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★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RAILROAD CAR SHIPMENTS OF ALASKA FISHERY PRODUCTS MAKE  
TRANSPORTATION HISTORY

Transportation history is being written by railroad shipment of fresh and frozen fish from Alaska to her sister States in the south, the Department of the Interior said today.

A new, direct-rail link has been made possible by a railroad-car ferry now operating between Saxman, Alaska, and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. It permits the loading in Alaska of fresh and frozen fishery products, such as halibut and salmon, and makes their further handling unnecessary until the shipment reaches its destination.

The first shipment--a carload of frozen halibut--moved from Ketchikan to Cincinnati, Ohio--a distance of 3,000 miles.

Direct-rail transportation, inaugurated June 6, lowers costs and avoids rehandling charges created by the former method of ship and rail routing.

The Saxman-Prince Rupert ferry route is approximately 100 miles.

Since that day in June when the first carload of frozen halibut left Alaska on its historic trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, other all-rail shipments of fishery products have been made from Alaska to many cities on the United States mainland. Probably the longest distance traveled by a rail shipment of frozen Alaska fish was a recent 3,900-mile trip to Miami, Florida.

Fresh and frozen fishery products require especially careful handling en route because of their perishable nature. Thus, the ability to plan and arrange such long-distance and economical shipments of fishery products, the Department said, is a tribute to the shippers and Canadian and American carriers who have made this new transportation service possible.

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