

RETURN showing the Number of Vessels, Boats and Men engaged in the Marine Fur Fishery of British Columbia, with the Products and Value, for the Season of 1888.

Names of Vessels.	Names of Owners.	Tonnage.	No. of Boats.	No. of Men.	No. of Seals in British Columbia.	No. of Seals in Behring Sea.	Total No. of Seals.	Total Value of Seals.
								\$
Penelope.....	J. J. Gray.....	69	5	20	805	900	1,705	17,050
Mary Ellen.....	A. McLean.....	69	14	30	1,410	1,937	3,347	33,470
Juanita.....	Hall & Gospel.....	40	13	28	177	1,617	1,794	11,940
Mountain Chief.....	B. Jacobson.....	26	6	10	400	825	1,225	12,250
San Jose.....	J. S. Lee.....	52	4	16	107	.....	107	1,070
Sapphire.....	E. B. Moroni.....	124	9	22	1,200	.....	1,200	12,000
Viva.....	Carne & Munsie.....	92	5	21	8-6	2,069	2,875	28,750
Black Diamond.....	Gutman & Frank.....	81	9	19	231	863	1,096	10,960
Mary Taylor.....	J. D. Warran.....	42	13	24	392	.....	392	3,920
Heleyon.....	American.....	61	6	24	17	.....	17	170
Triumph.....	D. McLean.....	97	12	9	.....	2,470	2,470	24,700
O. S. Fowler.....	Wm. Bendt.....	34	2	12	230	.....	230	2,300
Annie O. Moore.....	Chas. Hackett.....	112	7	22	.....	715	715	7,150
Lily.....	Gutman & Frank.....	68	22	20	93	.....	93	930
Pathfinder.....	Carne & Munsie.....	66	9	21	600	650	1,250	12,500
Adele.....	F. Rutz.....	50	8	19	392	822	1,214	12,140
Rosey Olsen.....	Wm. Olsen.....	33	3	13	100	500	600	6,000
Annie.....	Jas. Laffin.....	25	3	11	156	1,039	1,195	11,950
Maggie Mc.....	John Dodd.....	71	5	20	125	1,299	1,424	14,240
Favourite.....	Chas. Spring.....	79	12	27	300	1,834	2,134	21,340
	Total.....							244,830
Estimate of skins purchased from Indians.....					3,500	.....	3,500	35,000
do sea otter skins purchased from Indians.....					109	.....	109	7,500
do hair seals do do.....					3,500	.....	3,500	2,625
Schooner "O. S. Fowler," walrus skins.....					.....	21	21	378
do do 250 ivory at 40c.....					.....	.....	.....	100
	Grand total marine furs and products.....							280,433

The decrease in the fur seal catch in Behring Sea is still more noticeable; it was caused principally by the unsettled state of affairs with the American Government, several of the schooners being afraid to enter these waters at the risk of seizures.

A great deal has been written on the life and habits of the fur seal. It is contended by some that all the fur seal in the north Pacific have their rookeries on St. Paul and St. George Islands in Behring Sea. Others claim that many of the fur seals of the Pacific never enter Behring Sea, but pup on large kelp fields in the ocean and may perhaps have regular hauling grounds outside of Behring Sea. Extracts from a circular of C. M. Lamsen & Co., of London, England, will give the reader some idea of where the fur seals are caught. From October, 1886, to January, 1888, the following number of skins were sold:—

	Seal Skins.
North-West Pacific Coast.....	43,687
Lobos Island.....	30,463
Alaska.....	204,033
Copper Island.....	100,880
Japan.....	9,856
Cape Horn.....	6,926
South Sea.....	200

396,045