

"This fish varies in size from 20 to 120 pounds and is caught only with a hook and line. The fish stays close along the bottom, and is such a greedy feeder as to be readily caught by the clumsy hook. In fishing for halibut the canoe is anchored by means of stones and cedar bark ropes. The bait is lashed to the hook, a stone sinker attached to the line, and the contrivance lowered to the bottom. Sometimes the upper ends of the lines are attached to floats, and more than one line tended at a time. A fish being hooked is hauled up, played for a while, drawn alongside, grappled, and finally dispatched with blows of a club carried for the purpose. It requires no little skill to land a 100-pound halibut in a light fishing canoe. A primitive halibut fishing outfit consists of kelp lines, wooden floats, stone sinkers, an anchor line, a wooden club, and wooden fishhooks. It is impossible, with our most modern appliances, to compete with the Indians in halibut fishing. With their crude implements they meet with the most surprising success."

The surplus of fish, after due provision has been made for the necessities of winter, is converted into oil—the sauce indispensable for all food, be it fruit, meat, or the hard cakes made from the sea algae. Their manner of preparing it is extremely crude. The fish is cut into small pieces and placed in a wooden trough or canoe partly filled with water. Large stones are raised to a red heat, and with the aid of sticks or wooden shovels and thrown into the water; this raises it to a boiling point and partly cooks the fish. It is then allowed to cool, the oil that rises to the surface is carefully removed with wooden ladles and put away in bladders for future use. An inferior grade of oil, usually consumed at the time, is obtained by pressing the pieces of flesh between planks. A more savory dressing is the oil obtained from the heads of salmon and halibut which have been buried in the sand on the beach until they have become rancid.

The earliest visitors to these regions report no other garments worn by the natives than those fashioned from the skins of wild beasts, either in the form of furs or tanned leather. The outer garment worn by both sexes, a loose cloak of sea otter skin, was a great favorite with the early traders who eagerly bought all that were offered for sale, paying what seemed to the natives like fabulous prices. They were shrewd enough to discover before long that it was not profitable to cut into pieces skins which were so valuable, hence they substituted other material for their own wardrobe.

The northern tribes, notably the Chilkats, have long been adepts at the art of weaving blankets. Their warp is the bark of the cedar finely shredded and spun into a cord; the wool of the mountain goat dyed various colors, usually black, yellow, white, or rarely brown, furnishes yarn for the filling. These colors are fantastically arranged