

APPARATUS AND METHODS OF THE FISHERIES.

GILL NETS.

The gill net is the oldest and most popular form of apparatus in use in the salmon fisheries of the Pacific coast. There are two kinds, drift and set, these names clearly expressing the difference between them. Fine flax or linen twine is generally used in their manufacture, although in some places cotton twine is employed, and it has usually 12 threads and is laid slack. They are hung in the ordinary manner—to a rope with cork floats to support the upper portion of the gear, and to a line with lead sinkers attached, which keeps the net vertical in the water and all its meshes properly distended. The nets are tanned, usually several times each season.

Drift nets vary greatly in length and depth, depending upon the width of the fishing channels, the depth of water, etc. On the Sacramento River they average about 300 fathoms in length, are 45 meshes deep, and have a stretch mesh of from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the coastal rivers of Oregon these nets average about 125 fathoms in length, and are about 36 meshes in depth, the mesh varying with the species of salmon sought. On the Columbia River the nets average about 250 fathoms in length and have a stretch mesh for chinooks of 9 to $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the Willamette River, the principal tributary of the Columbia, they average about 75 fathoms in length, with meshes of 8 and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On Willapa Harbor drift gill nets run from 100 to 250 fathoms in length, are 30 meshes deep, with stretch meshes of 7 and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On Grays Harbor they average 100 fathoms in length, the chinook nets run from 24 to 45 meshes in depth, with a stretch mesh of 9 inches, while the silver or coho nets are 35 meshes in depth, with a stretch mesh of 7 inches. In northern British Columbia the nets average 150 fathoms in length with a stretch mesh of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the Puget Sound region the nets

average 300 fathoms in length, with meshes suitable for the particular species sought. In Alaskan waters the nets vary greatly in length and depth, depending upon the places where fished.

Drift gill netting is prosecuted chiefly in the estuaries of the rivers in and near the channels. If the water is clear the nets are set only at night, but should the water be muddy or discolored with glacial silt, fishing can be carried on either night or day. Night fishing is most common in the States, while day fishing is most common in Alaska. When fishing in rivers, it is necessary to work in a straight stretch of water of fairly uniform depth and free from snags or sharp ledges, these being called "reaches."

In setting the net the boat puller rows slowly across the stream while the other man pays out the apparatus, to the first end of which a buoy has been attached. When about two-thirds of the gear is out, the boat is turned downstream at nearly right angles to her former course, so that the net, when set, approximates the shape of the letter L. The net is laid out at nearly right angles or diagonally to the river's course, so that it will intercept the salmon that are running in, and is usually put out about an hour before high-water slack and taken in about an hour after the turn of the tide. In Alaska the fishermen usually fish on both the high and low slack. The nets are allowed to drift for the time specified, the fishermen drifting along at one end, then the net is hauled into the boat over a wooden roller fixed in the stern, and the fish, which have become gilled in the meshes, are removed, stunned or killed by a blow on the head, and thrown into the bottom of the boat.

Set gill nets are made in the same way as drift nets, in many instances being fragments of the latter, and are usually operated in the upper reaches of the rivers. They vary in length from 10 to 100 fathoms, from 35 to 65 meshes in depth, and have the same sizes of meshes as the drift nets, the size varying, of course, with the species sought for. Sometimes these nets are staked, sometimes anchored, while occasionally only one end is tied to the shore or a stake set in the water.

On the flats off the mouth of the Stikine River, in southeast Alaska, a combination of the drift and set method is followed. A double set of stakes, about 6 feet apart, are set out from the shore for a distance of several hundred yards. An hour or two before slack water the fishermen pay out the net parallel to the line of stakes and about 50 feet from them. The tide drifts the net down until it is caught against the stakes, which retain it until slack water, when the fisherman takes it up and repeats from the opposite direction on the next turn of the tide.

HAUL SEINES.

On the Columbia River, where this form of apparatus plays a prominent part in the fisheries, the nets vary in length from 100 to 400 fathoms; the shallowest end is from 35 to 40 meshes deep, but it rapidly increases in width and is from 120 to 140 meshes deep at the other wing. The "bunt," or bag, in the central part of the net is about 50 fathoms long. These nets are usually hauled on the numerous sand bars which are a very noticeable feature of the river at low tide. Buildings are erected on piles on these sand flats, in which the

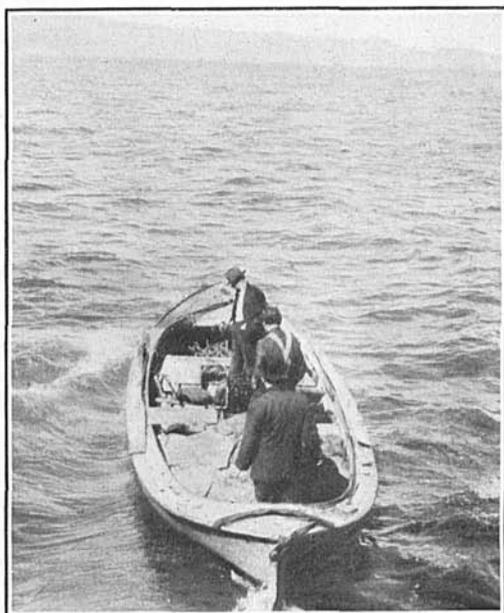


FIG. 8.—COLUMBIA RIVER POWER GILL NET BOAT.

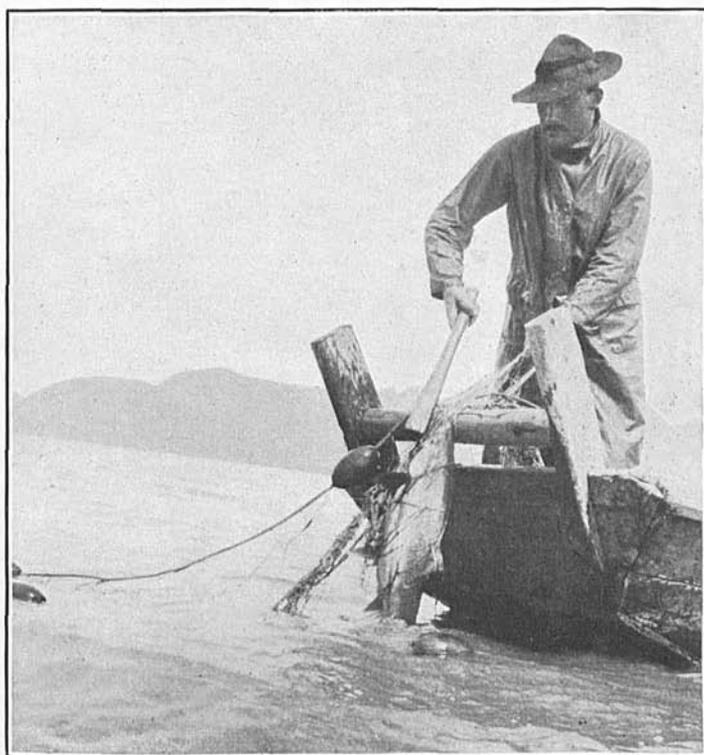


FIG. 9.—REMOVING THE SALMON FROM A GILL NET.

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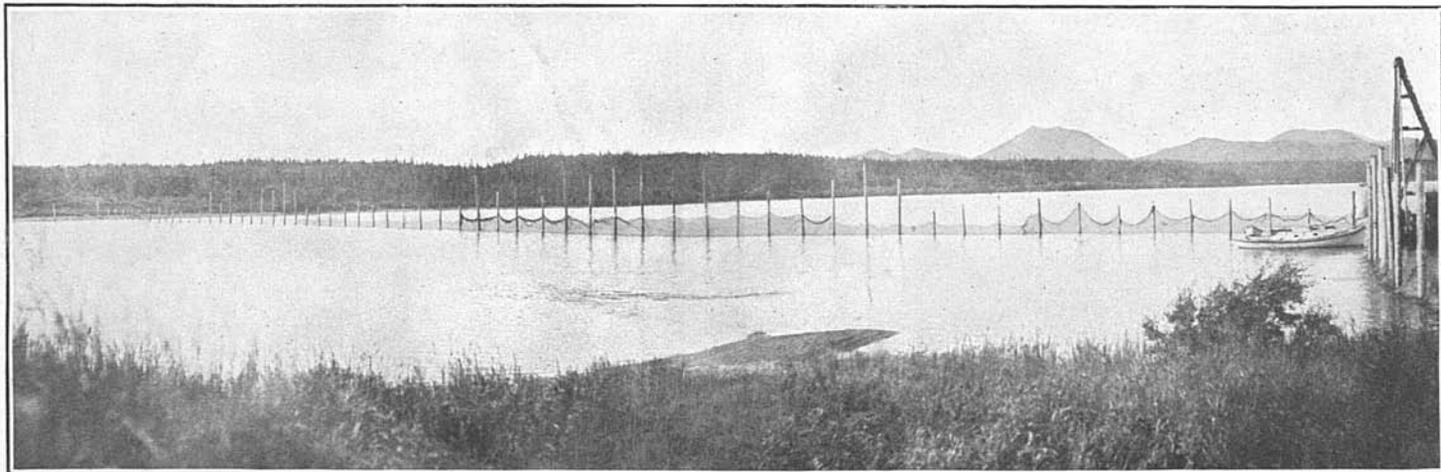


FIG. 10.—SALMON RACK ACROSS WOOD RIVER, ALASKA.

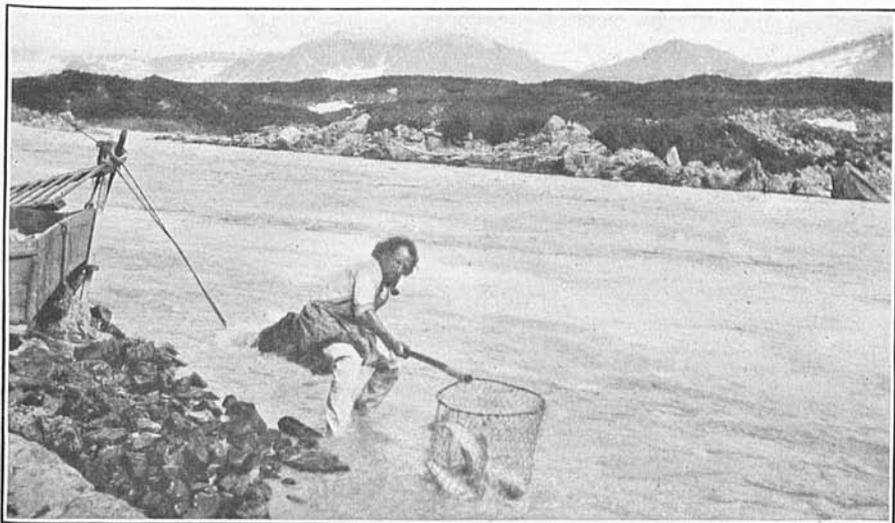


FIG. 11.—DIPPING SALMON FROM THE COPPER RIVER, ALASKA.

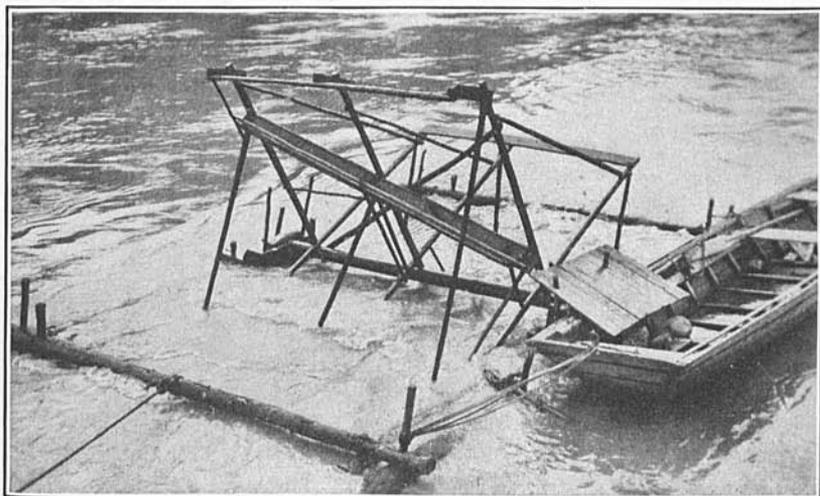


FIG. 12.—FISH WHEEL, YUKON RIVER, ALASKA.

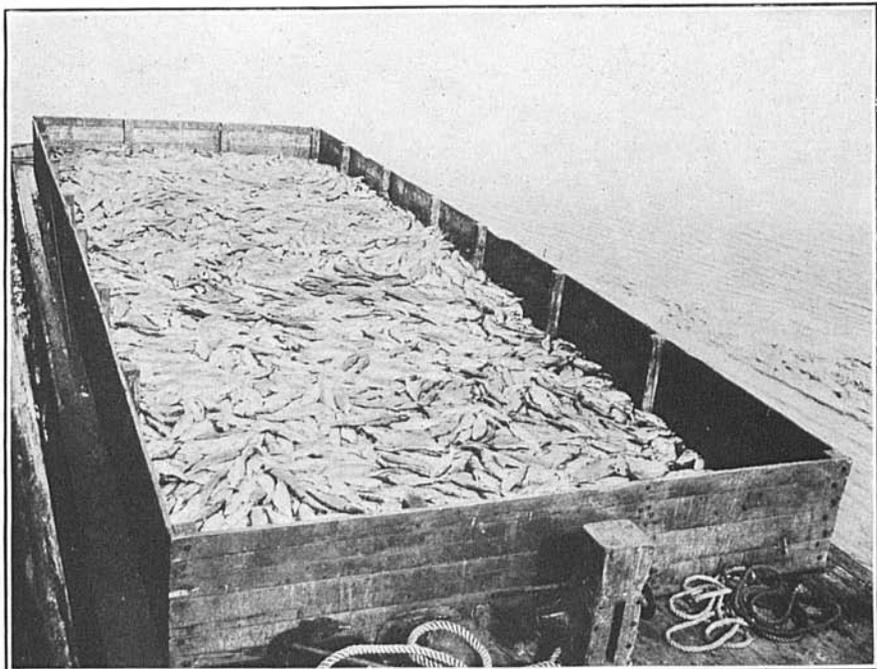


FIG. 13.—A SCOW LOAD OF SALMON.



FIG. 14.—PURSE SEINE CREW DELIVERING FISH TO CANNERY TENDER.

men and horses take refuge at high tide, when the bars are covered with water. Operations begin as soon as the beach or bar uncovers, so that the men can wade about. The net is placed in a large seine boat, with the shore end attached to a dory. At the signal the seine boat is headed offshore, while the dory heads toward the bar. As the seine boat circles around against the current the net is paid out in the shape of a semicircle. The dory men hurry to the bar with the shore end of the net, the idea being to get that in as soon as possible in order to prevent the escape of the salmon in that direction. As soon as this has been accomplished, the outer shore line is brought to the bar, when several horses are hitched to the line and begin to haul in the net, care being taken by the men to work it against the current as much as practicable, and to get it in as speedily as they can in order to prevent the escape of salmon either by jumping over the cork line or finding some outlet below the footrope or lead line.

The only other place on the coast where haul seines are important is at Karluk, on Kodiak Island, in Alaska. Here the seines are hauled upon the narrow gravel spit dividing the lagoon from the strait, and practically the same method is followed as in the Columbia River.

DIVER NETS.

These are in use in the Columbia River, mainly throughout the middle and upper portions of the river. They vary from 100 to 200 fathoms in length and are used almost exclusively for chinook salmon. In construction they somewhat resemble a trammel net. Two nets are attached together side by side. The outer one, or the one toward the oncoming fish, has a larger mesh than the other, so that if the fish manages to pass through the first, it will be caught in the smaller meshes of the second.

DIP NETS.

These consist of an iron hoop secured to the end of a stout pole with a bag-shaped net fastened to the hoop. They are generally used at the cascades on the rivers, small platforms being erected upon which the operator stands while fishing. Indians formerly used them to a large extent, but, owing to the steady decline in the number of Indians, and the appropriation of favorable spots by the whites for other forms of apparatus, they are but little used now.

SQUAW NETS.

This type is virtually a set net. It consists of an oblong sheet of gill netting, about 12 feet long and 8 feet deep, its lower edge weighted to keep it down, and its upper edge attached to a pole that floats at the surface, and is held by a line or lines to another projecting pole which is securely fastened to the shore, so that it will not swing around with the strain of the swift current on the net. A single block is attached to the pole, and through this passes a rope, thus making a tackle for the more convenient manipulation of the net. The dip-net fishermen of the Columbia River use this net, which derives its name from the fact that it used to be commonly operated by Indian squaws for taking salmon. But few are now in use, for the same reasons as given for the decline in the use of dip nets.

PURSE SEINES.

This form of apparatus is in quite general use in Puget Sound and southeast Alaska, and has proved highly effective in these deep, swift waters. These seines are about 200 fathoms long, 25 fathoms in the bunt, and 20 fathoms in the wings, all with a $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch stretch mesh. The foot line is heavily leaded and the bridles are about 10 feet long. The purse line is made of $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hemp. The rings through which the purse line is rove measure about 5 inches in diameter and are made of galvanized iron.

Purse seining for salmon in Puget Sound and waters north of same is one of the most important methods in use in the fisheries. In the type of vessel used in this fishery there has probably been greater improvement than in any other branch of the fisheries of the coast. In the early days row scows were in use, but now vessels with power are used.

In 1903 the first gasoline-powered purse seine boat appeared on the Pacific coast salmon fishing grounds in Puget Sound. The vessel was named the *Pioneer* and she was equipped with a 5-horsepower engine. The first season she easily demonstrated her vast superiority over the other purse seiners in the quickness with which she could reach a school of fish after it was sighted and in surrounding it with her seine. The next year there were a few more built or equipped, and the number has steadily increased until at the present time practically all except a few in southeast Alaska are equipped with motor engines.

The first power seine boats were only about 30 feet in length and had small power. As they were few in numbers, there was virtually no competition, and high power and speed were not a necessity. As the boats increased in numbers, however, competition became keener, and the first types of boats with their small power were quickly thrown into the shade by the newer types, which averaged between 45 and 55 feet in length, with 45 to 75 horsepower engines.

When motive power was introduced in the vessels, it was natural that the fishermen should soon introduce winches for the purpose of hauling in the nets, as the whole work could then be done by the one engine.

The purse seine vessels are built with rounded sterns. On an elevated section of the stern is set a movable platform on a pivot. The after end of this platform has a long roller. The purse seine is stowed on this platform, the head rope with corks on one side and the foot line on the other, so that there will be no tangling when the seine is paid out.

When the lookout sights a school of fish, the seiner is run down close to it and a rowboat launched. One man takes his place in this with the rope from one end of the seine and acts as a pivot, while the seiner circles around the school, the crew paying out the seine as she moves along. When it is all out, the vessel runs alongside the rowboat and takes aboard the other rope. Attaching this and the rope from the other end to the power winch, the circle around the fish is rapidly narrowed, and the slack of the seine as it comes in is stowed back on the platform. Around the bottom of the seine and through galvanized-iron rings about 5 inches in diameter runs the purse line. As this is hauled into the boat, the open space at

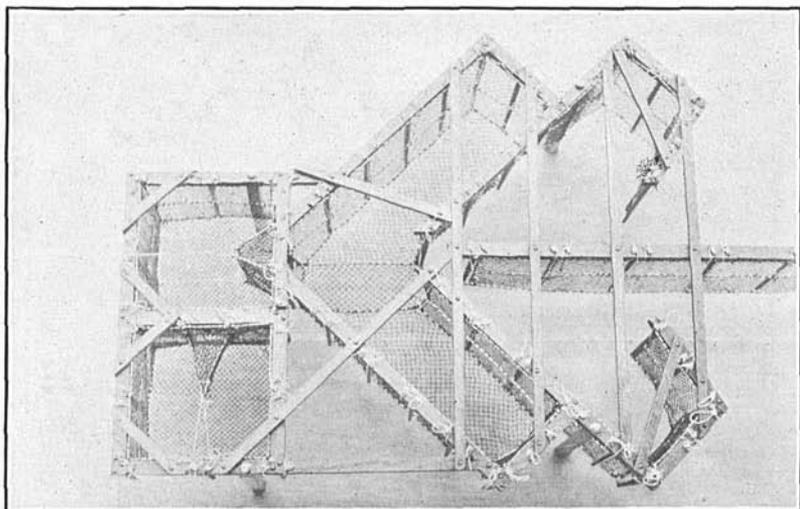


FIG. 15.—FLOATING TRAP.

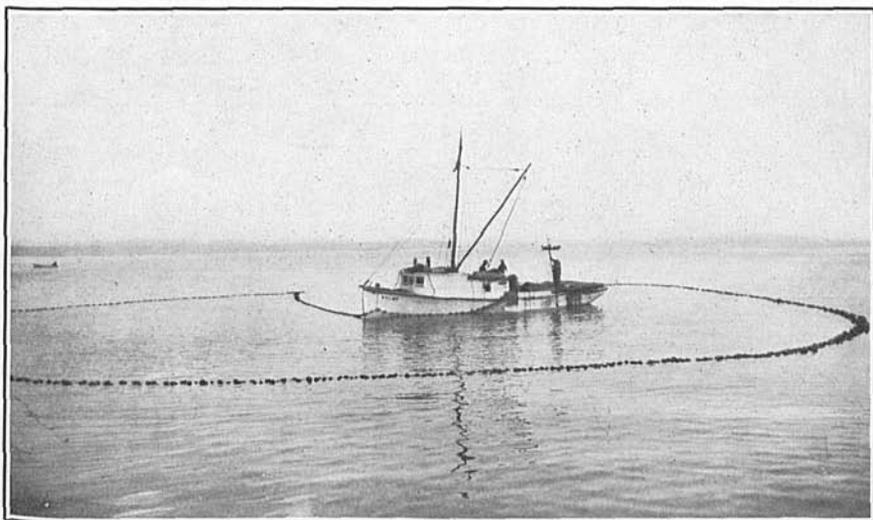


FIG. 16.—PURSE SEINER HAULING IN NET.

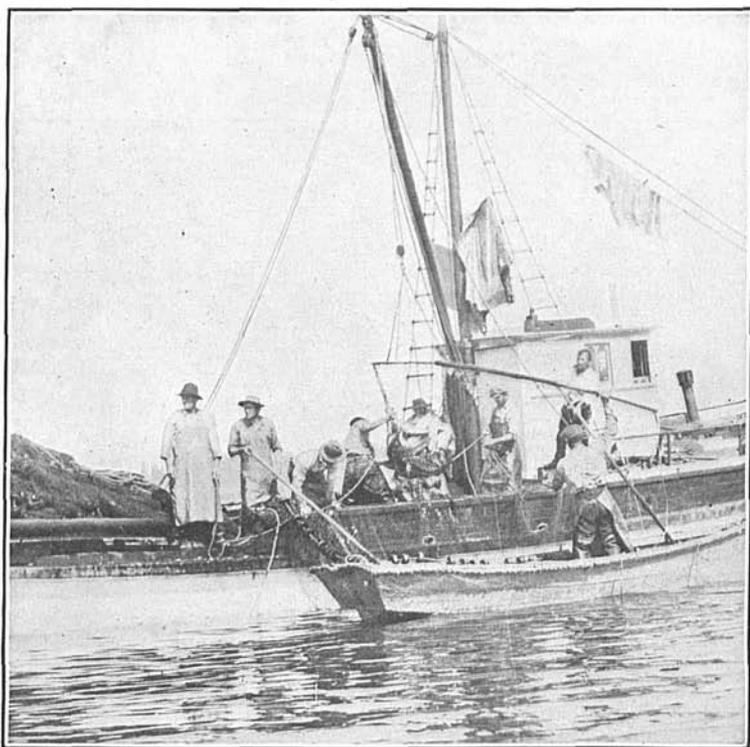


FIG. 17.—DIPPING SALMON FROM A PURSE SEINE.

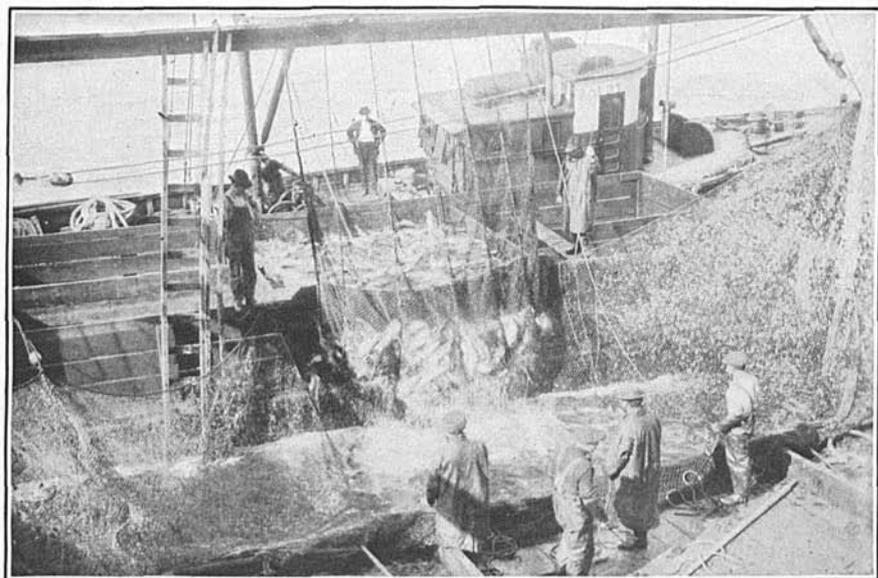


FIG. 18.—BRAILING SALMON FROM A TRAP.

the bottom is rapidly closed up just as a handbag would be through the drawing together of the pursing string at the top. During this operation the nonpower purse seiners have a man standing alongside the rail who throws a pole into the center in order to drive the fish away from the open section. He is so skillful in this work that almost invariably the pole comes back to his hand as the pressure of the waters forces it up again. When the bottom has been pursed up the fishermen hauling by hand can move more leisurely, but with the power winches in use the hauling in of the net is a comparatively easy matter, and the pole thrower is dispensed with.

When all the fish are in the bunt and the latter alongside, the fish are generally dipped out by means of a dip net balanced on the end of a tackle. A fisherman lowers it into the seine, scoops up a load of salmon, and as the net is hauled up guides it over the vessel, and then trips it and dumps the fish into the hold.

The Puget Sound purse seiners meet the salmon off the entrance to the Strait of San Juan de Fuca and follow the sockeyes till they have passed out of American waters, what are known as the Salmon Banks, off the lower end of San Juan Island, being the principal rendezvous during the run of sockeyes. After this run is over they go up the Sound and fish for dogs and cohos, and later go to the head of the Sound and fish for dogs, cohos, chinooks, and steel-head trout. In southeast Alaska they follow the fish all over the bays, straits, and sounds of that section. Purse seines are used in a few other places, but the fishery is secondary to those with other forms of apparatus.

This style of fishing is said to have been introduced on Puget Sound by the Chinese in 1886.

TRAPS OR POUND NETS.

A trap is stationary and consists of webbing, or part webbing and part wire netting, held in place and position by driven piles. This piling usually is held together above water by a continuous line of wood stringers, also used to fasten webbing to or to walk on if necessary.

In building, the "lead" is first constructed. This runs at right angles, or very nearly so, to the shore, and consists of a straight line of stakes, to which wire or net webbing is hung from top of high water, or a little higher, to the bottom, making a straight, solid wall.

At a little distance inshore of the outer end of the lead begin what are called the "hearts." These are V-shaped and turned toward the lead, beginning at a distance of 30 to 40 feet on either side of same and running in the same general direction, the "big heart" or outer heart first, the inner heart, supplementing the first, being smaller, and the end of the outer heart leading into it. Some traps have only one heart. The narrow end of the inner heart leads into the "pot" and forms what is known as the "tunnel." The tunnel ends in a long and narrow opening, running up and down the long way, and is held in position by ropes and rods. Below this is what is known as the "apron," a sheet of web stretched from the bottom of the heart upward to the pot, in order to lead the fish into the tunnel when swimming low in the water, and to obviate the necessity of

building the pot clear to the bottom, which would be expensive, as the pots of the traps are usually in quite deep water. If the trap is intended to catch the fish coming from only one direction, the lead generally runs to and is attached to one side of the entrance to the outer heart on the side opposite to that from which the fish are expected.

Some traps have "jiggers" (a hook-shaped extension of the outer heart) on each side, and sometimes on only one side, which help to turn the fish in the required direction.

The "pot" is built out beyond the inner heart and immediately adjoining same. It is a square compartment, with web walls and bottom connected in the shape of a large square sack, fastened to piling on all sides. This pot is hauled up and down by means of ropes and tackles, either by hand or, as is most popular, by steam.

The "spiller" is another square compartment adjoining either end of the pot (sometimes there are two spillers, one at each end), and is simply a container for fish. A small tunnel leads the fish from the pot into the spiller, whence the fishermen lift them out. This is accomplished by closing the tunnel from the pot, after which the ropes holding the front of the spiller are loosened and the net wall allowed to drop almost to the level of the water. A steam or gasoline tug then pushes a scow alongside the spiller and takes position on the outside of this scow. From the deck of the tug a derrick is rigged with a running line from the steam capstan through the block at the top of the derrick. This line is attached to the far end of a net apron, called a "brailer," which is heavily weighted by having chains along each side and leaded crossways at several places. A small boat is run inside the spiller, and the men in this draw the brailer across the barge and let it sink in the spiller. The fish soon gather over it, when the steam capstan quickly reels it in, the net folding over as drawn in from its far side and spilling the fish out on the scow. Men on the scow pick out and throw overboard the undesirable fish. The apron is then drawn back across the pot and the operation repeated so long as any fish remain. In this manner a trap with many tons of salmon in it is quickly emptied.

Traps, like nearly all other fixed fishing appliances, are built on the theory that salmon, like most other fishes, have a tendency to follow a given course in the water, whether a natural shore line or an artificial obstruction resembling one; also that the fish very seldom turns in its own wake. The trap has taken advantage of these natural tendencies of the fish, and is arranged so that, although the salmon may turn, he will continually be led by the wall of net toward and into the trap.

If a trap is located in a place where fish play and where an eddy exists, and the fish run one way with the incoming tide and the opposite with the outgoing, it will fish from both directions; if located where the fish simply pass by, as for instance, on a point or reef, it will fish from one side only.

A variation of the trap, to be used in places where piles can not be driven, is the floating trap. An experimental trap of this variety was used at Uganuk, on Kodiak Island, Alaska, as early as 1896. Its use was abandoned in 1897, not to be resumed until some years later. A number of floating traps (of the type invented by J. R. Heckman, of Ketchikan, Alaska) have been and are being used in



FIG. 19.—RACKS AND RUNWAYS FROM WHICH INDIANS GAFF SALMON, CHILKOOT RIVER, ALASKA.

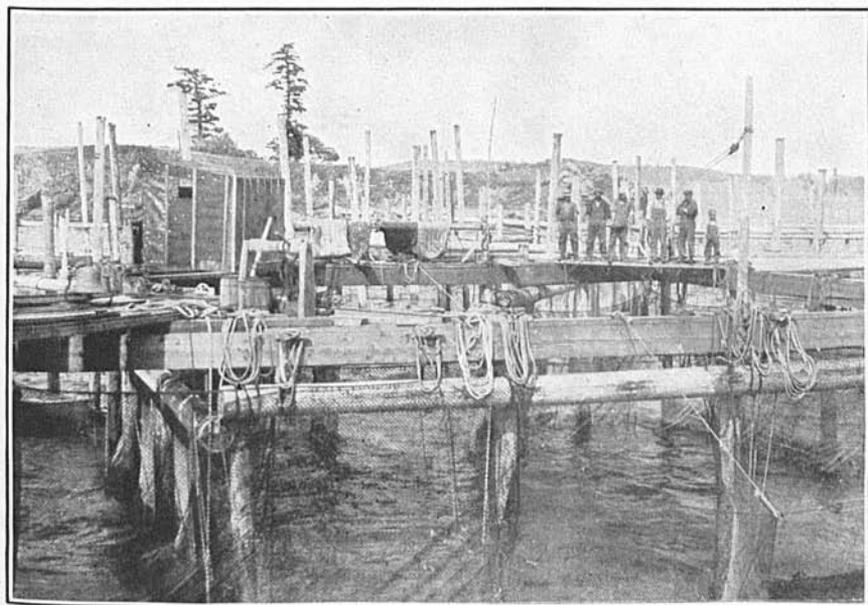


FIG. 20.—THE POT AND SPILLER OF A SALMON TRAP.

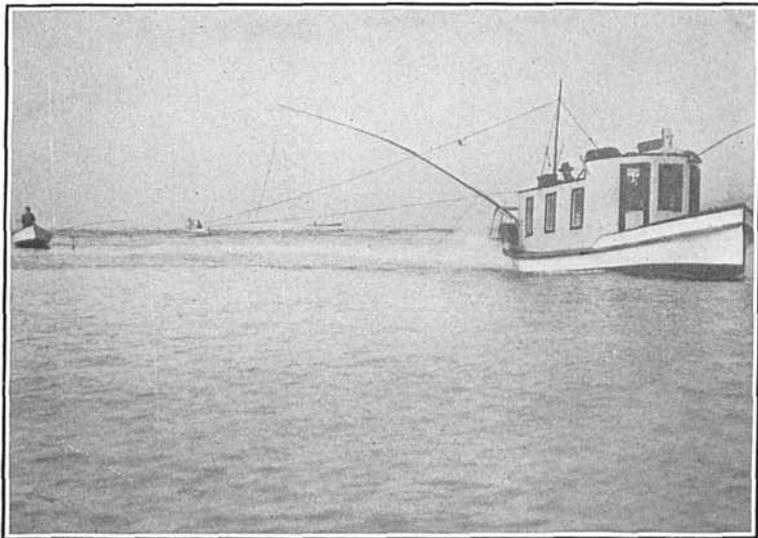


FIG. 21.—TROLLING FOR SALMON ON PUGET SOUND WITH POWER BOATS.



FIG. 22.—PUGET SOUND PURSE SEINE BOATS AT RICHARDSON, WASH.

southeast Alaska, the first having been installed in 1907. The design of this trap follows the shape of an ordinary Puget Sound driven trap. It is constructed of logs, 20 to 26 inches at the butt, bolted and braced together in one solid frame. Suspended from this frame through the logs are 2½-inch pipes extending down in the water 30 feet. Halfway down these pipes and also on the extreme lower ends are eyebolts, to which the web is drawn down and fastened. Thus the web is kept in place as well as if the pipes were driven piles. The lead is also a continuation of large piles or logs bolted firmly together with similarly suspended pipes and webbing.

The so-called wooden traps on the Columbia River are essentially weirs, being a modification of the brush weirs or traps used by the Indians for the capture of salmon long before the advent of the white men. They are built on shore, of piling and planks, the latter arranged like slats with spaces between. The bowl, or pot, is provided with a movable trapdoor that can be opened during the closed season and on Sundays, so that the fish can pass through and run upstream. These weirs, after being built, are launched into the river, placed in proper position near the shore, and then ballasted so that they sink to the bottom.

According to Collins,^a "pound nets were introduced on the Columbia River in 1879. In May of that year O. P. Graham, formerly of Green Bay, Wis., built a pound net on the river similar to those used on the Great Lakes. The success of this venture led to the employment of more apparatus of this kind, and many fishermen went West to participate in the fishery."

The first trap on Puget Sound, it is said, was built by John Waller, about 1880, off Cannery Point, at the southeastern corner of Point Roberts.

According to Collins,^b H. B. Kirby, who had previously fished on the Great Lakes, set a pound net in Puget Sound about 1883, but it was a complete failure. This was set off Point Roberts, near where the Waller trap was set. On March 15, 1888, he again set a pound net, which he had designed to meet the new conditions, at Birch Bay Head, in the Gulf of Georgia. It proved a complete success, and was the forerunner of the present large number which are set annually in these waters.

In Alaska the first trap was set in Cook Inlet about 1885. British Columbia refused to permit the use of pound nets in its waters until 1904, when their use was allowed within certain limited regions.

Some of these traps, especially on Puget Sound, have proved extremely valuable. The years 1898 and 1899 covered practically the high-water mark, as several desirable locations changed hands in those years at prices ranging from \$20,000 to \$90,000 for single traps, the original expense of which did not exceed \$5,000. But few have brought such high prices since, however, owing to the decline in the run of salmon, and at the present time but few of them would fetch much at a sale.

The location of sites for these nets is regulated by law in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, but in Alaska the procedure is

^a Report on the Fisheries of the Pacific Coast of the United States. By J. W. Collins. Report, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, 1888-89, p. 210. Washington, 1892.

^b Collins: *Op. cit.*, p. 257.

not well defined and has proved rather confusing to strangers. Some acquire the shore line by mineral location or by the use of scrip, while still others have merely a squatter's right.

Under the existing fish-trap laws applicable to Alaska, a fish trap may be operated anywhere along the coast of Alaska, 300 yards from the mouth of any salmon stream, and along the shore of all rivers—excepting those emptying into Cook Inlet, the streams on Afognak Island, and in Wood River—where the same are at least 500 feet wide.

A clear water distance of 600 yards laterally and 100 yards end-wise must be maintained between all traps. At the present time there is no law regulating the length of leads, the maximum depth of water in which the pot may be driven, or the use or occupancy of the trap sites.

It has been decided by the highest courts within the past year that title to the upland conveys no title to the trap owner who may be in front. The tidelands of Alaska are not of sufficient commercial importance as yet to enter into this controversy. At the present time there is no tideland law applicable to Alaska affecting the upland owners or the trap-site locators.

At the present time the canner who is on the ground first with piles and a driver can assert his right to any unoccupied trap site regardless of who fished it the previous season. This, however, is the exception rather than the rule. As a general proposition the cannery respect the rights of rivals in the same fishing region, and a trap location once recognized as that of a certain individual or company is rarely jumped so long as the original locator cares to maintain a trap on it.

Within the bounds of the forest reserve no land can be acquired except by lease, which may be secured from the United States forestry agent, Ketchikan, Alaska.

INDIAN TRAPS.

The natives, especially in Alaska, have various ingenious methods of catching salmon. In the Bering Sea rivers they catch them by means of wickerwork traps, made somewhat after the general style of a fyke net. These are composed of a series of cylindrical and conical baskets, fitting into each other, with a small opening in the end connecting one with the other and the series terminating in a tube with a removable bottom, through which the captive fish are extracted. Some of the baskets are from 15 to 25 feet in length and are secured with stakes driven into the river bottom, while the leader, composed of square sections of wickerwork, is held in place by stakes.

During the summer of 1910 the author found and destroyed an ingenious native trap set in Tamgas stream, Annette Island, south-east Alaska. This stream is a short and narrow one, draining a lake, about midway of which are a succession of cascades. In the narrowest part of the latter, and in the part up which the fish swim, a rack had been constructed of poles driven into the bottom and covered with wire netting, so as almost wholly to prevent salmon from passing up. Just below, and running parallel to the rack and at right angles to the shore, was placed a box flume with a flaring mouth at the outer end. At the shore end the flume turned sharply

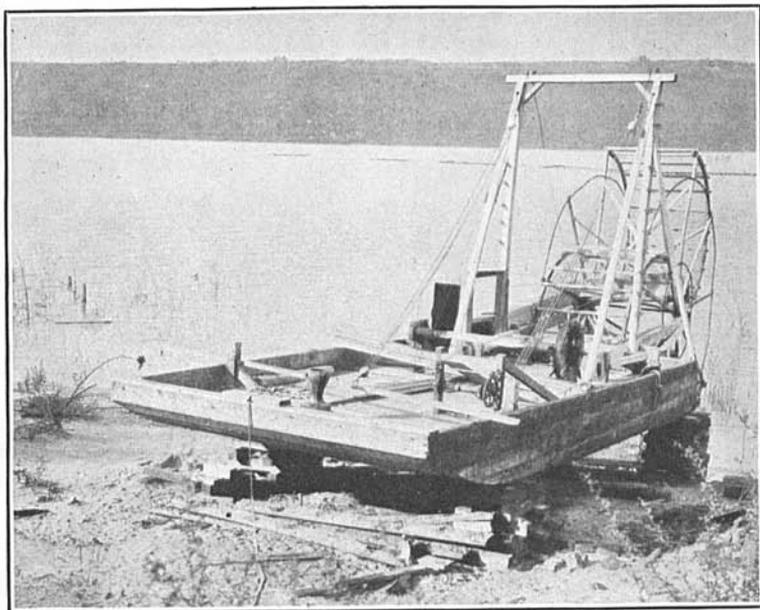


FIG. 23.—A COLUMBIA RIVER SCOW FISH WHEEL.

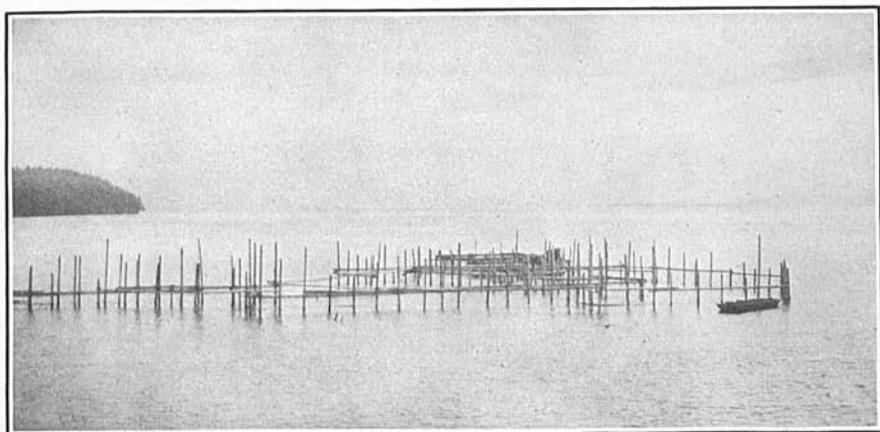


FIG. 24.—PUGET SOUND SALMON TRAP.

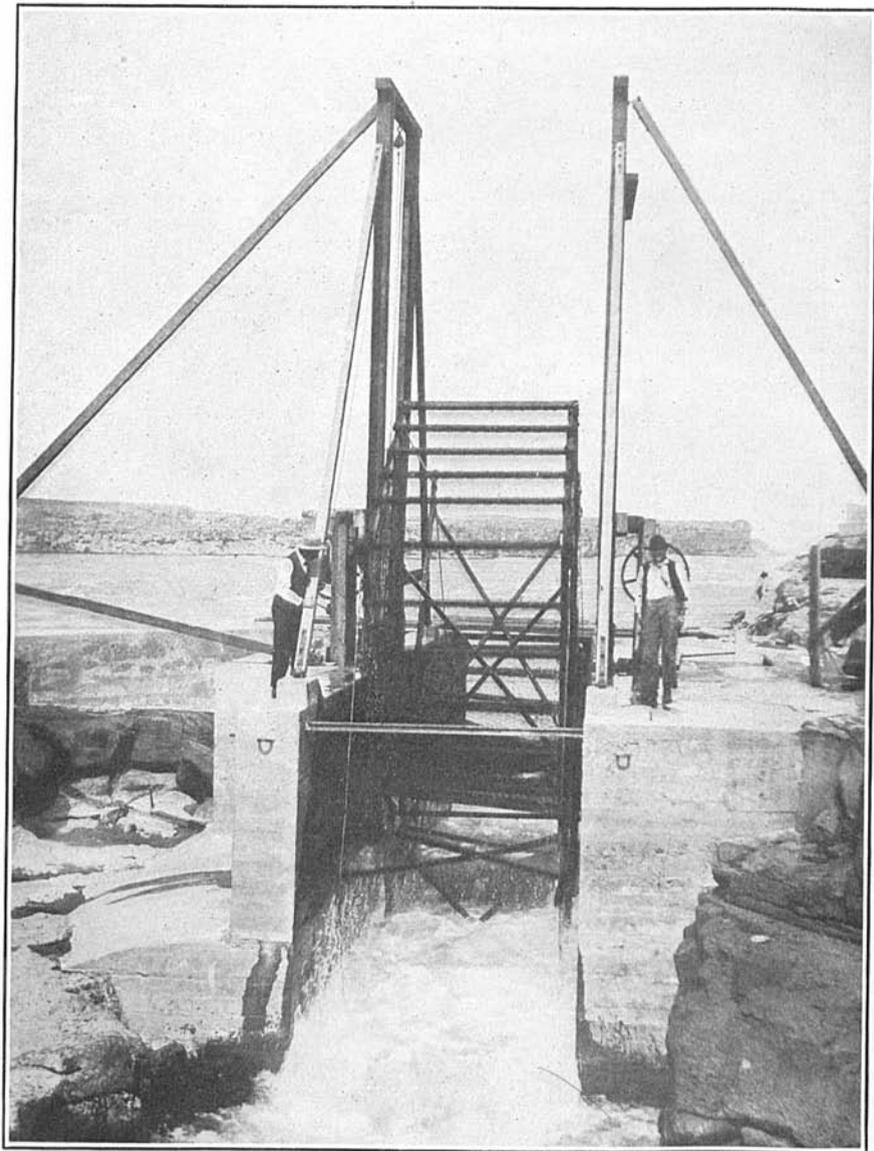


FIG. 25.—A COLUMBIA RIVER STATIONARY FISH WHEEL.

at right angles and discharged into a square box with slat bottom and covered over with boughs. The fish in ascending the stream would be stopped by the rack and in swimming around many of them would be carried by the current into and down the flume, eventually landing in the receiving box alongside the shore.

WHEELS.

Fish wheels are of two kinds, the floating or scow wheel, which can be moved from point to point if need be, and the shore wheel, which is a fixed apparatus. They operate in exactly the same manner, however. The stationary wheel is located along the shore in a place where experience has shown that the salmon pass. Here an abutment is built of wood and stone, high enough to protect it from an ordinary rise in the river. To this is attached the necessary framework for holding the wheel. The latter is composed of three large scoop-shaped dip nets made of galvanized-iron wire netting with a mesh of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches. These nets are the buckets of the wheel and they are so arranged on a horizontal axis that the wheel is kept in constant motion by the current, and thus picks up any fish which come within its sweep. The nets are fixed at such an angle that as they revolve their contents fall into a box chute through which the fish slide into a large bin on the shore. The wheels range in size from 9 to 32 feet in diameter and from 5 to 15 feet in width, and cost from \$1,500 to \$8,000, the average being about \$4,000. A number of them have long leaders of piling running out into the river, which aid in leading the salmon into the range of the wheel.

The scow wheel consists of a large square-ended scow that is usually decked at one end and open at the other. Several stanchions, some 8 to 10 feet high, support a framework upon which an awning is spread to protect the fish from the sun's rays and the crew from the elements. To one end of the scow are fastened two upright posts, which are guyed by wooden supports, while projecting from the same end is the framework which supports the wheel, the latter being constructed in the same way as the stationary wheel, but on a smaller scale. In operation the scow is anchored with the wheel end pointing downstream, and as the wheel is revolved by the current, the fish caught fall from the net into a box chute, through which they slide into the scow. As stationary wheels can be used only at certain stages of water, the scow wheel is a necessary substitute to be used at such times as the former can not be operated, or in places where it is not feasible to build a stationary wheel.

The above forms of wheels are used exclusively on the Columbia River.

An ingenious device is used by some of the wheel operators on the Columbia River in getting their catch to the canneries, a few miles farther down the river. The salmon are tied together in bunches, which are attached to air-tight casks and sent down the stream. At the canneries small balconies have been constructed at the water end of the building. A man armed with a pair of field glasses is stationed here, and as soon as he sights one of these casks he notifies a boatman who goes out and tows in the cask and salmon. About 800 pounds of salmon are attached to a keg, and a tag showing the wheel from which shipped, is tied to the fish.

In 1908 the first fish wheel to be located in the coastal waters of Alaska was operated in the Taku River, in southeast Alaska. The wheel was set between two 4-foot scows, stationed parallel to each other, and each 40 feet in length. The wheel had two dips, each 22 feet in width and hung with netting. It could be moved from place to place, the same as the scow wheels on the Columbia River. It was operated throughout the king and red salmon runs, but caught almost no salmon, and was not set in the succeeding years.

For many years the natives of the interior of Alaska have been resorting to the banks of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and their tributaries in order to secure a sufficient supply of salmon to sustain them through the succeeding winter. The favorite apparatus of these natives at present is a type of fish wheel introduced by the whites about 1905. An oblong framework of timbers is constructed in the water and moored to the bank by ropes. A wheel, composed of two or three dips, is placed in this, the axle resting upon the framework. The current catches each dip in turn, thus causing the wheel to revolve, and the dip is of such shape that the salmon caught roll off it into a trough, down which they slide into a boat moored between the wheel and the shore or into a box fixed to the supporting framework on the side. Although crude in construction, these wheels are very effective and a large number of them are set each season.

The Columbia River fish wheel is a patented device. It was first used by the patentees, S. W. Williams & Bro., in 1879, and for several years they retained a monopoly in its use. A number are now operating on the river. The device was not new even when patented, as a similar "fishing machine," as it is called, had been in use prior to this time and is still used by white fishermen on the Roanoke River in North Carolina.

REEF NETS.

When the whites first visited the Northwest they found the natives employing a number of ingenious devices for catching salmon, and one of the most effective of these was the reef net. J. A. Kerr, Esq.,^a who has been engaged in the salmon fisheries of Puget Sound for a number of years, has written the following very interesting account of this native fishery:

The aborigines the world over have developed ingenuity solely along the lines of their necessities. The coast Indians of Alaska evolved the bidarky and the ingenious implements for taking the seal, the walrus, and the whale. The Siwash of Puget Sound developed a seaworthy dugout and appliances for taking salmon that marks the acme of Indian invention.

When Vancouver explored the waters of the Sound he found over 500 Indians encamped at Chiltenum, now Point Roberts. He relates in his log of the voyage that these Indians were engaged "in fishing for salmon with crude nets made of the bark of young willow." He described the racks upon the contiguous upland used by the Indians in curing the fish.

When Gov. Stevens negotiated the treaty with the Indians of the lower Sound at Point Elliott, now Mukilteo, in 1855, I was informed by Col. Shaw, the interpreter, that over 7,000 Indians attended, the session lasting for five days.

The Government sought to have the Indians confined to reservations, and the disposition of their ancient fisheries was a matter of great solicitude on their part. Salmon was the principal article of their diet.

After protracted discussion the sixth clause of the treaty was made to provide that "the right to take fish at their usual and accustomed fishing grounds, together with the right to erect and maintain racks upon the contiguous upland for curing and drying the same, is hereby forever guaranteed to said Indians."

^a The Siwash Reef Net. By J. A. Kerr. Pacific Fisherman Yearbook, 1917, p. 60.

There were two of those ancient fisheries on the lower Sound—Point Roberts Reef and Village Point.

The original reef net of the Indians, as described by the first white settlers and by the Indians themselves, was constructed as follows:

The natives peeled the bark from the willow and with it spun a twine and tied a net about 25 feet in width and 40 feet in length, with a mesh substantially of the dimensions and shape of that used in the now familiar pound net.

They then went into the swamps and cut cedar withes. After heating rocks and placing them in pools of water they steamed these withes, after which they twisted them into substantial ropes.

Their reef net operations were confined to the shoal waters over the reefs. The reef net locations were of great value to the Indians, and were considered as property and handed down from father to son. As a rule the Indian families controlling these locations owned an inner and outer location. The reef at Point Roberts is over 1 mile in length.

Reef net fishing was confined to the flood tide. At the beginning of the flood the outer location was used, after the middle of the flood the nets were shifted to the inner locations.

The Indians assembled at the reefs in advance of the salmon run and prepared their appliances.

They first secured heavy boulders or blocks of sandstone from Chuckanut to be used as anchors. They then procured for each net two logs about the length of their canoes. To each end of these logs they tied one of their ropes, about 100 feet in length, the other end of which was fastened to the stone anchor. These logs were anchored over the top of the reef and about 20 feet apart. From the forward end of these logs there was run out at an angle of 45° other ropes to a distance of 50 feet, the outward end fastened to a buoy. To these ropes were fastened stalks of kelp, the ends weighted to the bottom with stones. Thus was constructed a lead operating to concentrate the approaching school of fish between the logs. Then from the front end of these logs there was dropped forward and to the bottom two ropes, from one of these ropes to the other, at intervals of 2 or 3 feet, were fastened cords of willow twine. This appliance was called by the Indians a ladder.

Now in operating the net itself two canoes were lashed on the inside of the logs. Three Indians occupied one canoe and four the other. The net was then suspended between the canoes. The Indians in the forward end of the canoes held the ropes fastened to the bottom of the net, those in the back end held the ropes fastened to the top of the net. The tide running against the net caused it to bag, or purse. The fourth Indian in one of the canoes was generally an elderly man and was called the watcher. He discovered the school of salmon as they were carried into the net and at his signal the Indians at the front of the canoes pulled the lower edge of the net, which was kept within 4 feet of the surface, above the water. The Indians at the middle of the canoe reached down and caught the sides of the net, lifting the sides above the surface. These Indians pulled against each other, the long ropes by which the logs were moored giving enough to allow the canoes to be pulled alongside each other. The fish were then dumped into one of the canoes, after which the net was loosened and lowered, and the boats fell back to their original position again. With these appliances the Indians would take up to 3,000 salmon on a single run of the tide.

This Indian appliance affords not only an interesting illustration of native ingenuity, but as a matter of fact was the forerunner of the pound net. John Waller, a Welshman, was one of the earliest settlers at Point Roberts. He observed the operations of the reef net and in the early 60's constructed at Point Roberts the first pound net ever driven on the Pacific coast. The leads duplicated that of the Indians, while he impounded the salmon by means of the tunnel leading into a web pot, instead of lifting them as impounded.

The reef net marks the humble Siwash as an inventor of some skill, and as a benefactor of some importance, and the apparatus would be in use to-day were it not for the large number of people required to operate it.

At one time this was a favorite device of the Puget Sound natives for catching sockeye salmon. Owing to the large number of men required to work them, and the fact that they can be worked only at certain stages of tide and in favorable weather, these nets gradually have been supplanted by other devices. In 1909 but five were used, and these were operated off the shores of San Juan, Henry, Stuart, and Lummi Islands, and in the vicinity of Point Roberts. Practically none are used at present.

TROLLING.

Each year the catching of salmon by trolling becomes of increasing importance commercially. Although begun a number of years ago the industry never attained prominence until the mild curers created such a persistent and profitable demand for king, or chinook, salmon that the fishermen, who had previously restricted their operations mainly to the use of nets during the annual spawning runs, which last but a small portion of the year, began to follow up the fish both before and after the spawning run and soon discovered that they were to be found in certain regions throughout nearly every month in the year.

Trolling has several advantages from the fisherman's point of view over seine, gill net, and trap fishing. To engage in it, one does not need any very expensive gear, a boat, hooks, and lines being all that are required. Then, there are no licenses to pay and no seasons to observe in many sections, as the fishing is done in many instances beyond the jurisdiction of State waters.

The fishermen comprise all nationalities. While the majority of them are professionals, men of all walks of life are to be found engaging in the business, some on account of their health, others because of reverses in business or lack of work, while still others engage in it from pure love of the outdoor life.

The Monterey Bay (Calif.) trollers use 48 cotton line generally. A few inches below the main lead an additional line is added, with a small sinker on it. This gives two lines and hooks, and as the main line has but the one lead, and that above the junction with the branch line, it floats somewhat above the latter, which is weighted down with a sinker. The main stem is about 20 fathoms in length, while the branch lines are about 5 fathoms each. These lines cost about \$3.50 each. No spoon is used, but bait almost invariably. A few fishermen use a spread of stout steel wire, 4 feet long, with 5 or 6 feet of line on each end of the spread, two lines and hooks.

On the upper Sacramento River (mainly at Redding and Keswick) some fishing is done with hand lines. A small catch was made here in 1908, but none were so caught in 1909.

Even as early as 1895 trolling was carried on in the Siuslaw River, Oreg., for chinook and silver salmon.

About 1912 the fishermen living along the lower Columbia River discovered that salmon could be taken by trolling off the bar. A number of them went into the business regularly, while their numbers were greatly swelled by the addition of many of the net fishermen during the regular closed seasons on the river, these not applying to trollers. Some idea of the growth of this fishery off the Columbia River bar may be gained when it is stated that in September, 1915, about 500 boats were engaged in it. It is reported that in 1919 over 1,000 boats were engaged in trolling here.

At Oregon City and other places on the Willamette River a number of chinook salmon are caught by means of trolling each year, mainly by sportsmen. A spoon is quite generally employed in place of bait. The fishermen claim that the salmon are not feeding at this time, as their stomachs are shriveled up.

For a number of years the Indians living at the reservation on Neah Bay, Wash., have annually caught large numbers of silver and

chinook salmon in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. A large number of white fishermen also engage in this fishery at the present time in the same waters, while others troll for the same species, but more particularly silvers, in parts of Puget Sound proper. The ordinary trolling line, with a spoon instead of bait, is used.

Many of the trollers use power boats, and in this event four and sometimes six lines are used. One and sometimes two short poles are run out from each side of the boat (when two are used on a side, one is shorter than the other), the butt being dropped into a chock. Two lines are generally trailed from the stern. At the end of each pole is a very short line with a small tin can attached. A few pebbles are in the can, and as the launch moves slowly through the water with all her lines set, the troller knows when he has a bite by the rattling of the pebbles in the can. Each of the lines attached to a pole is also connected with the boat by a short line from the side to a point on the line about 20 feet from the tip of the latter. When a fish is hooked, the fisherman merely pulls in the line by means of the short piece and then can haul the fish in hand over hand.

The most remarkable trolling region is in southeast Alaska. For some years the Indians here had been catching king salmon for their own use during the spring months, and about the middle of January, 1905, king salmon were noticed in large numbers in the vicinity of Ketchikan. Observing the Indians catching these, several white fishermen decided to engage in the pursuit, shipping the product fresh to Puget Sound ports. They met with such success that 271,644 pounds, valued at \$15,600, were shipped. The next year several of the mild-cure dealers established plants in this region, thus furnishing a convenient and profitable market for the catch, and as a result the fishery has grown until in 1915 2,170,400 pounds of king salmon and 54,400 pounds of coho salmon were caught and marketed. The length of the fishing season has also lengthened until now the business is prosecuted vigorously during about seven months in the year, and in a desultory manner for two or three months more, only the severe winter weather preventing operations the rest of the year.

In southeast Alaska the fishermen generally use either the Hendryx Seattle trout-bait spoon No. 5 or the Hendryx Puget Sound No. 8. The former comes in nickel or brass or nickel and brass, the full nickel preferred. The Siwash hook No. 9/0, known as the Victoria hook in British Columbia, is in quite general use. As a rule, but one hook is used, and this hangs from a ring attached to a swivel just above the spoon, while the point of the hook comes a little below the bottom of the spoon. Occasionally double or treble hooks are used. Some fishermen use bait, and when this is done the herring, the bait almost universally employed, is so hooked through the body as, when placed in the water, to stretch out almost straight and face forward as in life.

There are a large number of power-boat trollers in this region. These trollers generally use one pole on a side and one at the stern. The rowboat trollers use but one line, which is attached to a thwart in the boat, handy to their reach when rowing, and trailing out from the stern of the boat.

The trollers usually have temporary camps where they congregate while the fish are to be found in that section, moving on to some more favorable spot when the fish begin to get scarce.

Reports from the trollers of southeast Alaska prove that all species of salmon will take the hook at some time or other in the salt waters of this region, an examination of their stomachs generally showing that they are either feeding or in a condition to feed.

A small commercial fishery is carried on in this region for coho salmon, mainly in August and September, in the neighborhood of Turnabout Island, in Frederick Sound. A Stewart spoon with two hooks on one ring is used, baited with herring in such a way that the fish is straightened out and faced toward the spoon. The sportsmen of Ketchikan also fish with rod and reel for this species in the neighborhood of Gravina Island, using a Hendryx spoon (kidney bait No. 6), which is silvery in color on one side and red on the other. Although much smaller than the king, the coho salmon is more gamey.

During the latter part of March the Gulf of Georgia, in British Columbia, is invaded by large schools of young coho salmon, locally called "bluebacks." They evidently come in from the sea by way of the Straits of Fuca, as their presence is at first apparent in the lower gulf, especially among the reefs and islands off Gabriola Pass. On their arrival these fish are only about a couple of pounds weight, but increase in size very rapidly, with correspondingly voracious appetites. They are to be found in the gulf throughout the spring and summer. By May the fish generally average close to three pounds each when dressed, while in July they are between four and six pounds in weight.

A number of fishermen with power and row boats engage in this fishery, the fish being either sold to the fresh markets or to the canneries.

Trolling lines and spoon baits of one form or another are used. In fishing from power boats the outer lines are attached to fish poles 15 to 18 feet long, rigged out on either side. Those poles are usually hinged at the foot of a short mast and lowered outboard by a halyard running through a block at the masthead, with the additional brace of a forward guy, which, with the drag of the lines aft, holds them in position. It has been customary to use from five to seven lines from each launch, the two outer lines leading from the ends of the poles; the next pair are attached to intermediate tips fastened halfway out on the main pole, while inboard lines are attached to smaller upright rods on either quarter.

The outer trolls are brought within reach (the poles being practically fixtures) by means of a short piece attached to each fishing line 15 or 20 feet from the point where it is fastened to the pole and leading inboard.

Recently, however, the Dominion authorities have decreed that a troller shall not use more than three lines from a boat when trolling for salmon. Should a man be alone in the boat three lines will keep him very busy if the fish are biting at all well.

Spoons are generally used. All shapes are employed, from the ordinary Siwash patterns to wobblers; brass or silver wobblers, of Nos. 4 and 5 sizes, are largely used by the fishermen. Spinners of 2 to 3 inches long are also popular. Copper, copper and silver, and brass

spinners of the Siwash and Victoria patterns are very effective, while red beads, feathered hooks, or a piece of silvery salmon skin placed on the hook as an additional bait often add to the attraction of a spoon.

Quite generally the fishermen use single hooks on their spoons. Various lengths of line are used, but on the average about 60 feet for outside lines and 40 for inside are used. As fish can be landed much quicker with a short line, the fishermen generally shorten their lines to 20 or 30 feet when the fish are biting rapidly. Quite heavy lines are used from the pole to the sinker; from there extends a length of light line, and then a piece of wire, to which the spoon is attached. The sinker, which is usually between 2 and 3 pounds in weight when fishing from a power boat and about 1 pound when a rowboat is employed, is attached to the line about 18 feet from the spoon.

The best fishing times are in the early morning and evening, without regard to tidal conditions. The low slack water is always favorable to good fishing.

These fish are delicate flavored, but do not keep well, it being necessary to rush them to market if they are to be sold in a first-class condition.

Considerable numbers of these fish are taken by both American and Canadian fishermen on Swiftsure Banks, off Cape Flattery. As complaint had been made in 1914 that these fish were immature and were unfit for canning because of their appearance after being out of the water some hours, H. T. Graves, acting commissioner of agriculture for the State of Washington, which department is concerned with the wholesomeness of food products, made a thorough investigation of their fitness for food. In a letter to the Pacific Fisherman, Seattle, Wash., and published in that journal under date of August, 1914, he states, among other things, the following:

The question, therefore, for us to determine was to ascertain their value as a food product. The condition of these fish arriving at the various canneries was carefully noted; samples were selected for bacteriological analysis.

The fish when first taken from the water are very soft when compared with the other salmon. After they have been out of the water 12 hours the fish easily separates from the bony structures, and in the course of ordinary handling in the time which elapses between the hour of taking from the water until they are offered for packing at Sound canneries, which is anywhere from 12 to 48 hours, they become badly broken up and present a rather ugly and distasteful appearance, to say the least.

We found that many different methods of handling were being experimented with by the fisherman and by Puget Sound canneries, but without any noticeable effect. While from a physical observation one would imagine these fish as received at the Sound canneries to be unwholesome, a bacteriological examination by Dr. E. P. Fick, State bacteriologist, indicated that putrefaction was not present, although some of the specimens did contain a rather high bacteria count.

BOW AND ARROW.

On the Tanana River, a tributary of the Yukon River, in Alaska, the Indians hunt salmon in birch-bark canoes with bow and arrow. As the canoe is paddled along and the Indian sees the dorsal fin of the salmon cutting the surface of the muddy water he shoots it. The tip of the arrow fits into a socket, and when struck the tip, which when loose is attached to the stock by a long string, comes out of the socket and the arrow floats, easily locating the fish for the fisherman.

SPEAR AND GAFF.

Spears of varying shapes and styles have been in use by the Indians from time immemorial and are still employed on many rivers in which salmon run. With the exception of the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers of Alaska, practically all of the catch secured in this manner is consumed by the fishermen and their families. In the Chilkoot River the Indians have built numerous racks in the stream and on the banks, upon which they stand and hook the fish out with a gaff attached to a pole. The catch is sold to the cannery located on Chilkoot Inlet.

SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON.

The number of sportsmen who improve the opportunity presented by the appearance of feeding springs and cohos is increasing yearly, and in time this promises to far excel the sport salmon fishing of the Atlantic coast.

On Puget Sound and lower British Columbia waters the anglers generally use ordinary trout fishing rods and tackle, with preferably a short trolling tip on the rod when out for coho. Small spinners of silver or copper, of about an inch in length, or else the small double Tacoma spoons, are very good. A strong gut leader or trace of fine piano wire is frequently used, as the fish's teeth would cut through an ordinary line. Where iron wire is used the salt water rusts it rapidly, and unless the precaution is taken to dry off the wire and oil it after using it can not be used for more than a couple of days. Sinkers of an ounce or two in weight are generally employed with fine line.

Many of the small spoons on the market have very cheap hooks, and these are apt to straighten out or break with the strain of a large fish. Hooks of the best steel will, however, stand up to this strain.

One of the favorite spots for anglers is at the falls on the Willamette River at Oregon City, Oreg. Another is on the Clackamas, a tributary which debouches into the Willamette near here. When the spring run of salmon appears in April, hundreds of anglers, many of them from far distant points, appear to participate in the sport during this month and in May. Many noted sportsmen have fished for salmon at these spots. Among them was Rudyard Kipling,^a and his experiences were woven into a classic short story.

The fishing ground is spread over a mile's length of the river, from Clackamas rapids to the deadline at the falls. It is not an uncommon sight to see 500 boats, each containing from one to six fishermen and fisherwomen, dotting the river on favorable days during the season.

Two methods of fishing are followed. The most popular is to anchor at the head of the Clackamas rapids or in swift water near the falls and allow the rush of water to spin the trolling hook. In the longer lengths of quieter water the sportsmen troll in slow motor boats or rowboats.

An inexperienced boatman is apt to find fishing in the rapids or near the falls somewhat dangerous, as the swift water may overturn his craft and carry him to his death before help can reach him.

There is a fishway in the dam, so that the fish can pass up this and into the river above the dam. No fishing is allowed closer than 100

^a It was in 1889 that Kipling fished here, and his story was reprinted in *The American Angler*, Vol. II, No. 2, December, 1917, pp. 415-420.

feet of the mouth of this ladder. Up to 1915 there was a second deadline, 600 feet from the falls, beyond which no commercial fisherman could operate nets, but the Oregon Legislature in that year closed the Willamette to all net fishermen from the Clackamas rapids to the falls.

The salmon in the spring run on the Willamette will average about 25 pounds each, but examples weighing 50 pounds and over are not uncommon.

In 1914 the Salmon Club of Oregon was formed of anglers who desired to encourage the use of light tackle in the taking of large game fish, in place of the extremely heavy tackle heretofore used. The following rules were adopted:

The rods used may be made of any material except solid bamboo cane. They must not be less than 5 feet in length and weigh not over 6 ounces.

The line must not be heavier than the standard nine-thread linen line.

Any style of reel or spoon may be used and the wire leader must not exceed 3 feet in length.

The angler must reel in his fish, bring it to gaff unaided, and must do the gaffing himself. If a rod is broken at any time during the struggle with the fish it will disqualify the catch.

As a reward of merit the club awards bronze buttons to all anglers taking, on light tackle, salmon weighing 20 pounds or over; for a fish weighing over 30 pounds a silver button is given, and for any salmon over 40 pounds the lucky angler receives a gold button. Numerous additional prizes are also given by public-spirited citizens.

The season for light tackle on the Willamette River and all other inland streams of Oregon has been fixed by the club from January 1 to July 1.

In 1915 the first angler to win a gold button on the Willamette River did so on April 18, when he took a 42½-pound salmon. On the same day this same angler also won a silver button for a 32½-pound fish and a bronze button for a 26-pound fish.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Report of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries

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November 19, 2004