

Of the entire catch of 1917 nearly four-fifths were salmon, with a gross value \$16,828,783. Halibut took second place with a value of \$1,721,012. Herring came third and were valued at \$1,192,654. Black cod accounted for \$879,101, clams and quahaugs for \$84,000, soles for \$78,649, and oysters for \$32,202. These seven divisions of the fishery resources produced \$20,813,704 out of the total of \$21,518,595 at which the catch of 1917 was marketed.

The share that should be credited to the coast and coast rivers of Central British Columbia, of which Prince Rupert is the centre of the industry, is shown on the following table. The principal varieties of fish are five only, namely: salmon, halibut, herring, black cod, and soles. The subdivisions of this section are Skeena river, Prince Rupert, Rivers inlet, Naas river, North Coast and Queen Charlotte islands. The fishing waters of these subdivisions are tributary to Prince Rupert, thus bringing to Central British Columbia the benefit of the industry.

CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OF 1917.

Fishing Districts.	Salmon cwt.	Halibut cwt.	Herring cwt.	Black Cod cwt.	Soles cwt.
Skeena river...	252,574				
Prince Rupert...	25,746	62,879	19,900	13,271	5
Rivers inlet...	80,053				
Nass river...	100,375				
Naas river...	222,336	1,533	8,528	510	
North coast...	39,675		189		
Queen Charlotte islands.					
Total quantity...	720,259	64,412	28,617	13,781	5
Total value marketed.	\$7,656,650	\$965,320	\$44,490	\$131,924	\$57
Grand total...					\$8,855

*Census of Industry, 1917.

The great sockeye salmon packs of the Fraser, Skeena and Nass rivers have become famous in all parts of the world. Their habits form most interesting subjects of investigation. Though normally a salt water fish they ascend the river upon reaching maturity to spawn mostly in streams beyond the lakes of the interior.

The Fraser river spawning grounds include such large lakes as Harrison, Lillooet, Seton, Anderson, Chilko, and Quesnel. The Meziadin lake section is one of the principal spawning areas of the Nass river. Eggs are deposited and hatched in these interior lakes after which the parent fish die. The young fry or fingerlings as they are called, find their way down stream to the ocean, where they spend some four years in reaching maturity. They then start on their long journey to spawning beds from which they were hatched, their homing instincts being described as most highly developed. It is believed they actually are led by this instinct to the very waters of their origin.

In countless millions they battle their way up stream, crowding and hurrying forward as if driven by relentless foes. Seemingly inaccessible rapids and barriers are scaled by feats of wonderful jumping and swimming. Should impassable barriers halt their journey they accumulate in masses so thick that the waters appear packed full of them. It is said they do not rest or feed on these migrations, and many finally batter themselves to pieces in ascending rocky rapids.