

3/13/2022

Members of the Board,

I would like to please submit this late RC acknowledging an error in the slides which I presented to the board the other day.

My previous RC, RC42, features a slide about the reduction fishery in Southeast Alaska which suggests that there was no catch in 1959. Alas, this is not true - in my haste to assemble that slide, I had a spreadsheet error for that year! I would like to extend my thanks to Member Wood for identifying the unusual feature of the chart.

Interestingly, this error is similar to errors perennially present in ADFG data – most recently in RC43 - in which there were supposed biomass collapses in the early 1920's, in 1940/41, and in the 1960's and 1970's. Those collapses did not happen in the way that they appear in ADFG materials. I have attached two pages here; one is a page from the field notebook of USFW biologist Lawrence Kolloen from 1940, demonstrating that Sitka had a good spawning event in that year. The other is statistical info indicating the very low historic harvest from the near-Sitka area, putting into stark contrast the extreme GHL being allowed today. It appears from these errors that the Department's historical graph of biomass should not be in use.

Best,

Peter Bradley

## STATISTICS OF THE ALASKA HERRING FISHERY

1878 - 1956

by  
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## ABSTRACT

Statistics of the herring fishery in Alaska are summarized in this report for the years 1878 to 1956 insofar as detailed data were available.

Catches are recorded by statistical areas in Southeastern Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak and represent a revision of previously published figures obtained by converting meal production to pounds of fish. Products of the fishery and the statistics of operation are summarized for all Alaska.

The purpose of this report is to provide a reliable statistical summary of the herring (Clupea harengus pallasii) fishery in Alaska. Such a summary is of paramount importance to research studies and to management of the fishery. The present data include all catch figures available by statistical area through 1956, when the statistical recording system was changed.

Previously published herring catch statistics were examined carefully. Some inaccuracies were uncovered and it was found that the statistics were incomplete in some respects. Corrections and additions to published statistics have been made and are incorporated into the tables of this report.

Upon examining past statistical reports, it was noted that annual catch figures published prior to 1950 were obtained by converting meal production to pounds of fish. The weight of meal is not, however, a fixed function of fish weight, and in some years large discrepancies from actual catch poundage were reported. Further, discrepancies in catch data occurred when both 200- and 250-pound barrels were recorded on fish receipts, but tallied on agents' sworn reports as 250-pound units. Catches by statistical areas were not published in the past. The area breakdown presented in this report has been utilized both in research and management and should prove useful to industry and fishermen as well. Additional justification for compiling these data is emphasized by the fact that catch and production records published since 1905 are only annual summaries and the major portion of these summaries are not readily available. Further, in 1956 the unit of weight for reporting catches was changed from 250-pound barrels to short tons and it would have been unwieldy to compare current data with past records.



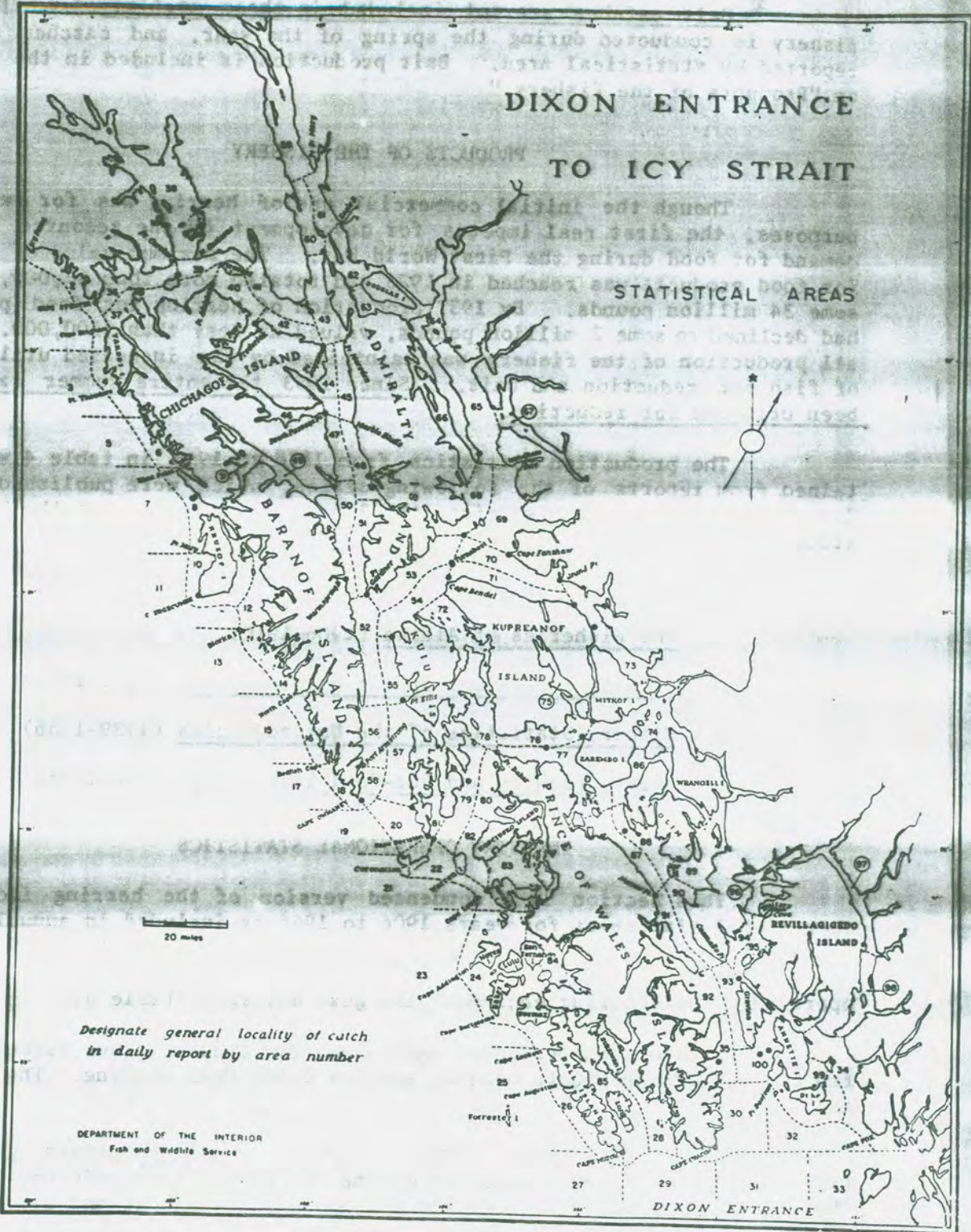


Figure 2. --Southeastern Alaska district showing statistical areas.



Table 1.--Southeastern Alaska herring catch in tons by statistical area.

Area	1	3	6	8	9	10	11	12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1929									2		39756				1911		720			
1930			57			3925		1404	61		40141			27	7078		4661			
1931											28374				271		6236			
1932						1045	93				29486				1030		12461			
1933											52853				1532		377			
1934											43935				2473		1413			
1935					59				121		29053				7947		441			
1936								281	778		13423				2550		3709			
1937									52		22498				1448		2733			
1938											3732		58		95					
1939						6913									921		834			
1940																				
1941											159									
1942																				
1943											3108				354		205			
1944											7601				80					
1945											16274				53					
1946											20445				68		29			92
1947									12		21519	6								
1948				35	3				326		1633				715		220	13		
1949											54				238					
1950				54					186	27	303				1238		1653			
1951		33		18		5		12			416				840	464	2439	46	485	143
1952	115														177	686	7435		1269	388
1953						6421					5				737					
1954						4188									134		1366			
1955						6274				56	840				155		311			
1956						5292									151					
Total	115	33	57	107	62	34063	93	1697	1538	83	375608	6	58	27	32196	1150	47243	59	1754	623

413,088 tons



Spawning Reported at S.I.kn 1940

Apr. 1 On the outside of Middle Is.

Apr. 2 Reported beginning at Kasian Is.  
Reported at Cape Burnoff

Apr. 3. Jamestown Bay and surrounding

Apr. 13-14 Reported by Crew of Odin that  
another school of Herring spawned in  
Jamestown Bay on this date.

Apr. 15. Reported that there has been  
heavy spawning on outside waters of  
Cape Burnoff.

Apr. 14. Report of heavy spawning in  
Islands of Redoubt Bay. Confirmed  
by Mr. Woodrow of Soddard Hot Spr.

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