

Both the Haidas and Tshimsians have the custom of collecting salmon ^{Salmon roe.} roe, putting it in boxes, and burying these below high-water mark on the beach. When decomposition has taken place to some extent, and the mass has a most noisome odour, it is ready to eat, and is considered a very great luxury. Sometimes a box is uncovered without removing it from the beach, and all sitting round eat the contents. Fatal poisoning has followed this on several occasions. It is attributed to a small worm which is said at times to enter the decomposing mass from the sea. The Haidas also occasionally allowed the heads of salmon and halibut to lie on the beach between high and low water marks till partly decomposed, when they were considered to be much improved.

The dog-fish is very abundant along some parts of the coast, and its fishery is now beginning to be engaged in. The fish is not eaten by the Haidas, but the oil extracted from the liver is readily sold to white traders, and constitutes one of the few remaining articles of legitimate marketable value possessed by the natives. Large sharks abound on the northern and western coasts, and are much feared by the Haidas, who allege that they frequently break their canoes and eat the unfortunate occupants. No instance of this kind is known to me, but they fear to attack these creatures. When, however, one of them is stranded, or found from any cause in a moribund state, they are not slow to take advantage of its condition, and from the liver extract a large quantity of oil. The whale and hair-seal (if it be proper to include these among products of the fisheries) ^{Fish yielding oil.} abound in the waters ^{Whales and seals.} surrounding the islands. I cannot learn that the former were ever systematically pursued as they were by the Makah Indians of Cape Flattery and Ahts of the west coast of Vancouver Island. When, however, by chance one of these comes ashore it is a great prize to the owner of the particular strip of beach on which it may be stranded. The seal is shot or speared, the latter doubtless having been the primitive mode. Both the flesh and blubber are eaten, the Indians comparing the animal on account of its fatness to that—to many of them hypothetical creature—from which pork is derived. They speak of it in the Chinook jargon as *si-wash co-sho*.* It is interesting to remark in this connection that most of the Haidas will on no account eat pork, for some reason which I have been unable to determine.

The oyster is not found on the coasts of the Queen Charlotte Islands, though it occurs in some sheltered localities about Vancouver Island. Clams (*Saxidomus squalidus*, *Cardium Nuttalli*, &c.,) however, abound, with the large horse mussel (*Mytilus Californianus*) which on rocks exposed to the full force of tidal currents attains a great size. These shell-fish of course form a portion of the native diet. They are not

* Meaning simply Indian pig. *Si-wash* from French *sauvage*. *Co-sho* from *cochon*.