

HIGH BOATS OF THE ICY STRAITS SALMON CO.'S NATIVE PURSE SEINE FLEET

At Hoonah, Alaska, for 1936 season, fishing in the vicinity of Inian Island—Largest catch for the season was made by the "Jericho" (right), Capt. Joe White (owned by Archie White); at left is the "Dundas," Capt. Wm. Johnson (owned by Oscar Williams), which took second place.—Photos by R. A. Welsh, Jr.

### Packers Aid in Survey of S. E. Spawning Areas

L. G. Wingard, Alaska agent of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, returned to Seattle the middle of October after an exceptionally thorough survey of the Southeast Alaska spawning areas on the bureau's boat "Widgeon". Immediately afterward he met Commissioner Frank T. Bell in eastern Washington for a short conference.

At the suggestion of packers that some members of the industry accompany the officials on the spawning survey, in order to reach a better understanding as to the basis of calculating the escapement, A. P. Wolf of the Hood Bay Canning Co. and Andrew Gunderson, superintendent for the New England Fish Co. at Chatham, took part in the expedition.

Mr. Wingard considers the escapement in Southeast Alaska generally satisfactory, but is convinced that it was not excessive except possibly at one point. Results and observations of the past season, he says, indicate that the Alaska fisheries are in very good condition in practically all districts.

As for the fall season, Mr. Wingard reports the total pack for the fishing period of Oct. 1 to 15 at only a little over 25,000 cases, mostly Chums; the weather was very nasty from about Sept. 20 to August 8, and fishing was almost impossible for the first week of the season; but the second week was fine and most of the pack was made then. Last year the fall pack totaled just over 100,000 cases, against about 97,000 in 1934.

### Mr. Chase Meant The Sacramento Salmon

In its October number Pacific Fisherman pointed out some errors in statements made by Stuart Chase, writer on economic subjects, in his reference to the Pacific fisheries in his book "Rich Land, Poor Land." He made the statement that the catch of Pacific salmon had fallen from 10,000,000 to less than 1,000,000 lbs. per year.

The matter was called to Mr. Chase's attention and he explains by letter that he should have said the catch of salmon on the Sacramento River.

## One Cannery's Contribution To Alaska's Prosperity

An interesting example of the canned salmon industry's contribution to the welfare of Alaska is seen in the fact that the Icy Straits Salmon Co., a relatively small concern operating at Hoonah, during the 1936 season paid out well over \$100,000 in the territory.

Major items of direct expenditure in Alaska, totaling \$65,000, included the following: paid to native fishermen of the Hoonah district, \$34,000; local labor, comprising 75 per cent of all labor employed in the cannery, \$8,500; supplies purchased in Alaska, \$20,000; taxes paid to the territory, about \$4,000. There were also many miscellaneous items, such as purchases, etc., of indirect benefit to Alaskan people and industries, raising the grand total of such expenditures to over \$100,000.

The Icy Straits company made particular efforts to extend opportunities for employment to the people of its district and thus to benefit the district and the territory materially. Officials of the company express the opinion that the season was a successful one for the fishermen, cannery workers and merchants at Hoonah who, in most instances, were enabled to pay up all their existing liabilities and still have enough for their winter's "grubstake," which heretofore has been a serious problem for the territory, necessitating provision for a great deal of relief. The company feels that its efforts in behalf of the local residents of Hoonah have been fairly successful, and attributes this success directly to the fine cooperation of the residents, fishermen, cannery workers and merchants of that district.

"The company," says Frank Wright, Jr., who participated in the management of operations, "was particularly fortunate in having the cooperation of some very fine native seiners, whose untiring efforts enabled the company to make a good pack. It also had seven Puget Sound boats fishing for it, these boats returning to the Sound the latter part of August after fish-

ing in other districts of Southeast Alaska."

The records made by the native seine boats "Jericho," owned by Archie White and captained by Joe White, and the "Dundas," owned by Oscar Williams and captained by William Johnson, are considered worthy of special mention. The "Jericho" was high boat of the native fleet, with the "Dundas" a close second. The owners and captains of the other native boats, however, likewise were good fishermen and cooperated to the best of their ability.

### Alaska Fishermen Act On Japanese Threat

One of the principal actions of the United Fishermen of Alaska, holding its annual convention at Seward Oct. 12, was unanimous adoption of a resolution urging federal and territorial authorities to act for prevention of the threatened Japanese invasion of the Red salmon fishing industry in the vicinity of Alaska.

W. R. Wassenkari was reelected president of the organization, with Edward D. Coffey, member-elect of the territorial legislature, as secretary-treasurer. The union's official headquarters will continue to be at Seward. A resolution was also adopted asking for the abolition of salmon traps.

### Francis Millerd Operates Great Northern Cannery

Francis Millerd, well known canneryman of Vancouver, B. C., has organized the Francis Millerd Co., Ltd., and started packing Oct. 24 in the Great Northern cannery, on Burrard Inlet at West Vancouver. Two lines are being operated, with plans to pack Chums for the balance of the season. Mr. Millerd has been active in the business for many years, having been a member of the former firm of Gosse-Millerd, Ltd.

When the new company started up Chums were quite plentiful in the district, and were bright and in fine shape for canning.



CAPT. JOE WHITE

of Hoonah, Alaska, Owner and Skipper of "Jericho," High Boat for 1936 of the Icy Straits Salmon Co.'s Native Purse Seine Fleet.

### One-Line Record Claimed

The Balcom-Payne Fisheries, Ketchikan, claims a record single day's output for any one-line cannery, having packed 3,700 cases in one day during the big Pink run in August. The plant is fully equipped with Continental Can Co. machinery of the latest type.

The Balcom-Payne Company, in its second season of operation this year, made a total pack of about 70,000 cases — about 14,000 more than last year. A slight gain is shown in Pinks, of which over 50,000 cases were packed, but most of the increase is in other varieties. The pack is marketed by the Griffith-Durney Co.

### Marked Pink Salmon in British Columbia

Attention is called to the fact that some 85,000 Pink salmon fry, which should return in this year's run, were marked in the spring of 1935 by removal of the adipose and both ventral fins at McClinton Creek, Masset Inlet, B. C. Information as to where the returning fish are caught will have a bearing on the "parent stream" theory, and fishermen and cannerymen are requested to observe and report all Pinks so marked. A reward of 25c each will be paid for scars from the marked fish. All such data should be sent to Dr. A. L. Pritchard, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo.

### Low Water Hampers Spawning Around Cordova

About the middle of August many thousands of Pink salmon were said to be spawning along the salt-water beaches in the Cordova district, the water in their spawning streams being too low to permit their ascent to the spawning grounds. Large quantities of eggs were seen floating on the surface and, as no fish are expected to hatch from spawn deposited in salt water, it is feared that this condition will result in a shortage of the run of 1938.

### Welsh Returns to Sound

R. A. Welsh, Jr., vice-president and general manager of the Icy Straits Salmon Co. and vice-president of the Bellingham Canning Co., returned from Alaska August 16, having handled the operation of the Hoonah cannery until the 8th, when it closed. He is now assisting his father at the Bellingham plant.

The Icy Straits plant made quite a satisfactory pack, although the Pink run did not strike in strongly until July 27, giving only a few days of full-capacity operation. Mr. Welsh says the run of early Chums, which was exceptionally heavy this year, consisted of beautiful fish and made a very attractive pack for this species.

The Bellingham Canning Co., in common with others, since the end of July has had few Sockeyes from Puget Sound, but augmented its output for a time with Sockeyes from the Fraser River, where some canneries had more than they could handle. The fish from both sources have been of very fine quality, at least until after the middle of August.

### Alaska Regulatory Changes

At the close of the Prince William Sound salmon season August 5, a supplementary regulation was issued to permit the holding of salmon in traps of this area for 72 hours after the termination of fishing for this year, which virtually amounted to an extension of at least 24 hours in the packing season.

In the Peninsula area east of Kupreanof Point (the eastern part of the area, near Chignik) the fishing season was extended one day, from August 10 through the 11th.

In the eastern part of the Icy Strait district there was also a one-day extension, from the 7th through the 8th.

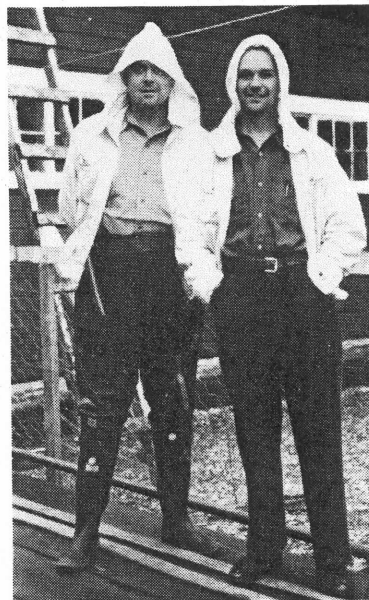
The season was also extended one day in parts of the Eastern and Western districts of Southeast Alaska—from August 15 to the 17th (allowing for the Sunday closed period) in the Eastern district south the 57th parallel; from the 15th to the 17th in the Western district from the 58th parallel to the latitude of Pt. Couverden; and from the 18th to the 19th in the Western district south of the 58th parallel.

### More Tagging in Alaska

Dr. F. A. Davidson, director of the Seattle laboratory of the Bureau of Fisheries, has been for some time in the Ketchikan district, supervising further salmon tagging experiments to make a more complete check-up of the routes of migration of the Pink salmon in that locality. He has also been gathering data relative to changes in quality of the fish during the run.

### Counting Salmon Eggs

Drs. R. E. Foerster and A. L. Pritchard of the Nanaimo biological station have made a fairly detailed study of the numbers of eggs contained in female salmon of various species in different districts of British Columbia. They found no definite relation between the numbers of eggs and the spawning area of the fish, but it appeared that there is a fairly definite relationship between the number of eggs and the size of the



SONS OF TWO WELL-KNOWN CANNERYMEN PULL TOGETHER

R. A. Welsh's "Bob" (left) and Frank Wright's Frank as they appeared this summer at the Icy Straits Salmon Co.'s cannery, Hoonah, Alaska, in the management of which they shared equally.

fish—the number being greater in the larger salmon of any one species. The average egg counts vary also from year to year.

In Pink salmon ranging from 20 to 22 in. long, the average egg content varies from 1,535 to 1,841; in Sockeyes from 22 to 26 in. long, the average egg content ranged from 3,264 to 4,324. Cohoes from 26 to 27½ in. long contained an average of about 3,000 eggs, while the range in Chums of an average length of 29 in. was 2,760 to 2,943 eggs. Springs or Chinooks between 34 and 41 in. long showed quite a wide variation in egg count, from 4,944 to 8,426.

### Don Davis Reports Fine Season

Capt. Don S. Davis, superintendent for P. E. Harris & Co. at False Pass, returned to Seattle Aug. 24, reporting an excellent season on the Peninsula. Weather conditions, he says, were the best he has ever seen there. The heavy storms which usually interfere with fishing were entirely absent after the first week or so, and the temperature was around 70 degrees most of the time. There was an excellent run of both Reds and Pinks, and a good supply of Chums. While there are more canneries competing for fish in that district than formerly, the Harris cannery made a good pack.

### Cordova Canneries Have Great Run

Prince William Sound had an enormous run of Pinks this year, making a record pack of over 600,000 cases of this species alone. During the last week or ten days of the season the congestion of fish was such that most seiners were called in, being paid for "limit" catches at the rate of \$40 to \$45 a day, while the pound-nets provided all the fish that could be handled.

## Columbia Fishing Season Extended by Injunction

A way to cut the Gordian knot of the Columbia River fishing season was found by the Columbia River Packers Association, as a result of which fishing and packing was continued for two days after closing date of August 25 set by the laws of Oregon and Washington.

Because of the exceptionally poor fishing season and on the ground that the usually heavy August run was coming late this year, Columbia River operators besought the state authorities to extend the season. The season, however, had been provided by law through concurrent action of the two states, and the officials were unable to change it.

Just before the closed season the company brought action in the county court at Astoria and obtained a temporary injunction restraining the enforcement authorities from interfering with the work of fishermen pending a hearing set for August 31. The suit attacked the validity of the closed-season law under the Oregon constitution, and also alleged that, because of the Bonneville and Coulee dams, the fish will die and become an economic loss unless taken by the fishermen. It asked that officials be restrained from interfering with the fishermen until Sept. 10. The injunction was issued by County Judge Guy Boyington in the absence of Circuit Judge H. K. Zimmerman.

A similar injunction was obtained in Washington the following day, being issued by Judge Haven's court at South Bend.

On the 27th, however, Judge Zimmerman held a hearing and dissolved the injunction, holding that no question of law entered into the case; and the court on the Washington side took similar action the following day, so that the proceedings after all resulted in only about two days' extra fishing.

M. T. Hoy, master fish warden of Oregon, stated that the injunction "does not permit the fishermen to fish. It merely restrains the authorities from molesting them. . . . When the order is vacated, they can be prosecuted for having fished illegally, and so can the packers for having packed illegal fish."

Fishing in the Columbia continued very poor up to the eve of the closing date, but a heavy run was said to have entered the river on the night of the 24th, and good hauls were made on the night of the 25th, when a number of boats landed over 1,000 lbs. each. The run picked up a little for a day or two at the beginning of August and was fair for about a week later in the month. For the month as a whole, however, it has been far below normal, and it is stated that fishermen have been unable to make expenses for the season.

## Parks Discusses Cordova Salmon Season

J. W. Parks, president of the Pioneer Sea Foods Co., returned to Seattle Aug. 22 from the Uyak cannery, near Cordova, which he leased from the Pacific American Fisheries to replace his burned plant on the Eyak River. He reports at exceptionally fine summer

## CAPT. PHIL GREEN

Winning the "old men's race" at Hoonah, Alaska, as part of this year's Fourth of July festivities. Capt. Green is owner and skipper of the Puget Sound purse seiner "Janet G.," and president of the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association.



at Cordova, with very dry weather; many creeks that usually carry plenty of water were practically dry.

The Copper River Red run, he says, was of fully average volume, and a late run coming in at the close of the season amply provided for spawning. Mr. Parks is credited with making the largest Red pack in that district, which is attributed largely to his new boats fishing outside the flats. He says, however, that "it was the men rather than the boats;" though he admits that stout, seaworthy decked craft contributed a factor of efficiency and safety that helped a lot toward a successful season.

For the first time in several years, Pinks appeared near Cordova about the middle of July and the run continued heavy to the close, leaving an abundance of fish which were still in salt water when he left about the middle of August. The fish were better than average for the district, running about 15 or 16 to the case. The run was probably the greatest ever seen in the district; for a week or so it was impossible to handle the catch from all the gear, and his company shut down some of its traps, keeping the seiners at work on a limit.

Harold Parks, vice-president of the company, is remaining in Alaska this month to get the plant and gear ready for winter.

## Good Run at Red River

Capt. C. E. Anderson, head of the Alaska Red Salmon Packers, Inc., Carmel, Alaska, returned to Seattle the end of August, bringing a pack of about 22,000 cases of Reds and 18,000 Pinks. He found an excellent run to the Red River, on the west side of Kodiak Island, which was recently opened after being closed for some years. His cannery closed before the middle of August, having filled its cans.

## Gillnet Licenses Portion of "77" Held Invalid

The Washington supreme court in August held invalid that portion of the law enacted by Initiative 77 which forbade the issuance of gillnet licenses to persons who had not held them in 1932 or 1932.

The suit attacking this portion of

the law was brought by Steve Bacich of Everett.

Prohibitions of the law with respect to the use in Washington of pound nets and fixed gear were not affected by the decision.

The court held the restriction of gillnet licenses to persons who had held them in 1932 and 1933 to be "wholly arbitrary and capricious."

## Hanley Back From Cannery

E. B. Hanley, head of the Copper River Packing Co., returned early last month from his cannery at Port Nellie Juan, Alaska. While the Prince William Sound district as a whole broke all records, he reports only an average pack of about 80,000 cases, practically the same as in 1934. As for several years past, the plant ran on a rather conservative basis, taking fish only from nearby localities; and Mr. Hanley states that the heaviest run of Pinks was on the Cordova side, striking many points that were formerly productive but have had few fish in recent years.

Joe Most, secretary-treasurer and superintendent, remained north to put the cannery in shape for winter, and planned to make a trip to Nome before returning to Seattle.

## New Office for B. C. Packers

The British Columbia Packers, Ltd., will move early next month to new offices in a building now under construction on the Kingsley Dock, Vancouver, which was acquired by the company some time ago. The building will be of frame construction, two stories over a full concrete basement covering an area 80 by 42 ft., and will cost about \$15,000. The entire dock, on which a substantial part of the company's pack will be handled, is being equipped with a sprinkler system for fire protection.

## Canadian Tendermen Must Be Certified

A new Canadian act, effective Aug. 1, requires that masters of Canadian fish carriers, packers, tenders, etc., must all carry certificates of competency. The examination for the certificates involves tests of eyesight, knowledge of the international code flags and of the rules of the road at sea.