herendeen Bay and Nelson Lagoon streams, prior to July 25. Subsequent reports from other sources indicate there was a later run that arrived along the Bering Sea side about August 9, and as commercial fishing had stopped at that date, a good escapement must have entered all streams. Reports from natives and trappers, taking in winter supplies, indicate a good escapement in Izembeck Bay streams of reds and chums, also a fair escapement of these species in streams along the north shore of Unimak Island.

Sanak Island streams were reported to have a good escapement of reds and a fair escapement of chums and humpbacks. Native residents reported plenty fish for local food requirements.

Streams entering False Pass and Ikatan Bay had a good escapement of chums and a small escapement of humpbacks. The chum stream at Morzhovoi Village showed a good escapement of both early and late runs.

Mainland streams from False Pass to Morgan Point had a good showing of chums, but only a small escapement of humpbacks.

The western entrance point to King Cove

Streams on Deer Island carried a fair escapement of humpbacks and a few chums.

Mainland streams from Morgan Point to Arch Point showed a poor escapement with the exception of King Cove streams and the stream at Belkofsky Village, which had fair showings of humpbacks. The run at other streams in this district consisted mainly of chums and was small in each case.

Pavlof and Canoe Bay streams all had good escapements of chums and East Bay, or Longjohn Lagoon, was found to have a good escapement of reds. One stream in Canoe Bay and the Settlement Point stream showed a fair escapement of humpbacks.

ESCAPEMENT (Cont'd)

Streams from Cape Tolstoi to Balboa Bay had a good showing of chums and fair showing of humpbacks. A late run of both species arrived about August 15, these fish entering the streams as late as August 22. Balboa Bay streams all showed very poor escapements, apparently due to volcanic upheavals. Mineral deposits were seen near the mouths of these streams that were not seen the previous year, and no fish were observed in or near the mouths of streams.

Streams from Swedania Point to Kupreanof Point all had good escapements of chum and fair escapements of humpbacks. The streams at Little Norway and Clarke Bay had the largest comparative escapements of humpbacks in the Area.

Escapement of red salmon at Wosnesenski Island was reported as fair, and a large escapement was seen at Acheridina Bay. The escapement at Red Cove Lake was very poor and the general escapement in all Shumagin Island streams was poor, except as noted. Fair escapement of reds at Korovin Village stream and fair showing of chums and humpbacks in Zachary Bay streams was reported by Captain Lowell Smith, of the "Auk"

No survey of streams was made in the district from Kupreanof Point to Castle Cape, as this district is closed to all commercial fishing. Reports from fur farmers and natives, living in the district, indicate there was a good escapement of both chum and humpbacks in all streams.

Few cohoes were seen in any of the streams examined along the south side of the Peninsula although the canneries reported an aggregate pack of 12,017 cases, which is slightly less than normal, the earlier closing date considered.

In general a good escapement for the entire Area can be reported of reds and chums and a light escapement of humpbacks and cohoes.

HERRING "ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA"

There follows a list of operators who packed herring in the Dutch Harbor Area, together with the number of barrels as reported at the end of the season:

HERRING "ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA" (Cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pack</u>	
Austenes & Rod,	1,776	Barrels seasticks.
Ed Jacobson,	527	" "
Ole M. Olson,	1,088 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
Campbell & Dougal,	1,003	" "
J.W. Manson,	576	" "
C.P. Madsen,	175	" "
Polar Packing Co.,	2,062	" "
" " "	40	" Bloaters.
Hans Johnson,	458	" Seasticks.
" "	80	" Bloaters.
Jordon Columbus,	1,454	" Seasticks.
Hoveland & Boe,	527	" "
Kalgin Packing Co.,	2,600	" "
" " "	320	" Bloaters.
Utopian Fisheries,	<u>3,353</u>	" Seasticks.
" "	832	" Frozen.
" "	14	" Bait.

The first commercial catches of herring were taken on July 5. As a rule the first fish are not suitable for commercial purposes, but herring this year were of exceptional quality right from the start, sizes running to large and extra large, flesh fat and firm. Toward the end of the season a few unsuitable fish were taken.

Twelve concerns packed herring in the Dutch Harbor Area, using a total of twenty five gill nets, each fifty fathoms in length. One purse seine of 171 fathoms and one purse seine of 171 fathoms. Commercial fishing for herring ceased on September 3.

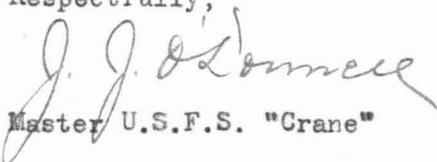
Page 11, The Commissioner.

COOPERATION.

On instructions from Agent Dennis Winn, transportation was furnished Senior Draftsman Lance E. Hendrickson of the U.S. Engineers Office, Juneau, on a tour of inspection of fish traps and a survey of Nagai Island, aboard the U.S.F.S. "Eider" and the patrol boat "Auk".

Transportation was also furnished Department of Justice employees and Territorial employees at various times without interference with other Bureau work.

Respectfully,


Master U.S.F.S. "Crane"