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WATERFRONT WHIFFS

American Halibut Landings Ahead of 1931—Salmon Canning Nearing Close—Trolling Conditions On Islands

Halibut landings at the port of Prince Rupert for the 1932 season up to and including yesterday totalled 9,698,050 pounds as compared with 11,113,240 pounds at a similar date last year. Canadian landings so far this year amount to 3,080,250 pounds as against 4,520,800 pounds. Despite the falling off in Canadian landings, volume of American landings has actually overtaken that of last year with the 1932 landings standing at a total of 6,617,800 pounds as compared with last year's 6,592,440 pounds at a similar date.

During the week ending yesterday landings totalled 609,000 pounds of which 180,000 pounds was from Canadian vessels and 429,000 pounds from American. Prices showed a falling off as compared with the few weeks immediately previous. The top bid of the week for Canadian fish was 5.5c and 2.6c which the Vera Beatrice received for 18,000 pounds while the low price of the week was 4c and 2c which a number of boats were paid. For American fish the high price was 5c and 2c and the low 3.5c and 2c.

Salmon Pack

Figures on the British Columbia coast salmon pack up to August 6 this season show a production for the year up to that date of 422,493 cases as compared with 382,604 cases last year at a similar date.

The pack for the Fraser River this year, up to the date mentioned, was 69,765 cases as compared with 30,433 cases last year. The Naas River pack was 44,288 cases as against 12,660 cases, the Skeena River pack 95,008 cases as compared with 142,713 cases, the Rivers Inlet pack 61,669 cases in comparison with 70,251 cases, the Smith's Inlet pack 25,636 cases as against 13,915 cases, the central area pack 79,418 cases as compared with 67,146 cases, the Queen Charlotte Islands pack 3,175 cases comparing with 2,780 cases and the pack for District No. 3 44,534 cases in comparison with 42,436 cases.

Per varieties the production in cases for this season up to August 6 was as follows, figures for last year up to the corresponding date being also shown:

	1932	1932
Sockeye	203,671	231,386
Springs	48,622	17,156
Steelheads	507	592
Blue Backs	20,130	19,931
Cohoe	33,614	17,407
Pinks	41,924	13,366

Reports of splendid fishing on the trolling grounds of the Queen Charlotte Islands are being received in Prince Rupert. Some boats are reported to have made as high as $100 per day. Very few pinks have been showing up in Queen Charlotte Island waters, the run of this variety being late. Quite a few salmon which were tagged at Nitinat on the West Coast of Vancouver Island are reported to have been caught at Langara Island.

According to statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Fisheries the grand total of the halibut catch on the Pacific Coast for the 1932 season up to the end of June was 21,250,930 pounds as compared with 21,422,678 pounds during the corresponding period last year. The Seattle catch for the year is almost double that of last year while the landings at Alaska ports are just about half of last season. Prince Rupert is just about holding its own so far as American landings are concerned while Canadian landings are considerably down.

Following are figures covering landings for this year and last up to the end of June at various coast ports:

	1932 Pounds	1931 Pounds
Alaska:		
American	3,548,669	6,910,109
Prince Rupert:		
American	4,108,400	4,509,000
Canadian	2,118,250	3,223,000
Vancouver:		
Canadian	578,500	889,500
Van. Island:		
Canadian	108,600	105,780
Seattle:		
American	10,788,511	5,772,529
Canadian		12,760
T't'l Amer.	18,445,580	17,191,638
T't'l Canad.	2,806,350	4,231,040
Grand Total	21,250,930	21,422,678

Co-operative Assigns

Finis has, apparently, been written, for the time being at least, to the activities of the British Columbia Fishermen's Co-operative Association in the canned salmon industry of this coast. The association has assigned its cannery in Vancouver to the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association which, in turn, has leased the plant to Frances Millerd. What Mr. Millerd intends doing with the plant has not yet been announced.

The well known Seattle halibut schooner Dorothy, operated under charter from Capt. Ole Hvatum by Capt. Ed. Larsen, returned to Seattle recently after a two months' codfishing trip, bringing in 72 tons of fine fish taken from the waters west of Unimak Pass. After discharging at Seattle, the Dorothy sailed again for the westward and will cure a cargo of bloater stock at Dutch Harbor. The Helgeland is another Seattle halibut schooner which is now engaged in codfishing, having returned to Seattle recently with a catch of 60 tons.

Off to England

Bill Bacon sailed on the Princess Adelaide last night for Vancouver where he will visit for a while before proceeding to England where he may remain for the next two years. In the Old Country Bill will visit with relatives of his father, Jim Bacon, Prince Rupert's fish curing pioneer. Billy is expecting to see many things of interest in the Old Land. It will be his first trip abroad and his many friends will join in hoping it is a pleasant and profitable one.

Weather conditions on the trolling grounds of the Queen Charlotte Islands, particularly North Island, during the latter part of the summer have been the worst in years, according to word received in Prince Rupert. Despite southerly winds, abundant rainfall and considerable fog, there has been a good average run of fish.

Conditions on the Frederick Island grounds have been somewhat better as at Seven Mile Point. The run was off, however, around Shagg Rock.

Prices being very low, many boats are reported to have hardly cleared expenses this year while others, of course, have not done so badly. A number of small halibut boats turned to trolling on the Queen Charlotte Islands this year, finding the halibutting hopeless.

Fur seals, in the opinion of the North Island fishermen, have been destroying a large quantity of fish this year. Spring salmon caught early in the season showed a great many scars and under marks. It was during this time that the fur seals were migrating north past the Queen Charlotte Islands. During the latter part of the season, when there were no such seals, the scars and marks were found to be almost nil. The total amount of fish destruction, however, is believed to have been very high.

Halibut fishermen have also reported ravages on the part of fur seals. One halibutter, fishing on the Frederick Island grounds, claimed to have had all the fish taken off the hooks on an 11-skate set. The boat was simply forced to leave the grounds and go elsewhere.

Fur seals are protected by international agreement, the abrogation of which is favored by many fishermen.

RETURNS TO SEATTLE FROM NORTH ISLAND

NORTH ISLAND, Aug. 20:—Russell Miles jr. of Seattle, after a visit here with his uncle, Bill Larkin, left recently on the fish packer Takla for New Westminster whence he will proceed home.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Friday & Saturday
TWO SHOWS — 7 and 9 p.m.
Feature Starts at 7:30 & 9:30
ADMISSION — 15c & 50c
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FOX NEWS

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