



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

FISHERIES OF ALASKA IN 1939

Commercial catch of fishery products in Alaska during 1939, exclusive of whales, amounted to 662,541,587 pounds, valued at \$11,321,142, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, in Statistical Bulletin No. 1388.

Although the round weight of whales could not be determined, their products amounted to 3,855,325 pounds, valued at \$136,941.

Of the total catch, exclusive of whales, 452,165,937 pounds, valued at \$9,255,972, consisted of salmon; 208,134,946 pounds, valued at \$1,936,599, consisted of other fish; and 2,240,704 pounds, worth \$128,571, consisted of shellfish.

These fisheries employed 30,572 persons during 1939, of whom 11,743 were fishermen; 16,654 were engaged in the wholesale and manufacturing industries; and 2,175 in transporting fishery products. Exclusive of duplication, 234 establishments were engaged in fisheries trade during this period; 130 canned fish; 84 cured fish; 19 manufactured byproducts; and 52 handled fresh and frozen fishery products.

Output of these establishments amounted to 368,535,958 pounds, worth \$40,104,493. Ranking all others was the salmon industry which produced

269,998,625 pounds of products, valued at \$36,297,929. The herring industry was second in importance with 77,771,743 pounds of products, valued at \$2,090,473. The halibut industry ranked third, with 13,565,387 pounds of products, worth \$948,664. Clam, shrimp, whale, sablefish, and crab products followed.

The canning industry ranked foremost--in considering the wholesale and manufacturing industries separately--producing 253,349,953 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$34,775,988. Second in importance was the byproducts industry with a total output of 75,090,873 pounds, valued at \$2,026,218. Cured fish ranked third in value with 10,629,236 pounds of products, worth \$1,405,284. Fresh fish industry was fourth, producing 13,842,012 pounds, valued at \$1,080,228. Frozen fish industry was fifth, with 15,623,884 pounds, valued at \$816,775, which accounted for the remainder of the products.

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