

The following are statistics of the sealing fleet of Canada for the seasons of 1898 to 1903 :—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Total catch.....	28,552	35,346	35,523	24,422	16,143	20,496
Distributed thus :						
British Columbia Coast..	9,746	10,471	16,438	7,265	4,936	3,865
Japanese coast. ....	360	.....	.....	2,130	3,331.....	.....
Copper Island coast.....	50	699	208	3,397	1,340	1,910
Behring Sea.....	16,943	23,284	17,513	10,362	5,193	8,161
North American coast, including Indians' coast catch.....	.....	.....	.....	8,533	1,343.....	.....
Not specified.....	1,453	892	1,364	1,268.....	.....	6,560
Fleet, No. of vessels.....	35	26	37	39	34	26
Boats.....	90	68	114	139	129	92
Canoes ...	326	285	316	226	206	164
Crew, white.....	324	213	386	443	421	299
"    Indians .....	653	587	646	465	437	538
Value of sealskins.....	\$285,520	\$441,825	\$562,845	\$366,330	\$337,660	\$307,440

Prior to 1878 very few seals were killed by Canadian sealers. Hunting was not carried on further than 20 miles from shore.

The following statement shows the number of seals killed in 1883-1903 :

	Number.		Number.
1883 .....	9,195	1896 .....	55,677
1889 .....	35,310	1897 .....	30,410
1890 .....	43,325	1898 .....	28,552
1891 .....	52,365	1899 .....	35,346
1892 .....	49,743	1900 .....	35,523
1893 .....	70,592	1901 .....	24,422
1894 .....	95,048	1902 .....	16,143
1895 .....	73,614	1903 .....	20,496

From 1871 to 1903 the total products of the Canadian pelagic sealing industry amounted to 798,109 seal skins.

In addition to the take of Canadian vessels in 1902, 582 skins were landed at B.C., which were sent to the London market.

During 1903 eight Canadian vessels have captured 21,126 seals in the South Atlantic Ocean.