

613. The fisheries of British Columbia are probably the richest in the world. During recent years they have developed rapidly. In 1876 the value of the catch was given at \$104,697; in 1880 it was \$713,335; in 1885, \$1,078,038; in 1890, \$3,481,432; in 1893, \$4,447,083, and in 1894, \$3,950,478.

During twelve years, 1883-94, the value of the salmon caught was \$21,439,437. The catch of 1893 was the greatest in value of any year, the value being \$3,150,709, and the average yearly value of the twelve years was \$1,786,620.

The fish caught include sturgeon, halibut, herring, oulachan, trout, rock codfish, skill, tousqua, &c.

614. Under an Act passed in 1882 to encourage sea-fishing and the building of fishing vessels, provision was made for the distribution of \$150,000 annually among the fishermen and vessels. By Act of 1891, Chapter 42, the amount was increased to \$160,000. This bounty is paid on the basis of \$3 a ton to vessels, \$3 per man to boat fishermen, and \$1 per boat to the owners. The number of vessels which received bounty in 1894 was 899 with a tonnage of 29,584 tons, showing an increase of 94 vessels and 1,605 tons, as compared with 1893. The number of boats on which bounty was paid was 13,351 and the number of boat fishermen who received bounty was 23,132, being an increase of 521 boats and 863 fishermen, as compared with the previous year. The total number of fishermen in vessels and boats to whom bounty was paid in 1894 was 29,222, as against 28,013 in 1893. The number of fishing bounty claims filed was 14,496, and the number paid was 14,350. The increased bounty given to vessels, \$3 per ton, instead of \$1.50 as formerly, has resulted in the addition of a number of new vessels to the fishery fleet. The four tables following give the number of vessels, boats and men in the different provinces receiving bounties. The total bounties paid since 1882 amount to \$2,047,009, distributed as follows:—

YEAR.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	P. E. Island.	Quebec.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1882.....	106,099	16,997	16,137	33,053	172,285
1883.....	89,432	12,395	8,577	19,940	130,345
1884.....	104,934	13,576	9,204	28,005	155,719
1885.....	104,000	15,908	10,167	31,465	161,539
1886.....	98,790	17,894	10,936	33,283	160,904
1887.....	99,622	19,700	12,529	31,908	163,758
1888.....	89,779	18,455	9,093	32,859	150,186
1889.....	90,143	21,027	13,994	33,362	158,527
1890.....	91,236	21,108	11,686	34,211	158,241
1891.....	92,377	17,236	12,771	34,507	156,892
1892.....	109,410	10,865	9,783	29,694	159,752
1893.....	108,621	12,524	9,329	28,321	158,795
1894.....	111,460	12,691	7,876	28,040	160,067
Totals.....	1,295,903	210,376	142,082	398,648	2,047,009