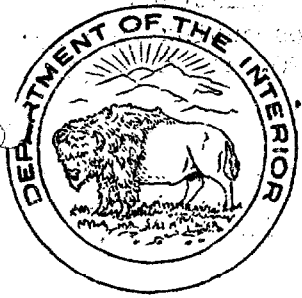


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1945.

Products of the Alaska fisheries as prepared for market in 1943 totaled 332,719,560 pounds, valued at \$66,516,317, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, disclosed today in releasing the report entitled Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1943.

These figures represent an increase of more than 8 per cent in quantity and 18 per cent in value from the preceding year, according to Ward T. Bower, Chief, Division of Alaska Fisheries, who prepared the annual report.

Of the total 1943 production, Mr. Bower pointed out, salmon products represent 91 per cent of the whole. Halibut accounted for 4 per cent, herring about 3 per cent, shellfish slightly over 1 per cent, and all other fishery and fur-seal products for the remaining 1 per cent. The number of persons engaged in the industry was 23,711 as compared with 23,216 in 1942. There were no whaling operations from Alaskan stations in 1943.

The pack of canned salmon was 5,428,269 standard cases valued at \$57,823,679, an increase of about 7 per cent in quantity and about 20 per cent in value as compared with the 1942 production of 5,075,856 cases valued at \$48,298,913.

The fishery license tax collected by the Territory of Alaska for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1943, amounted to \$994,171.45, of which \$744,935.91 was paid by the salmon canneries as pack tax.

Herring production increased more than 61 per cent over that of 1942. Continued demand for cured fish, fish oils, and meals, together with substantially increased quotas in the Kodiak and southeastern Alaska areas, and the relaxation of certain military restrictions on fishing, made the increase possible.

The products of the herring fishery, amounting to 32,404,362 pounds, were valued at \$1,813,991, an increase of \$912,537 above 1942 when the total value was \$901,454.

Seven vessels, with a complement of 37 men, 6 speedboats, 3 launches, 4 open boats powered with high-speed outboard motors, and a power dory, were engaged in fishery patrol work in Alaskan waters in 1943. The patrol vessels, exclusive of open boats, cruised more than 84,000 miles during the year.

Government-owned airplanes also were employed effectively in fishery patrol in several districts. The total flying time aggregated 89 hours, during which the planes traveled approximately 10,680 miles.

(over)

Sixty-seven cases of violation of Alaska fishery laws and regulations were referred to representatives of the Department of Justice for prosecuting in 1943. In the cases tried, the total fines levied amounted to \$14,405.70, and the return to the Government from sales of confiscated fish was \$11,179.30.

Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1943, has been issued as Statistical Digest No. 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies may be purchased at 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

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