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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the SUNDAY PAPERS OF AUGUST 11, 1946

Products of the Alaska fisheries as prepared for market in 1944 totaled 331,135,017 pounds, with a wholesale value of \$63,270,100, Albert M. Day Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, disclosed today in releasing the statistical report entitled Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1944.

Compared with the preceding year, these figures represent a decrease of 1,584,543 pounds in quantity and \$3,246,217 in value, according to the report.

Of the total 1944 production, it was pointed out, salmon products represented 76.2 percent of the whole, the lowest percentage of the total for many years. Her- ing accounted for 11.9 percent, halibut about 9 percent, sablefish for 1.6 percent, and all other fish, shellfish, and fur-seal products and byproducts for the re- mainder. The number of persons engaged in the industry was 24,665 as compared with 23,711 in 1943.

The pack of canned salmon was 4,893,059 standard cases valued at \$51,196,140, a decrease of about 10.9 percent in quantity and about 12.9 percent in value from the 1943 production of 5,428,269 cases valued at \$57,823,679. Ninety-three can- neries were operated in Alaska in 1944, 10 more than in 1943. Employment was given to 19,079 persons, as compared with 19,143 in 1943. Salmon canning was conducted in compliance with an industry concentration program for the second consecutive year.

The fishery license tax, collected by the Territory of Alaska for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1944, amounted to \$783,144.63, of which \$584,932.75 was paid by the salmon canneries as pack tax.

The products of the herring fishery, amounting to 39,628,462 pounds, were valued at \$2,458,170, an increase of 22.29 percent in quantity and 34.36 percent in value over 1943.

Eleven patrol vessels, with complements totaling 47 men, 7 speedboats, 8 launches, and 4 open boats were engaged in fishery management and law enforcement activities in 1944. Patrol craft cruised more than 100,000 miles during the year.

Flying time of approximately 84 hours in both chartered and government-owned planes contributed effectively to patrol of the fishing grounds and observation of salmon-spawning areas. Plane travel covered about 10,500 miles.

Representatives of the Department of Justice handled 59 cases of alleged violations of Alaska fishery laws and regulations involving 152 persons in 1944. Total fines levied amounted to \$17,566. The return to the Government from sales of confiscated fish were \$5,845.10.

Sales of 44,676 fur-seal skins at two public auctions at St. Louis, Mo., and in private sales during the year brought a gross return of \$1,634,749.25.

Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1944, has been issued as Statistical Digest No. 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies may be purchased at 20 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The publication is not for sale by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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