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A. JOHNSTON,  
Minister of Marine and Fisheries

DOMINION OF CANADA

FIFTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FISHERIES BRANCH

Department of Marine and Fisheries

FOR THE YEAR

1925-26



OTTAWA  
F. A. ACLAND  
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
1926

to the President of the United States in the 2 cents per pound duty, would have been given everyone concerned. At this date it is not publicly known if it is, but any action resulting therefrom would be of great interest by Canadian halibut

ing the year was the shipment by a 10 pounds frozen halibut consigned to which arrived at its destination during the year. It was frozen by the brine freezing method and not properly glazed or properly handled on the Canadian side. As a result their exterior was not so good as for their profitable sale. The prices on this consignment, would appear to have been further attempts, although nothing is known.

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red that the year's pack of dry salted halibut which the fall run to the Barclay sound and was a very poor one. In fact for the year at all caught. The run on the east coast was very poor.

g industry, owing to the department's policy, will shortly be practically entirely in the hands of the department.

RDS

ed with 14,898 the preceding year. The department's policy was for the first time permitted 653 gallons of oil and 2,083 tons of fuel oil at Vancouver island. These operations were carried out and it is felt that the results of the year warrant a considerable expansion of the industry.

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year showed a falling-off, with a total of 1,169 pups, a total of 2,827. The station at Rose harbour, Prince of Wales islands, obtained the most satisfactory connection it is interesting to note that in 1925 a most successful season.

ALS

in by the Indians operating as usual. In the 1925 season only 2,232 were obtained.

SEA LIONS

with even better success than the previous year. The results and 1,169 pups, a total of 2,827.

Operations were conducted on the

Virgin islands and Pearl rocks opposite the Rivers and Smiths inlets. An interesting feature observed was the paucity of yearling lions, not more than 50 being observed on both the Virgins and Pearls, which would appear to show conclusively the results of the preceding year's killings.

The gratitude of the gill-net fishermen was again demonstrated by the liberal presents of cigars to the crews employed in the destruction of sea lions and demonstrates the attitude of the fishermen who stated that it was now observed outside of Rivers inlet that the sockeye schools are not broken up as heretofore but run steadily to the inlet. The largest catches of sockeye were made during the worst two weeks of bad weather the preceding year, which was quite unusual.

It is hoped that facilities will shortly be available which will permit the extending of the sea lion operations to include other points where they gather in large numbers on the rookeries and where they could be fairly easily killed.

## PATROL SERVICE

In the protection of the fisheries during the year, a total of 91 boats was used, 26 of these being the property of the department and 65 being chartered. In addition there were three seaplanes stationed at Prince Rupert and a fourth was available at the Seaplane Station in Vancouver on call. During the year the C.G.S. *Malaspina* logged 19,956 miles, and the *Givenchy* 15,164 miles. With the fishing operations becoming more intense each year the work of the patrol boats continues to increase and it is imperative that the two large steamers particularly be kept constantly on patrol. Their work is seriously interfered with by lifesaving duties and calls from other departments.

The flying boats consumed 296 hours 40 minutes as against 152 hours 8 minutes, the previous year. It is felt that without the aid of the Air Service the protection of our salmon would be a matter of very grave concern indeed. Even under the best of conditions it is not possible to provide a 100 per cent efficient service. Without the planes the number of boats chartered would have to be increased and the service obtained from them would not give the same results as are produced by the flying force.

## REGULATIONS

The sum of \$3,164.20 was realized from fines and sales during the year as a result of 138 prosecutions. With the increased demand for British Columbia salmon there is a greater incentive to disregard fishing boundaries and closed periods. This naturally results in a greater number of prosecutions, which is regrettable as it is far more desirable to prevent violations than penalize operators for breaches of the regulations.

The number of salmon purse-seines issued has increased from 92 in 1912 to 329 in 1925 but on the other hand I am glad to be able to report that in the same period the number of salmon drag-seines has been reduced from 193 to 37.

## REDUCTION IN ORIENTALS

The department's policy of eliminating the Oriental from the fisheries of the province with a view to placing the entire industry in the hands of white British subjects and Canadian Indians appears to be working out well as is shown by statement No. 10, which covers a very large proportion of the total number of licenses issued which Orientals were permitted to hold. In the salmon gill-net operations the Orientals during the year 1925 held only 24 per cent and in the salmon trolling 10.5 per cent of the total number issued in the province.

In the herring dry salting operations a further reduction of 25 per cent was made during the year, making a total of 50 per cent, and in the case of salmon

dry salting a first reduction of 25 per cent went into effect and it is the intention to continue this percentage each year until these industries are entirely in the hands of Whites or Canadian Indians.

#### SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

In March a meeting was called in Seattle of executive officers of the Fishery Departments of the Dominion of Canada, the province of British Columbia, Alaska, and the states of Washington, Oregon and California, with a view to the co-ordinating of the work being conducted separately looking to an improvement in the present fish cultural operations and the obtaining of information which would result in a better understanding of the salmon fishery conditions as affecting the whole Pacific coast of the continent. An association was formed known as the International Pacific Salmon Investigation Federation. One of the outstanding results of this conference was the tagging operations in connection with the runs of spring, coho and sockeye salmon, which provided some extremely interesting information with regard to the destination of the several varieties passing a number of points. The tagging operations should be extended to cover all varieties of salmon during all stages of the runs and in as many localities as is possible and with the information obtained therefrom conservation measures could be much more intelligently arranged. A more detailed report will be forthcoming from the Biological Board and will be found elsewhere in this publication.

#### POWER BOATS IN SALMON GILL-NET FISHING, DISTRICT NO. 2

Although since the year 1923 power boats have been permitted in District No. 2 in salmon gill-net operations, it is interesting to note that out of a total of 2,866 licenses, only 242 were fished by means of power boats, as is shown by statement No. 11.

#### REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS IN SALMON STREAMS

During the year the sum of \$4,210.49 was spent in the above work but this of course does not represent the quantity of work performed by the engineering staff. A detailed report of Senior Engineer J. McHugh appears elsewhere in this report and will be found to be of considerable interest.

#### WAREHOUSE AND MARINE WAYS, FRASER RIVER

The construction of the accommodation at Poplar island, Fraser river, for the purpose of storing fisheries equipment and stores and repairing the patrol boats, was completed during the year and has proved most efficient and economical. In addition to the annual overhaul of the boats of the Fraser river and Vancouver district all but one of those used in District No. 3 are brought down each year to Poplar island and the saving to the department has been very considerable and well justifies the expense of providing the accommodation. While the ways and machine shop were not completed in sufficient time to take care of our boats for the annual overhaul in the spring of 1925, the estimates of the cost of the repairs to be undertaken in the spring of 1926 will show a saving of approximately \$2,262.

#### CONDITIONS ON SPAWNING GROUNDS

*Queen Charlotte Islands.*—Generally speaking this is not a sockeye district although there is a small run each year to the Naden and Yakoun rivers. It is only in the even numbered years that the large run of pinks occurs and in the odd numbered years the operators depend practically altogether on the

supply of chum even for an off the past few years has been that generally, apart from spawning chum

*Naas River* eye that has been lake were faulty whatever found to be full salmon was also ing in considerable

*Skeena River* but owing tip of a very was made. It standpoint of fair supply of spawning beds an important

In the Lake ing streams were taken at the ha

In the stre important one w sockeye salmon were 20 per cent numerous in this stocked.

*Central District* the streams in terned on account places having a proportion of the ings beds are regularly the pu reached the spar on the whole the

*Bella Coola* Coola river was was only fair an ber of cohoes while not a heat were light altho river while the s was quite a fair speaking genera felt that a reason reaching the s

*Rivers Inlet* district is an unusual spawning sockeye In addition the quantity of sock

STATEMENT SHOWING INCREASE OR DECREASE IN LICENSES ISSUED IN 1925 OVER LICENSES ISSUED IN 1921 AND 1922,  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATEMENT No. 10.

Variety of License	Area	Licenses issued, 1925				Increase over 1922			Decrease from 1922			Totals all kinds	
		Whites	Indians	Japs.	Total	Whites	Indians	Japs.	Whites	Indians	Japs.	Net increase	Net decrease
Salmon gill-net.	Whole province.	1,968	1,247	1,015	4,225	493	215				974		266
	Percentage.					33.6	20.8				48.9		6.9
"	District No. 1.	485	39	445	969	95	5				437		327
	Percentage.					24.4	14.7				48.9		25.2
"	District No. 2—												
	Naas River.	12	117	81	210		3		20		77		94
	Percentage.						2.6		62.6		48.7		30.9
"	Skeena River.	339	401	327	1,067	180	111				315		24
	Percentage.					113.2	38.3				49.1		2.2
"	Rivers Inlet.	643	403	81	1,127	76				64	76		64
	and Smiths Inlet.												
	Percentage.					13.4				13.7	48.4		5.4
"	Outlying.	278	128	66	463	43	49				55	37	
	Percentage.					18.3	63.0				49.5	8.7	
"	Total District No. 2.	1,272	1,049	545	2,866	279	99				523		145
	Percentage.					28.1	10.4				48.9		4.8
"	District No. 3.	206	159	25	390	119	111				24	306	
	Percentage.					186.8	231.3				48.9	111.9	
Boat.	Whole province.	123	12	82	217	46	8				83		31
	Percentage.					59.7	100.0				50.3		12.6
Boys.	Whole province.	41		20	61				44		21		65
	Percentage.								51.8		51.2		51.6
Salmon trolling.	Whole province.	1,001	539	191	1,821	432	200				313	369	
	Percentage.					79.1	58.9				62.1	25.4	
"	District No. 1.	50			50	23						25	
	Percentage.					103.3				1	100.0	100.0	
"	District No. 2.	323	132		510	104	49				5	143	
	Percentage.					46.4	38.9				100.0	40.9	
"	District No. 3—												
	East Coast.	503	103	80	686	265	38				113	190	
	Percentage.					111.3	58.4				68.5	38.3	
"	West Coast.	210	254	111	575	87	114				195	6	
	Percentage.					70.7	31.4				63.7	1.1	
"	Total District No. 3.	713	357	191	1,261	352	152				308	196	
	Percentage.					97.5	74.1				61.7	18.4	

MARINE AND FISHERIES

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SALMON GILL-NET LICENSES,  
DISTRICT NO. 2 USING POWER BOATS

STATEMENT No. 11.

Division	White	Indian	Japanese	Total
Naas.	1	8		9
Skeena.	43	16		59
Central.	1	7		8
Bella Coola.	9	3		12
Rivers Inlet.	95	9	6	110
Smiths Inlet.	38	1		39
Total.	193	44	6	242

Note.—Four of the licenses with power boats fished at both Rivers Inlet and at the Central Division.

FISHERIES BRANCH