Waterfront Whiffs

Salmon Fishing Season Nearly Over Now; Deer Hunting Starts With Bang; Halibut Landing Still High

Save for chum seining in the southern portion of the central division and on the Queen Charlotte Islands and a few boats gillnetting for cohoes on the Skeena and Naas Rivers, salmon fishing in District No. 2 is pretty well concluded now. The only canneries still in operation are Inverness and Humpback on the Skeena River, which are closing this week-end, and Namu, Walker Lake and Tallhea, in the central division, and South Bay, Lagoon Bay, Old Massett and New Massett, on the Queen Charlotte Islands, which are remaining open for a while longer to put up chums. Practically all the cohoes being caught on the Skeena and Naas Rivers are now being sold on the fresh fish market at Prince Rupert.

The total pack for the season up to the end of last week stood at 541,-16- cases, as compared with 1,140,-863 cases at a similar date last year. The small pack this year is due to the fact that there was a much heavier pink pack last year. As previously, explained, however, 1929 has been a good year for the choice and higher priced sockeye, so, on the whole, fishermen and canneries have done better than in 1928, despite the smaller aggregate pack. The pack of 90,000 cases of pinks on the Skeena River this year as compared with 190,000 cases last year may be taken as an example for all areas in District No. 2.

Following were total pack figures for each area in the district this year up to September 14, with those of 1928 for comparison:

	1929	1928
Naas River	28,362	97,217
Skeena River	211,700	272,012
Central division and		
Bella Coola	218,290	463,254
Rivers Inlet	67,329	80,137
Smith's Inlet	12,404	33,638
Q. C. Ids., north	420	125,779
Q. C. Ids., south	2,656	68,826

Figures for the Naas River are up to August 16, when packing ceased, and in Rivers Inlet and Smith's Inlet up to August 11 and 4, respectively.

On the north end of Queen Charlotte Islands, all the fish packed so far has been from trolling boats, the chum seining season having hardly started there. The chum run on the south end of the islands is poor.

The aerial patrol of the fisheries is still being maintained by the department with Pilot Neville Cummings in charge of a Western Canada Airways plane on the Queen Charlotte Islands and Pilot Walter Gilbert in the central division.

Friends of Mickey Anderson, well known district fisherman, who lost his boat Amy S. over a year ago when it was engaged in fishery patrol duty, are not letting down on the agitation to have Mr. Anderson compensated for his loss. It is contended that an officer of the department was in charge of the boat at the time, and therefore, the department should make good the loss. The wreck occurred outside of Banks Island. Support of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union in connection with the claim is now being sought.

For Inspection

The Dominion government snagboat Bobolink, Capt. J. D. Watson, arrived in port Thursday noon from the Skeena River and will be taken into dry dock on Monday for a thorough inspection. It is the first time in two months that the Bobolink has been here. It was reported earlier in the year that a new snagboat was to be built at the local dry dock to take the place of the Boboling but nothing more definite has been heard about it. Possibly it may be determined from the present inspection whether or not the vessel should be replaced.

The Pacific Stevedoring Co.'s big piledriver has been moved temporarily down to the floats of the Pacific Salvage Co., having been crowded out of the regular mooring at the dry dock.

The Ketchikan power cruiser Alice, Capt. Steve Selig, arrived on Wednesday afternoon from the north to spend two or three days here. With Capt. Selig on his visit to Prince Rupert is Clyde Colony, well known Ketchikan machine shop operator.

To replace the Lion which was sold recently to the Power Corporation of Canada, the Pacific Salvage Co. has purchased the derrick scow of the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. The scow is at present engaged at Galloway Rapids in connection with getting out gravel for the surfacing of the Kaien Island highway and will be taken over by the new owners on completion of that work.

Capt. Paul Armour will fare forth today with the Red Boy with party of friends for a bird hunting expedition to Winter Harbor. Return to port is planned for Monday morning early.

Hunting Season Opens

The deer hunting season got off to a good start at the end of last week and, while some of the nimrods did fairly well, there is still lots of game left in the woods for future gunning operations. Porcher Island was the objective of most of the parties which went out.

Three deer and about 30 grouse were brought home by Capt. Jack Lindsay whose party on the Irene L. included, besides the skipper, Joe Lindsay, Johnny Wilson, Don Crerar and A. Ivarson. This crew proved the champions of last season and are again in the lead this year.

Claude Kirkendall had his old sidekicker, Charlie Starr, with Chris Elkins thrown in for good measure on the Polly Ann and they got one deer and a dozen or so grouse.

Skipper Pete Anderson, Jim Bacon, Harry Stiles and George Roger succeeded in capturing two deer and about 15 grouse from the Zenobia at Jap Inlet to give proof of their prowess.

M. M. Stephens went out with Jack Owen on his Vera S. Frye and got one deer.

Before leaving for Toronto to resume their medical studies Will and Fred Kergin were taken out for a hunting trip by their father, Dr. W. T. Kergin on the Full Moon. Having no luck deer hunting at Porcher Island, they proceeded to Winter Harbor and got a few birds.

Aboard the Vaquero, Skipper Alex Macdonald had Alex McRae, Charlie Mills, M. L. Stepp and F. C. Good as his guests on a trip to Winter Harbor. They brought home three geese.

A few geese were also taken by a party including Dr. Ned Tait and Joe Scott which went to Winter Harbor with Capt. Norman Brodhurst on the Klemtu Cannery.

Dave Stuart, Bill Wrathall and Charlie Stuart went out on the Tseekwa but started the season off badly by getting skunked.

Harry Ward returned to port last Saturday after an interesting cruise down the coast as far as Buccaneer Bay, about 30 miles north of Vancouver, with a federal government geologist on the power cruiser Bonanza. The nose of the Bonanza was poked into many nooks and crannies along the coast and Harry estimates that he covered about 1600 miles in the month he was away. They averaged about eight hours' running a day, travelling as much as 14 hours in a single day. The mining engineer left the Bonanza at the southern end of the trip and Harry was accompanied on the cruise home by his aunt, Mrs. Harold Corke, of Victoria who is now paying a visit here.

Northern Cross Back

The Anglican mission boat, Northern Cross, skippered by Rev. W. B. Jennings, returned to her base at the Yacht Club floats on Thursday afternoon following a trip to the Naas River, Anyox, Alice Arm and Stewart with members of the church survey commission. They left here last Saturday morning and the Bishop of Niagara and Dr. Gisborne of Ottawa state that the trip was one of the most pleasant episodes in their tour of the Dominion. Good weather made things the more pleasant for the distinguished travellers.

Reporting the run of chum salmon on the Queen Charlotte Islands almost a complete failure, the seineboats Zanardi, Capt. R. Gammon, and Carlyle S., Capt. Martin Johnson, and the halibut boat Signal, Capt. Paddy Ivarson, returned to Prince Rupert the middle of this week after an absence of two or three weeks. The Zanardi and Carlyle S. proceeded to Bella Bella district to engage in seining.

Capt. J. R. (Scotty) Reid is again the first of the Prince Rupert halibut fleet to tie up for the winter, discontinuing operations for the season after the trip ending Monday of this week. It will be a few weeks yet before other smaller vessels of the Prince Rupert fleet begin to tie up generally for the winter.

During this week, a good run of coho salmon was reported in the Skeena River, 50 or 60 boats still operating meeting with good success. Most of their fish was disposed of to the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. and other Prince Rupert buyers. The week marked the closing down of Inverness and Humpback Bay canneries, the last of the Skeena River canneries to operate this season.

Under the able pilotage of Skipper H. F. Anderson, mayor of Banks Island, C. O. Rowe returned safely to port Thursday night after a two weeks' trip to his mineral claims four miles south of Captain's Cove. While there, Mr. Rowe made improvements to the trail leading from the beach to the showings and also opened up some veins by means of surface cuts. The mineral showing is a very promising one, Mr. Rowe reports.

While on his trip down the coast, Mr. Rowe also paid social calls to Oona River, Spiller River and Lewis Island.

Leading Boats

With the season less than two months to go, the Takla, Capt. Chris Parkvold, is leading the Canadian halibut fleet of Prince Rupert for quantity of fish landed since the opening of the season. The Takla has landed a total of 236,000 pounds in eight trips. The Covenant, Capt. Hans Underdahl, is second with 193,000 pounds in 12 trips and the Melville, Capt. John Ivarson, third with 181,500 pounds in 13 trips.

The D.S.T. and Rose Spit have landed the most trips of any boats of the fleet since the opening of the season, having each returned to port 16 times for totals of 72,000 pounds and 128,100 pounds respectively. Making 15 trips since February 15 have been the Helge H., 104,000 pounds; Livingstone, 171,000 pounds; M. M. Christopher, 110,000 pounds, and Viking, 109,800 pounds.

Whereas she was second last year, the schooner Eldorado, Capt. J. Johnsen, is this year the heaviest American lander of halibut here, having brought in 334,000 pounds in eight trips since the commencement of 1929 fishing operations. The Mitkof, S. Johansen, is second with 278,000 pounds in eight trips and the McKinley, Capt. B. Hanson, third with 262,000 pounds in seven trips.

The Wabash, Capt. E. Pierce, has landed the most fares of any American boat at Prince Rupert, having come in 14 times with a total of 52,600 pounds. The Viola and Eureka (Tacoma) have both landed 13 catches for totals of 79,700 pounds and 96,500 pounds respectively.

Last year at this time the Oslo was leading the Prince Rupert fleet in quantity of fish landed, having brought in 237,000 pounds in 13 trips. This year to date the vessel has completed 11 trips for a total of 150,000 pounds. The schooner Foremost was the heaviest lander of American fish here up to a similar date last year but this season so far has been in port only once with 42,000 pounds.

Halibut landings at the port of Prince Rupert for the 1929 season up to and including yesterday aggregated 21,888,850 pounds as against 20,623,000 pounds at a similar date last year. Canadian landings, totalling 6,435,650 pounds, are almost even with last year's 6,441,500 pounds at a corresponding date while the 1929 American total is 15,453,200 pounds as against 14,181,500 pounds.

Landings for the week totalled 782,700 pounds of which 197,000 pounds was from Canadian boats and 585,700 pounds from American. Prices remained at an average level with Canadian fish on several occasions attracting better prices than American. The big bid of the week for Canadian halibut was 15.9c and 9c paid the Pair of Jacks for 10,500 pounds while the top American price was 16.9c and 9c received by the Eagle for 29,000 pounds. The low price of the week for Canadian fish was 13.1c and 9c and for American, 12.6c and 8c.

Bob Hanna has returned to port for the winter. He joined the staff of Humpback Bay cannery last spring but, soon after the opening of the salmon fishing season, started gillnetting with a gasboat out of Port Edward cannery. More recently he was trolling in Warke Canal and, having partaken a bit freely from the can, suffered an attack of poisoning which necessitated his coming into town a week or so ago. He is still a bit shaky from the effects of the illness but is rapidly making a good recovery.

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Inspector William Spiller, provincial police, returned to the city on the Prince George this morning from a trip south, having in his custody Stephen Boljkovic, who is to face a trial of murder at the Supreme Court Assizes here next week, and Robert Malcolm Wylie, who will be tried at the Prince George Assizes the week after next on a theft charge.

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