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Thor Johnson

The Men's Store. Second Avenue

WATERFRONT WHIFFS

Scientist's observations on halibut fishing--- herring reduction to be engaged in by Bushby---new halibut boats at Seattle

The situation on the halibut banks south of Icy Straits is serious, writes Wm. F. Thompson, Director of Investigations, International Fisheries Commission, in the Pacific Fisherman. This is particularly true of the banks in Hecate Straits, Dixon's Entrance and off Goose Island. That the decline previous to 1914 has continued is not doubted by those fishermen who have followed events carefully. The catch per skate of gear was 400 or 500 pounds to a set in 1902, was 143 pounds in 1914, during 1926 was below 45 pounds. The fall, it will be noticed, was not very different in rapidity in the two periods, 143 pounds being one-third of 429 and 45 pounds being slightly less than one-third of 143.

But the past two years have seen somewhat of a revival of fishing on southern banks by larger vessels landing fish in southern ports. The revival is commonly ascribed to the use of small hooks. The fish caught seem unduly small in size, and the percentage of small chickens very high, so that the agitation for prohibition of use of this small gear has become very strong. In consequence, the International Fisheries Commission, during its operation of the Scandia the past summer, tried these hooks thoroughly.

The small hooks, No. 6284, were put on ten pound gangings, and the skates thus rigged were run alternately in the same strings with skates rigged with large hooks, No. 6283, on sixteen-pound gangings. All gear was nine feet between hooks, which were 210 to the skate. Every fish taken inboard was measured, and banks with medium fish as well as banks with small were tried. The results are worthy of remark, and are based upon a great deal of experiment.

Greatly to the surprise of the investigators, the sizes taken by the small hooks were not greatly different from those taken by the large. This held for all sets of gear made during the summer of 1926. The fact was clear, that fish were caught regardless of the size of hooks, lines or bait. If a school of small fish was encountered, that size was taken by both large and small hooks. If large fish were met, both hooks took that size. It seems necessary for us to conclude that the small hooks, although taking very slightly smaller fish, were not what might be termed unduly destructive because of the sizes they took. The data

from the various trips have been assembled to show this by Richard Bult of the Commission's scientific staff, and a later detailed report will be published. The data given here are preliminary in nature.

For all the trips made during the summer of 1926, there were fished 644 skates of gear with small hooks, and 547 skates of gear with large hooks. The total number of fish handled was 11,796, exclusive of those taken by sets all of one kind of gear or by snarled and broken skates. The average length taken by the small hooks was 26.1 inches and that taken by the large was 26.4 inches. The difference in average length was therefore three tenths of an inch and the difference in weights thus represented was about four ounces in the 6 1/2 pounds which a fish of this size weighs.

But when the catches on the exclusively small fish or "chicken" banks were compared by means of strictly paired skates the difference became less marked. Thus for the fishing off Timbered Islet, the average fish taken by small gear was 24.8 inches, that taken by large was 24.9 inches. When fishing off Tow Hill and Massett the average length taken by small was 26.2 inches, that by large 26.1 inches. When on the Gravel Grounds (Goose Island), the respective average sizes were 25.9 inches and 26 inches. A 26-inch fish weighs 6-5 pounds. For the sake of emphasizing this slight amount of difference, there is presented a chart, showing for each type of gear the percentage of the total catch which fell at each unit in length. The height of the lines above the base indicates the percentage of the total catch which happened to be of each particular length. There is, it is plain, no real difference in the sizes taken.

IN PROBATE.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
In the Matter of the Administration Act, and
In the Matter of the Estate of Andrew Alm, otherwise known as Anders Alm, Deceased, Intestate.

TAKE NOTICE that by order of His Honor, Judge Robertson, the 15th day of December, A.D. 1926, I was appointed Administrator of the estate of Andrew Alm, otherwise known as Anders Alm, deceased, and all parties having claims against the said estate are hereby required to furnish same, properly verified to me, on or before the 17th day of January, A.D. 1927, and all parties indebted to the estate are required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me forthwith.

NORMAN A. WATT,
Prin. Rupert, B.C.
Official Administrator.
Dated the 21st day of December, A.D. 1926.

IN PROBATE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
In the Matter of the Administration Act, and
In the Matter of the Estate of Clark Edward Bronson, Deceased, Intestate.

TAKE NOTICE that by order of His Honor, Judge Robertson, the 15th day of December, A.D. 1926, I was appointed Administrator of the estate of Clark Edward Bronson, deceased, and all parties having claims against the said estate are hereby required to furnish same, properly verified to me, on or before the 16th day of January, A.D. 1927, and all parties indebted to the estate are required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me forthwith.

NORMAN A. WATT,
Prin. Rupert, B.C.
Official Administrator.
Dated the 18th day of December, A.D. 1926.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT R.S.C. CHAPTER 115

Edward Lipssett, Limited, of the City of Vancouver, hereby gives notice that he has under Section 7 of the said Act deposited with the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa and in the office of the District Registrar of the Land Registry District of Prince Rupert, a description of the site and the plans of wharf proposed to be built in the Harbor of Prince Rupert in front of Lot 2, Block C, Section 1, Map 923.

And Take Notice that after the expiration of one month from the date of the first publication of this notice, Edward Lipssett Limited, under Section 7 of the said Act, apply to the Minister of Public Works at his office in the City of Ottawa for approval of the said site and plans and for leave to construct the said wharf.

Dated at Vancouver this 11th day of December, 1926.

IN PROBATE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
In the Matter of the Administration Act, and
In the Matter of the Estate of Alberta Daniels, Deceased, Intestate.

TAKE NOTICE that by order of His Honor, Judge Robertson, the 15th day of December, A.D. 1926, I was appointed Administrator of the estate of Alberta Daniels, deceased, and all parties having claims against the said estate are hereby required to furnish same, properly verified to me, on or before the 16th day of January, A.D. 1927, and all parties indebted to the estate are required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me forthwith.

NORMAN A. WATT,
Prin. Rupert, B.C.
Official Administrator.
Dated the 16th day of December, A.D. 1926.

EFFICIENCY OF SMALL GEAR

But there was a great difference in the efficiency of the two types of gear. Wherever tried, the small gear took nearly 60 per cent more fish. In concrete figures, the average number of fish per skate of 210 hooks was 11.9 for the small hooks and 7.6 for the large, for a total of 1,243 skates. This difference held throughout and probably would hold very closely for two vessels fishing the two kinds of gear side by side.

This, then, was the secret of the last two seasons of successful operations upon the "baby chicken" grounds. The small hooks were more efficient, and it simply began to pay to go back to the old nearly-exhausted, grounds, and to pick up the cheaper grades of fish. All the blame for the landings of small chickens should not be placed on the small hooks and fine gear. The prices paid for these small chickens have been rising, if anything more rapidly than those for the medium halibut, a phenomenon which occurs in every declining fishery. The rise in prices received in Seattle by certain boats between June 25 and July 5 for the various years is shown in the accompanying figure. Not merely is the general rise in price remarkable, but the close approach of the price paid for "seconds" to that paid for first-quality fish in 1923 should be noticed. The time was bound to come sooner or later when it would pay to catch and land these small fish. The small hooks merely hastened the day. A few more years of decline among the larger fish and a few more years of rising prices would see another revival of small-halibut fishing.

Of course, there are other things which should be said. One of them is that regardless of how many "baby chickens" are taken off the banks, there are startlingly few breeders left. A very good course would seem to be to protect a few of the larger fish as well as the chickens so that they could breed at least once. Our observations show that the vast majority of the fish that are taken south of Cape Ommaney have never spawned, and are not given a chance to reach spawning size. The reason is easy to see when, as at Cape Chacon, in a year and six months as high as 75 per cent of a lot of tagged fish are recaptured.

WASTE OF FISH

Our experiments indicate to us that in any ordinary fishing on the chicken grounds, a great mass of the smallest fish taken are "shucked" off by the fishermen, so roughly as to kill them. The small-hook fisherman is not alone in sinning thus. Both large and small hooks kill a great many such fish. In conclusion, it is urged very earnestly that some more drastic and effective way of protecting these baby chickens must be devised than the temporary measure of prohibiting small hooks and light gear.

The effects of small gear upon larger halibut are being tried this winter by the Scandia on the spawning banks off

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The

Compliments of the Season

A Very

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

LAND ACT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO LEASE LAND

In Prince Rupert Land Recording District of Prince Rupert, and situate on the north shore of Crescent Inlet, Moresby Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, in the Province of British Columbia, and being about one and a half miles from the head of the Inlet.

TAKE NOTICE that James Field, of Prin. Rupert, B.C., occupation Marine Broker, intends to apply for a lease of the following described lands:— Commencing at a post planted on the north shore of Crescent Inlet, about one and a half miles from the head of the Inlet; thence northwesterly 20 chains; thence southwesterly 20 chains; thence southeasterly 20 chains; thence northeasterly 20 chains, and containing forty (40) acres, more or less.

JAMES FIELD,
Applicant.
Dated November 27, 1926.

LAND ACT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO LEASE LAND

In Prince Rupert Land Recording District, and situate at Huston Inlet, Queen Charlotte Islands.

TAKE NOTICE that Robert M. Currie, of Vancouver, B.C., occupation fish packer, intends to apply for a lease of the following described lands:— Commencing at a post planted at northeast corner about 1,000 feet westerly from miners' cabins at head of Huston Inlet; thence westerly 20 chains; thence southerly about 12 chains; thence easterly 20 chains; thence northerly about 12 chains, and containing 24 acres, more or less.

ROBERT M. CURRIE,
Applicant.
Dated November 27, 1926.

WORKING OFF YAKUTAT

The Skandia arrived at Prince Rupert November 30, from her first trip of the season, having left Seattle early in the month and worked on the Yakutat banks since then. Nine hundred halibut were tagged on the trip, the fish totaling 60,000 lbs., too badly hooked for tagging were brought aboard, examined for scientific data, and brought to Prince Rupert in ice. She left again for the banks immediately after discharging.

The plankton net has been used in an effort to take halibut spawn, but spawning has not yet advanced far enough to produce results of value in this line.

Preparations are being made by the Rupert Marine Products Ltd. to inaugurate a new departure at the Tucks Inlet plant. In line with his progressive policy, the energetic head of the concern, George G. Bushby, will emulate the example of Alaska interests which have been for several years in the herring reduction business. Arrangements are now being made to manufacture herring oil and fertilizer at the local establishment and, as soon as the fish appear, probably next month, two seiners, which are to be engaged, will start catching them and the boats of the R.M.P. fleet will do the packing. This will permit of operations being carried on during months when there is not the usual supply of halibut and salmon offal. There seems no reason why this line should not be as successfully pursued here as it is in Alaska.

FISHERMEN'S ELECTION

On Tuesday next, December 28, between the hours of ten and six. Votes will be taken simultaneously at Ketchikan, Seattle and here in the annual

BOSTON : CAFE

Christmas Day

Special Dinner

\$1.50

- | | | |
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| Ice Celery | Mixed Olives | Fresh Shrimp Cocktail |
| Relishes | | |
| Soup | | |
| Cream of Chicken | Consomme Royal | |
| Starter Fish | | |
| Boiled B.C. Salmon | Cardinal Sauce | |
| Sweet Entree | | |
| Compoete of Peaches with Rice | | |
| Roast | | |
| Stuffed Young Turkey | Cranberry Sauce | |
| Vegetable | | |
| Cauliflower AuGratin or Green Peas | | |
| Dessert | | |
| English Plum Pudding | Hard Sauce | |
| Hot Mince Pie | Fruit Jelly | Christmas Cake |
| Ice Cream | Canadian Cheese | |
| Tea | Coffee | Milk |

election of Union agent at Prince Rupert. Three candidates are in the running for the post here: Capt. Jack Morrison, the present agent; Harry Meagher former agent, and Dave Milne, prominent in local fishermen's affairs.

Louis Locker, the well known Porcher Island logging magnate, with some twenty members of his outfit, arrived in town this week to spend the festive season under the bright lights.

A party of Christmas shoppers from Osland, including Joe Krismussen, John Johnson, Mrs. Grimason and Miss Winnie Anderson, school teacher, were in town last week-end. They were back again yesterday to conclude their bargain hunting.

Six or seven men employed at the Rupert Marine Products' plant at Tucks (continued on page six)

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| Fry's Oven Glass | | Electric Perculators | |
| Aluminum Roasters | | Electric Soldering Irons | |
| Aluminum Perculators | | Boys' Carpenter's Tool Chest | |
| Electric Irons | | Disston Hand Saws | |
| Electric Heaters | | Stainless Steel Cutlery | |
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