

catch exceeded \$50,000,000, of which salmon accounted for \$37,000,000. Lower landings of salmon in 1959 caused a 30-p.c. drop in the value of the Pacific catch, which amounted to a little less than \$35,500,000.

The salmon catch comprises five species—sockeye, pinks, chums, cohos and springs. These fish are caught as they return from the sea to their native streams to spawn and die. Sockeye, for instance, return after four years at sea so that, four years after a favourable hatching year on sockeye streams, a heavy catch of this species may be expected. When the peak runs of several different species occur in the same year, fishing is very good. The fish congregate off the mouths of their rivers and move into them in heavy concentrations. Commercial salmon fishing is limited to tide-water and is divided into two efforts—net fishery by seine and gillnet for the canneries and troll fishery for the fresh fish market. Net fishing is pursued in all the protected waters of British Columbia's deeply indented shoreline, and troll fishing off coasts facing the open sea, especially off the western coast of Vancouver Island.

After hatching, sockeye spend a year or two in a lake before going to sea. When caught on their return from the ocean they weigh about six pounds each. This is a summer fishery, usually from mid-June to September; the bulk of the catch is taken by gillnet and the remainder by purse-seine. As sockeye feed on small crustaceans, they are not attracted by the lures of the troll fishery. Landings are smaller than the catch of chums or pinks but more valuable because, with its firm texture and attractive colour, canned sockeye commands the highest consumer price.

Pink salmon mature and return after only two years at sea. The fish average four to five pounds. Both pinks and chums are widely distributed up and down the coast but pinks appear in a more concentrated run. Chums return after four years at sea when they average about ten pounds in weight. They usually appear in two rather scattered runs, one in early summer and one in the autumn, and contribute somewhat more than pinks to the total volume of the salmon catch.

Coho hatch in small streams and are vulnerable to summer water levels. At sea they grow rapidly to weights between five and ten pounds and return to spawn after three years. They are taken by net or troll for canning or for the fresh market, depending on current demand.

Mature spring salmon usually run between ten and twenty-five pounds in weight. Since they feed on small fish, they can, like coho, be taken by lure but about one-third of the catch is secured with gillnets, notably at the mouth of the Fraser. They are usually caught in their third or fourth year and are favoured on the fresh fish market.

About three-quarters of the annual salmon catch is canned and most of the remainder goes to the fresh market. Vancouver and Prince Rupert are the main processing centres. Hundreds of seiners and thousands of gillnet and troll boats engage in the fishery every year.

The 1959 catch of Pacific herring amounted to 443,000,000 lb. valued at more than \$7,000,000. The main stocks of the species move inshore in the autumn and winter, spawn in the spring and then return to summer feeding grounds offshore. Only small stocks remain on the fishing grounds throughout the year. Consequently the bulk of the catch is taken from October to March. As the total known supply of this species in British Columbia is being exploited, catches are limited to local quotas by area. Fishing is by purse-seine and the catch is converted into oil and meal, mainly at Steveston, Vancouver or Prince Rupert.

While salmon and herring live at mid-water depths, halibut feed on the bottom and are usually caught beyond the three-mile limit. Canadian and American longliners share in this fishery off both Alaska and British Columbia and, by joint agreement, it is controlled by a system of catch quotas and fishing seasons in various areas. The most productive halibut grounds on the Continent are those adjacent to British Columbia, and American as well as Canadian vessels, even when fishing off Alaska, usually land at Prince