Alaska Fisheries:
A Guide to History Resources

Prepared by the Alaska Historical Society’s Alaska Historic Canners Initiative
Compiled by Robert W. King, September 2015

Dedication

This guide to the history resources of Alaska fisheries is dedicated to Wrangell historian Patricia “Pat” Ann Roppel (1938-2015). Pat moved to Alaska in 1959 and wrote thirteen books and hundreds of articles, many about the history of Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Salmon Hatcheries and Salmon from Kodiak. Twice honored as Alaska Historian of the Year, Pat Roppel is remembered for the joy she took in research and writing, her support of fellow historians and local museums, and her enthusiasm and good humor.

Alaska Historic Canneries Initiative

The Alaska Historic Canneries Initiative was created in 2014 to document, preserve, and celebrate the history of Alaska's commercial fish processing plants, and better understand the role the seafood industry played in the growth and development of our state. Alaska boasts some of largest and best-managed fisheries in the world. The state currently produces over 5 billion pounds of seafood products annually worth over $5 billion to its fishermen and even more on the wholesale and retail markets. Fisheries are closely regulated by state and federal authorities, and while fish populations naturally fluctuate, no commercially harvested species are being overfished.

Canneries are central to the development of Alaska, but an overlooked and neglected part of our historic landscape. Only two Alaska canneries are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, although few historic resources have impacted Alaska’s economy and history as greatly. For this reason, the Alaska Historical Society (AHS) undertook this new initiative to advocate for and educate the public about our historic canneries. The initiative informally came together in 2014 with a session dedicated to cannery history at the AHS annual conference in Haines, an online blog (Alaska’s Historic Canners -http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/category/alaska-canners/) and a presentation at Kodiak’s popular Comfish trade show. Similar efforts will continue at future AHS conferences and reach out to other gatherings of Alaska commercial fishermen to both celebrate this rich history and gather more stories from its participants.
A Guide for Users

*Alaska Fisheries: A Guide to History Resources* is a guide to the history of Alaska’s seafood industry and is intended primarily for those unfamiliar with Alaska historical sources. The Alaska Historical Society’s Historic Canneries Initiative prepared this to help those interested in researching the history of Alaska’s fisheries, fishing communities, canneries, or issues affecting its fisheries. It is hoped they can save time and frustration if they know how and where to start to look for historical materials.

General Outline and Organization

This guide is organized into twenty-five general and subject-specific categories relating to the literature on Alaska’s fisheries. Within these categories, the entries are listed alphabetically by the principal author or issuing agency. These categories are designed to help users to focus on specific areas of interest. There is some crossover, as topics or areas of interest pertain to multiple issues and are covered in several categories.

The guide is organized into these categories:

1. General Alaska Histories, with reference to fisheries
2. General Histories on Commercial Fishing
3. Alaska Territorial Fisheries (1884-1959), including publications after 1959 on territorial-era fisheries.
4. Alaska Statehood Fisheries (post-1959)
5. Canneries
6. Companies and Processing
7. Labor
8. Fishing and Seafood-processing Vessels
9. Congressional Hearings and Reports
10. Scientific and Statistical Reports
11. Marine Fisheries, Pre-Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)
13. Halibut
14. Crab
Fisheries in Alaska: A Historical Overview

Fisheries are closely linked to Alaska’s history. While some derided acquisition of the territory from Russia as “Seward’s icebox,” others knew that icebox was packed with fish. Fishermen began to exploited cod on the Shumagin islands and the “Slime Banks” on the Bering Sea. Industry pioneers built the first salmon canneries in Klawock and Sitka in 1878 and they quickly spread along the coast to Bristol Bay. As the industry grew, canned salmon provided jobs and the territory with over 80 percent of its tax revenues. Canneries attracted people, and their prime locations like Petersburg, Cordova, Kodiak, and Dillingham grew into communities. Statehood advocates seized on widespread opposition to outside-controlled fish traps to win the nation’s 49th star in 1959.

Salmon dominated Alaska’s early seafood production but catches of other species such as cod, halibut, herring, and more grew during the territorial era. The domestic king crab fishery was pioneered near Kodiak and in the Bering Sea in the years following World War II. Passage in 1976 of the federal Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, now known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, dramatically expanded Alaska fisheries offshore. Extending the nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone to 200 miles allowed domestic fishermen and processors to replace foreign fleets that harvested massive amounts of pollock and other groundfish. These harvests total over 2 million metric tons annually.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act also created regional councils to manage these fisheries. In Alaska, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council became a leader in fostering a
science-based process to manage fisheries for long-term sustainability. Alaska also led in implementing license-limitation or catch-share programs to prevent overcapitalization and improve the economics of its fisheries, although not without controversy which continues to this day.

Scope and Content

There is a rich history in Alaska fisheries, but users are cautioned that this bibliography is not intended to be exhaustive and is, in fact, highly selective. This guide is designed to provide titles that are most likely to be held by major libraries in Alaska or larger academic research libraries outside of the state specializing in the history of Alaska or the Pacific Northwest. Included are articles (journals, magazines, and newspapers), administrative histories, bibliographies, ephemera (brochures, pamphlets, ), cultural resource reports, fiction, government publications (federal, territorial, state, and local), handbooks, memoirs and biographies, pictorial histories and photographic essays, professional conference papers, reference books, theses and dissertations, trade recipes, and yearbooks. There are, however, a large number of publications that are not listed but may be interest to some researchers.

Because of the importance of its fisheries, Alaska fisheries have generated a huge volume of published material into scientific research and management. Select summaries and reports of interest are listed, but this guide does not include all the scientific, technical, and statistical reports published annually. For those who want to dig deeper, links are provided to the different regulatory agencies involved.

Records for Alaska’s territorial and statehood periods in archival repositories contain a tremendous volume of annual reports, task force papers, planning documents, and investigations into specific issues. Some are listed here, but researchers should be aware that many more may be available in archives. The territorial governors’ annual reports to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior often contain relevant information. The territorial and state legislatures held many hearings on various aspects of Alaska’s fisheries.

This guide references other uses of Alaska’s fishery resources, such as subsistence and recreational fisheries, but not in exhaustive detail. Both of these subjects have merited bibliographies of their own. Select reports and historical perspectives regarding these uses are included, especially where their uses interact with the commercial sector.

Many of the publications listed in this guide are available in Anchorage at the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS), Consortium Library, the University of Alaska Anchorage; in the Alaska Collection, Z. J. Loussac Library, Anchorage Public Library; and at the Atwood Resource Center, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center.

Publications can also be found in the Alaska Historical Collections section of the Alaska State Library, in Juneau; the William A. Egan Library, at the University of Alaska Southeast; and the Alaska Collection at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, at the University

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of Alaska Fairbanks. The National Marine Fisheries Service maintains extensive libraries on fishery matters at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, in Juneau, and at the Service’s office in Kodiak.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) maintains libraries in many regional offices. Some have unique holdings. For example, the ADFG office in Juneau has a two‐album collection of newspaper clippings from 1959 to 1969 on fisheries and related matters. ADFG biologist Charles Meacham Sr. compiled the collection and donated it to the department after his retirement. Many clippings are from the Anchorage Daily Times and Anchorage Daily News, but other publications are included, such as the Cheechako News, Tundra Times, and the Naknek Alaska Fisherman. While the contents may be accessible elsewhere, the Meacham collection is a unique compilation of fishing‐related news articles written just as the new state took control of its fisheries.

Outside Alaska, the University of Washington’s Suzzallo and Allen Libraries and Special Collections, and the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences maintain extensive collections of fishery records and archival material. The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Maritime Research Center is also a tremendous source of material.

For additional assistance with reference questions on specific topics, students, teachers, and other users should contact a local librarian, archivist, or museum curator who is familiar with local and regional history sources. Users can also rely on web‐based library catalogs and other online finding aids and research tools.

For in‐depth research beyond secondary sources (books, articles, and so forth), users are encouraged to directly contact the libraries, archives, and museums listed in this guide for reference service and other assistance in using primary sources. Secondary source material may be accessible via interlibrary loan at public, college, and university libraries. Original primary sources are not available through interlibrary loan programs as they are unique materials and cannot be replaced. Researchers are encouraged to contact the archival repository holding the specific materials of interest in advance of a possible visit to discuss the subject of their research and to receive reference assistance. Some primary source materials may be available digitized or microfilm formats. Major academic research libraries and archives in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau hold microfilm copies of selected Alaska materials, with some covering fisheries topics, from the National Archives, Library of Congress, and from other major repositories.

Additional Sources:

Trade Publications

An invaluable source for fishery researchers is the trade magazine Pacific Fisherman, which was published monthly from 1903 to 1966. Pacific Fisherman also published a yearbook or “Annual Number” that contained statistical summaries and key stories from previous year. Publisher Miller Freeman was a strong advocate of the fishing industry,
and Pacific Fisherman covered all aspects: its history and development, harvest statistics, changes in technology and regulation, politics and controversies, and the industry’s personalities. The advertisements alone make it an entertaining read. Some issues focused on different aspects of the industry. The September 1925 edition, for example, featured commercial fishing in Southeast Alaska. Several libraries have complete or partial collections of Pacific Fisherman, and the University of Washington has posted editions from 1903-1911 online: http://content.lib.washington.edu/pacfishweb/index.html.

In 1966, Pacific Fisherman folded into Maine-based National Fisherman, which remains in publication and is also a valuable source of industry news: http://www.nationalfisherman.com/. National Fisherman maintained the Pacific Fisherman’s yearbook, rebranded as the Pacific Packers Report, through at least 1981. Archival copies are a great source of annual statistical information and articles on industry trends.

The United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), a Juneau-based umbrella group of fishermen’s organizations, published a monthly newspaper, the Alaska Fisherian, beginning in the 1970s. Later in the decade, the Seattle-based Alaska Fisherman’s Journal (AFJ) was founded. In the early 1980s, the UFA paper folded into the AFJ, which was acquired by National Fisherman in 2005.


Local newspapers often offered unique perspectives. For example, the Beacon of Dillingham (1950-1955) was closely aligned with the local fishermen’s union, and is a great source on the post-war unionization movement. Many other local papers played a similar role. A good place to start is the Guide to Alaska Newspapers on Microfilm, 1866-1998: http://library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/newspapers/by_place.pdf.

Alaska magazine, known as The Alaska Sportsman Magazine from 1935 to 1969, also contains considerable material on the fishing industry. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game published a monthly magazine, Alaska Fish Tales and Game Trails (later Alaska Fish and Game, and then Alaska’s Wildlife). This was discontinued in the early 1990s but is good source of material on the seafood industry. Still in publication is the
state Department of Labor and Workforce Development publication *Alaska Economic Trends*, [http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/](http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/), which annually publishes an issue covering the state’s commercial fishing industry or certain aspects of it, such as hatcheries.

The University of Alaska’s Sea Grant program has an extensive library of fishery-related publications including proceedings of conferences on king crab, herring, flatfish, rockfish, and pollock, and on specific issues such as limited entry: [http://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/index.html](http://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/index.html). The American Fisheries Society, [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org), maintains an extensive library of books and reports on different aspects of the nation’s fisheries and the fishing industry, many focusing on Alaska.

**Archival Material**

A tremendous amount of archival material about Alaska fisheries is available in state and outside. The Alaska State Library has an extensive collection of archival material, including a collection of material from the Alaska Packers Association. The APA collection covers the years 1891 through 1970 and includes many photographs of Alaska canneries. A convenient guide to the APA collection is available.

The University of Washington Libraries (Seattle, WA) and Western Washington University’s Center for Pacific Northwest Studies (Bellingham, WA) hold archives of fishing companies, union groups, and more. The National Archives and Record Administration has extensive collection of archival material from Alaska’s territorial days in Record Group 22 (Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Record Group 370 (Records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), at the National Archives at Seattle and at its two Washington, DC facilities (i.e., National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD, and the National Archives, Washington, DC). The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Maritime Research Center is also a tremendous source of archival material from the canned salmon industry’s earliest days.

Historic maps and charts can often provide information about the location of canneries, fishing communities, and the fishing grounds. NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey maintains an online collection of over 35,000 of the nation’s historic maps and charts, including hundreds for Alaska dating back at least to the 18th century. The collection is searchable and images are available for download at [https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/](https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/).

**Note on Scientific Literature**

This bibliography does not and cannot list all of the scientific and statistical reports that have been generated about fisheries. A few selected studies are listed here for their historical significance, and some statistical summaries for their convenience. Other annual reports, statistical summaries, and various research papers may well be of interest to researchers. Resource agencies such as the ADFG, IPHC, NMFS, and NPFMC maintain extensive libraries and many of their documents are available online:
The amount of available data has seemingly grown exponentially in recent decades as computer technology allowed us to generate, process, and share this information, and conflicting pressures on resources demanded scientific answers to highly technical questions. For example, the Pebble Mine, a massive copper and gold mine proposed in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed, generated an Ecological Baseline Document that is estimated at 20,000 pages. A printed copy is available at ARLIS, but the page count is less relevant in the Internet age. Its 53 chapters, 7 appendices, and technical summaries are available for downloading at a total of over 2 gigabytes of data. The fish section alone is 209 megabytes and that doesn’t include chapters on subsistence and recreational uses. The Environmental Protection Agency posted its own assessment of potential impacts from such a large mine, a comparatively terse download of 47 MB, or about 1,400 pages.

Acknowledgments

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Robert W. King, compiler
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Abbreviations

ADFG – Alaska Department of Fish and Game
AFA – American Fisheries Act, the 1999 legislation that rationalized Bring Sea pollock.
AFS – American Fisheries Society
AHS – Alaska Historical Society
APA – Alaska Packers Association
ARLIS – Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, in Anchorage
ASMI – Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
AYK – Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, a state region for fishery management
CFEC – Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
CRPA – Columbia River Packers Association, a fish processor now known as Bumble Bee
EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency
FRI – Fisheries Research Institute of the University of Washington
GPO – Government Printing (now Publishing) Office
ICCAT – International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
INPFC – International North Pacific Fisheries Convention, the 1952 fishing treaty between the U.S., Canada, and Japan; also used to refer to the treaty commission.
IPHC – International Pacific Halibut Commission
MSA – Magnuson-Stevens (Fishery Conservation and Management) Act, 1976 legislation that established the 200-mile limit and created regional fishery management councils.
NARA – National Archives and Record Administration
NEFCO – New England Fish Company
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPAFC – North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Convention (or Commission), the treaty that succeeded the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention.
NPFMC – North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
OCS – Outer Continental Shelf
PAF – Pacific American Fisheries
RG – Record Group, archival classification used by NARA
UAF, UAA, UAS – University of Alaska Fairbanks, Anchorage, Southeast (Juneau)
UFA – United Fishermen of Alaska
USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UW – University of Washington
1 – General Alaska Histories

Dall, William H. *Alaska and its Resources*. Boston, MA: Lee and Shepard, 1870, 670 pp., plates, maps, appendices. An early assessment of Alaska resources, including a chapter on fisheries and other references, by the director of the scientific corps of the 1866 Western Union telegraph expedition. Includes a list of the fishes of Alaska.

Davidson, George. *The Alaska Boundary*. San Francisco, CA: Alaska Packers Association, 1903, 235 pp., maps. A detailed history of issues and politics involved in establishing the boundary between Southeast Alaska and British Columbia by a pioneer surveyor who was involved in charting Alaska beginning in 1867. Commissioned by the APA, which had an interest in fisheries, canny properties, and navigation in the region.


locations important in identifying fishing districts and boundaries, and much, much more.


Rogers, George W. *The Future of Alaska: Economic Consequences of Statehood*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1962, 311 pp. photographs. Rogers came to Alaska during WWII to secure canned salmon for the military and was noticed by the territory’s political leaders. He helped write the Alaska’s constitutional provisions on natural resources and took a broad interest the economics of the new state.


2 – General Histories On Commercial Fishing


Arnold, David F. *The Fisherman's Frontier: People and Salmon in Southeast Alaska*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2008, 296 pp., illustrations. Examination of the economic, social, cultural, and political context in which salmon have been harvested and managed in Southeast Alaska, from aboriginal subsistence fisheries to an industrial commodity.


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Browning, Robert J. *Fisheries of the North Pacific: History, Species, Gear & Processes*. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing, 1974 (revised 1980), vii, 423 pp., photographs illustrations, notes, appendices, index. A general guide to the history of Alaska fisheries, the biology of the commercial species, the vessels and gear used, the fishing methods, the handling of the catch at sea and onshore, and the processing of fish products.


King, Robert W. *Sustaining Alaska’s Fisheries: Fifty Years of Statehood*. Juneau: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2009, vii, 73 pp., photographs, appendices. Fishery management strategies, efforts, and personnel since the state assumed the responsibility for fisheries management from the federal government in 1960.


Mink, Nicolaas. *Salmon: A Global History*. London: Reaktion Books, 2013, 128 pp., illustrations. A culinary journey, including recipes, from Alaska to the rivers of Scotland, tracing the history of salmon as it was transformed from what the author calls “nature’s earliest convenience food” to a mass-produced canned product.


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Shiels, Archie W. *Alaska: Its Early History and What It Means to Us.* Seattle, WA: Pacific American Fisheries, 1925, 7 pp. Shiels later served as president of PAF from 1932 to 46, and opines on Alaska’s history and its importance to the fishing industry in an address delivered at a meeting of St. Alban’s Conclave in Seattle on November 28, 1925.


### 3 – Alaska Territorial Fisheries (1884-1959)

Bean, Tarleton. *The Cod Fishery of Alaska. Fisheries and Fishery Industries of the United States, Section V, The History and Methods of the Fisheries,* Vol. I, Washington: GPO, 1887, 26 pp. American ichthyologist Tarleton Bean traveled to Alaska in 1880 and writes of the natural history and distribution of the Pacific cod, the history of the cod fishery, and a description of the fishery as it was then conducted.

Bean, Tarleton H. *Life History of the Salmon of Alaska.* *Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission for 1892.* Washington: GPO, 1894, pp. 23-51, plates. Biology, distribution, and range in Alaska of salmon, trout, and other species, such as whitefish and herring, with many references to Karluk. Includes a substantial bibliography of publications on salmon from 1811-1892.


Camarot, Henry J., and Marjorie Wentworth. *A Report and Recommendations on the Study of the Problems in the Fishing Industry.* Juneau: Alaska Legislative Council, 1958, 63 pp, tables, graphs, appendices. As statehood approached, the Territorial Legislature requested a review of the status of Alaska fisheries, which were in steady decline. Includes a summary of laws related to the industry, a discussion of fish traps, and recommendations for turning the industry around, including creating a school of fisheries.


Hubbs, Carl L. *Report to the Secretary of the Interior on Malfeasance and Corruption in the Bureau of Fisheries [in Alaska] (1939-1940)*. Investigation commissioned by Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes prior to the transfer of control of U.S. fisheries from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Interior. This 1,400-page report contains numerous interviews with persons associated with Alaska fisheries. Archived in RG 48, NARA, College Park, MD. UAF has a digital copy.

Hunt, William R. *History of Marine Hatcheries of Alaska*. Fairbanks: Alaska Sea grant Program, 1976, 45 pp., bibliography, appendices. Roppel, 1982, is more comprehensive on this subject but Hunt’s initial work is noted.


Communication from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, 58th Congress, House of Representatives Document No. 477. Washington: GPO, 1904, 37 pp., tables. The commission’s was the first investigation of Alaska salmon by trained fishery biologists and includes descriptions of the different regions, fisheries, methods, regulations, with several recommendation on needed steps to conserve the fisheries including hatcheries.


MacDonald, Rose M.E. An Analytical Subject Bibliography of the Publications of the Bureau of Fisheries, 1871-1920. Bureau of Fisheries Document No. 899. Washington: Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, 1921, 306 pp., index of authors. Compiled by the Bureau’s librarian, an extensive, cross-referenced bibliography of publications by Bureau of Fisheries through 1920. Includes many scientific reports but also histories of fisheries, discussion of fishing techniques, and more. National in scope, digitized versions are easily searchable.
Mackovjak, James. *Alaska Salmon Traps*. Gustavus, AK: Cross Sound Innovations, 2013, ix, 244 pp., photographs, illustrations, glossary, endnotes. A history of Alaska’s salmon trap era, including descriptions of the design, construction, and operation of salmon traps. Industrial salmon traps came into use in Alaska beginning in the late 1800s. They were highly efficient but sparked controversy that fueled the statehood movement.


Parker, Robert, and Walter Kirkness. *King Salmon and the Ocean Troll Fishery of Southeastern Alaska*. Juneau: Alaska Department of Fisheries, Research Report #1, 1956, 64 pp., maps, tables, bibliography. The first research report of the territorial department examined the history of the Southeast Alaska troll fishery. Tagging and other data linking it with Columbia River stocks raised concern about dams on that river.


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**VIII, 1888.** Washington: GPO, 1890, 74 pp., plus 5 charts. Report by a prominent American scientist associated with the Smithsonian Institution, who traveled to Alaska on the steamer *Albatross*.

Shiels, Archie. *Why Fish Traps Should Not Be Abolished in Alaska.* Bellingham, WA: Pacific American Fisheries, 1939, 32 pp., tables. The state of Washington banned fish traps in 1935 and aware of similar criticism of traps in Alaska, the president of PAF, a major trap operator, raised economic and other arguments for keeping them.


Wilcox, William A. *The Fisheries of the Pacific Coast. Report of the United States Fishery Commission for 1893.* Washington: GPO, 1893, pp. 139-304 pp., plates. Includes just eight pages about Alaska (pp. 297-304) but fills in gaps in early Treasury Department records on canneries operations (see *Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries*). Also includes observations about salmon salteries, herring oil, guano, and Atka mackerel.

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**4 – Alaska Statehood Fisheries (post-1959)**


Merrell, Theodore, chairman. Alaska Finfish Farming Task Force Report to the Alaska Legislature. Juneau: State of Alaska, 1990, 39 pp., appendices, bibliography. As the salmon farming industry grew around the world, the legislature formed the task force to
examine issues related to whether farming of salmon and other finfish should be allowed in Alaska. Among its conclusions was that the cost of regulating the industry would be high. The legislature later banned finfish farming in Alaska.


5 – Canneries

Note: For Southeast Canneries, also see 25 – Pat Roppel

Authors and titles vary (see below). Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries. Washington: GPO, 1892 to 1958. An annual report compiled by the federal government that provides basic information on Alaska fishery harvests, canneries, fishing effort, workforce and more. The first legislation to manage Alaska fish passed Congress in 1889 and required an annual investigation. The program got off to a bad start. The first investigator didn’t arrive in Alaska until September of 1892, after the season was largely over. The second investigator got an earlier start and as far as Afognak, but then died. His son finished the
report based on his father’s notes. Subsequent investigators including Howard M. Kutchin, a former journalist who wrote the reports from 1897 to 1906, standardized the format and made the report into one of the best sources of basic information on the territorial development of Alaska fisheries.

The report evolved and the title changed as responsibility for Alaska fisheries was passed from the Treasury Department, which controlled the Revenue Cutter Service – predecessor to the Coast Guard – to the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Fisheries in 1903 and to the Interior Department’s Fish and Wildlife Service in 1939, but it was named Alaska Fisheries and Fur- Seal Industries from 1920 to 1956. The focus of the report expanded from salmon to include other fisheries: halibut, herring, crab, and more. A section titled “Losses and Disasters” chronicles cannery fires, vessel sinkings, and fatalities in the industry. The reference to fur industries reflected a section on the Pribilof Island fur seal harvest. The annual occasionally included special reports regarding subjects such as the 1919 fishery failure in Bristol Bay and controversy over Yukon River subsistence fisheries in 1921. As Alaska statehood neared, the format changed yet again in 1957, and the report was renamed Progress Report for Alaska Fisheries Research and Management. Publication ceased after statehood. A summary of the report, its various titles and authors follows.

**Department of the Treasury**

*Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1892, Report of Special Agent (Max) Pracht*
*Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1893, Report of Special Agent (J.K.) Luttrell*
*Report of Special Agent (Joseph) Murray on the Salmon Fisheries in Alaska, 1894*
*Report of Joseph Murray, Special Treasury Agent, for the Year 1895*
*Report on the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1896, George Tingle*
*Report on the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1897 to 1902, Howard M. Kutchin*

**Department of Commerce and Labor**, Bureau of Fisheries

*Report on the Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1903 to 1905, Howard M. Kutchin*
*The Commercial Fisheries of Alaska in 1905, John N. Cobb*
*The Fisheries of Alaska in 1906, John N. Cobb and Howard M. Kutchin*
*The Fisheries of Alaska in 1907 to 1910, Millard C. Marsh and John N. Cobb*
*Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1911, Barton Warren Evermann*
*Fisheries and Fur Industries of Alaska in 1912, Barton Warren Evermann*
*Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1913, Barton Warren Evermann*
*Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1914 to 1917, Ward T. Bower and Henry D. Aller*
*Alaska Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1918 and 1919, Ward T. Bower*
*Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries in 1920 to 1938, Ward T. Bower*

**Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service**
Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries, 1939 to 1946, Ward T. Bower***
Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries: 1947 to 1955, Seton H. Thompson
Alaska Fisheries and Fur-Seal Industries: 1956, Seton H. Thompson and Donald W. Erickson
Progress Report and Recommendations, 1957, Staff of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.

**Renamed the Department of Commerce in 1912.
***Fur-Seal was not hyphenated in the title of issues from 1940-42, and 1944.


Russia’s Far East. Included is development of canneries, salmon biology, fishing apparatus, and methods, fishermen, and cannery workers, methods of preparing salmon, nutritive qualities of salmon, salmon output statistics, domestic and foreign trade in salmon, and west coast salmon culture and hatcheries.


Elliott, Charles P., Capt. U.S. Army, (ret.). “Salmon Fishing Grounds and Canneries.” Compilation of Narratives of Exploration in Alaska. Washington: GPO, 1900, pp. 738-741. Prepared for the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, 56th Congress. Elliott inspected canneries in Cordova, Kenai, Kodiak, Chignik, and the Nushagak in 1899. He noted the need for hatcheries and stronger enforcement of regulations. He also compiled information on the population of Native Alaskans and reported they suffered where canneries were located.


insurance implications after a 1936 fire that destroyed the Bristol Bay Packing Company cannery at Pedersen Point, near Naknek.


6 – Companies and Processing


Cobb, John N. The Canning of Fishery Products. Seattle, WA: Miller Freeman, 1919, ix, 214 pp, photographs, tables, index, advertisements. The history and practice of canning various types of seafood, ranging from salmon to whale meat, with much technical information. Freeman was publisher of Pacific Fisherman.

“Salmon Canners Associations,” noted, “Alaska fisheries alone have produced many times as much wealth as her gold and copper mines.”


After WWII PAF issued an updated pamphlet: *Salute to Salmon ... Food Supreme*, c. late 1940s, 46 pp., photographs, bibliography, which seems to incorporate material from 1934’s *The Story of Salmon* (see Young, Isabel).


Stacey, Duncan A. *Sockeye and Tinplate: Technological Change in the Fraser River Canning Industry 1871-1912*. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Heritage Record No. 15, 1982, 62 pp., photographs, tables, endnotes, glossary. Study of mechanization of the salmon canning industry at the turn of the 20th century. While focused on Canadian canners, it is analogous to changes that occurred in Alaska.


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Young, Isabel N. The Story of Salmon. New York: American Can Company, 1934, 48 pp., photographs, bibliography, recipes. The natural history, commercial uses, and preparation of salmon. Intended to promote a client, American Can’s motto was: “We manufacture cans. We do no canning.”

7 – Labor

Alaska and Washington Advisory Committees to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Bringing an Industry into the 80’s: Affirmative Action in Seafood Processing. 1983, ix, 81 pp., appendices, endnotes. A study of discrimination against minorities and women in housing and hiring practices by the seafood processing industry, with committee recommendations.


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McBride, Jack, and Val Angasan. *Challenge in Bristol Bay: The Issues of Salmon Marketing*. Dillingham, AK: Imarpik Regional Aquaculture Association, 1981, 36 pp., photographs. Following a salmon price dispute in Bristol Bay in 1980, Alaska Gov. Jay Hammond appointed a task force to investigate allegations of violence during the strike and the state’s role in salmon marketing. Imarkpik produced this report—including excerpts of hearings in Dillingham, Naknek, and Juneau—and the Association’s recommendations. Additional information on the 1980 Bristol Bay strike is available includes the Governor’s Task Force report and a report by the state Senate Judiciary Committee that itself includes additional testimony, transcripts of radio traffic among fishermen, and a separate report by UFA.


**8 – Fishing and Seafood-processing Vessels**


The basic methods of commercial fisherman are described, the gear illustrated and its use explained. Over 50 types of commercial fishing craft, including some of those used in Alaska, are illustrated and described.

Breiby, John C. _Rigging the Spritsail on Bristol Bay Double Ender_. Self-published, 2006, iii, 30 pp., photographs, illustrations, glossary. Technical manual on how to rig the distinctive sail on a Bristol Bay (AKA Columbia River) sailboat, based on interviews with former fishermen. The glossary of sailboat terms is especially helpful.


King, Robert W. “Sailboats and Power in Bristol Bay: The Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery, 1922-1951.” Alaska History, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2013), Anchorage: Alaska Historical Society, pp. 36-53, photographs, notes. Bristol Bay fishermen were legally required to work from sailboats until 1951, making it one of the last major sailboat fisheries. This article examines the reasons for the prohibition of motors and the pressure that forced the policy change.


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9 – Congressional Hearings and Reports


61st Congress. *Amendment of Laws Relating to Fisheries and other Occupations in Alaska*. Washington: GPO, 1910, 119 pp., tables. A series of nine hearings before the House Committee on the Territories, April to June 1910, on taxation of the fishing industry, hatchery rebates, and fish traps. Includes statements from Alaska delegate James Wickersham, the Alaska Packers Association, Bureau of Fisheries, and others.

62nd Congress. *Alaska Fisheries. Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Fisheries, United States Senate*, on S.5856, *a Bill to Amend an Act for the Protection and Regulation of the Fisheries of Alaska*. Washington: GPO, 1912, 536 pp., index. Hearings from April 11 to June 28, 1912, on matters including taxation of the canned salmon industry, the use of hatcheries and tax rebates, concerns over the use of herring for fertilizer, and other matters. Testimony from Alaska Gov. Walter E. Clark, Delegate James Wickersham, industry, and others.

68th Congress. *Fisheries of Alaska*. Washington: GPO, 1924, 322+ pp. Hearings before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on HR 2714. Known as the “White Act” after Maine Congressman Wallace White, the legislation extended federal authority and allowed the Commerce Department to regulate the salmon fisheries.
74th Congress. *Fish Traps in Alaskan Waters*. Washington: GPO, 1936, 288 pp. Transcript of hearings on January 15 and 16, 1936, before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, on HR 5254 and HR 8213. Both would have banned fish traps from Alaska waters.

75th Congress. *Alaska Salmon Fishery*. Washington, GPO, 1936, 288 pp. Hearings before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on HR 8344, Feb. 1, 2, 1938. HR 8344 was introduced after Japanese fishing operations in Bristol Bay and was intended to prevent foreign depletion of Alaska salmon fisheries. The hearing included testimony from U.S. cannery owners, union officials, and political leaders. Includes appendices regarding Alaska fishery regulations and a report on subsidies afforded the Japanese fleet.


76th Congress. *Alaskan Fisheries*. Washington: GPO, 1940, 158 pp. Hearings before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on March 12 and 14, 1940 on legislation to create an Alaskan Fisheries Commission, the seizure of boats and gear, changes in the weekly closed period for trollers, set netting in Nelson Lagoon, and employment of resident labor in Alaska fisheries.

83rd Congress. *Discussion on Salmon Fishing, Nushagak River, Alaska*. Washington: GPO, 1953. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs hearing on March 27, 1953 included testimony from union leaders in Dillingham who had concerns about the influence of absentee labor, cannery ownership, and regulatory authorities on the local economy, with reference to disaster declaration requested by the Dillingham Public Utility District (now the City of Dillingham).

84th Congress. *Pacific Coast and Alaska Fisheries*. Washington: GPO, 1956. Hearings before the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on S. Res 13, on
various issues including foreign encroachment and fish traps. Hearings were held in Anchorage, Juneau, Seattle, San Francisco, San Pedro, and Tacoma between October and December, 1955.


10 – Scientific and Statistical Reports


Byerly, Mike, Beatrice Brooks, Bruce Simonson, Herman Savikko, and Harold J. Geiger. Alaska Commercial Salmon Catches, 1878-1997: Regional Information Report No. SJ99-05. Juneau: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
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1999, viii, 67 pp., graphs, tables. Nothing but tables of historic catch information but a one-stop shop if you’re looking for salmon harvest numbers by region.


Gilbert, Charles Henry. Contributions to the Life History of the Sockeye Salmon. Report of the British Columbia Commissioner of Fisheries. Vancouver, BC: British Columbia Fisheries Department, 1912-1921. The Stanford University professor wrote annual reports from his decade of research on Canada’s Fraser River sockeye. The reports accurately described the life history of sockeye salmon, including confirmation of the theory that salmon returned to spawn in their river of origin.


Gilbert, Charles H., and Henry O’Malley. “Special Investigation of Salmon Fishery in Central and Western Alaska.” Alaska Fishery and Fur Industries for 1919, Appendix IX to the Report of the U.S. Commissioner of Fisheries for 1919. Washington: GPO, 1920, pp. 143-160. Following the failure of the Bristol Bay salmon run in 1919, Gilbert and O’Malley issued a dire warning that the fishery was threatened with extinction, which started the debate that led to passage of the White Act in 1924. The same issue also includes Henry B. Ward’s Investigation of Copper River Salmon Fishery, pp.119-140.
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Gilbert, Charles H., and Henry O’Malley. “Investigations of the Salmon Fisheries of the Yukon River.” *Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries in 1920*. Washington: GPO, 1921, pp. 128-154. Examination of the stock composition and status of Yukon salmon fisheries and concerns raised about the impact on subsistence users by a floating cannery that operated near the mouth of the river. Gilbert and O’Malley recommended closing the cannery, and it later was.


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11 – Marine Fisheries, Pre-Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)

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index. A member of the International Fisheries Commission (later the IPHC), Allen made observations on fisheries, diplomatic relations, and related matters on a trip from Seattle to Alaska, Kamchatka, and Japan. Notable are his observations on militarization in Japan, where his book was banned.


Congressional Research Service. Treaties and other International Agreements on Fisheries, Oceanographic Resources, and Wildlife to which the United States is Party. Washington: GPO, 1974, 968 pp. A compilation of treaties on fisheries and related matters prepared for the Senate Commerce Committee. Among treaties affecting Alaska are: the Halibut Convention with Canada; bilateral fishing agreements with Canada, Japan, USSR, and others; the tripartite Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific (INPFC); whaling treaties; the Law of the Sea; and an 1818 Convention with Canada “Respecting the Fisheries, Boundary, and the Restoration of Slaves.”


Parker, Walter B. *International Fisheries Regimes of the North Pacific.* Anchorage: University of Alaska Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, 1974, 63 pp., maps, graphs, photographs, index. Summary of international agreements covering fur seals, salmon, halibut, crab, and the need for alternatives to international fishery agreements.

Riesenfeld, Stefan A. *Protection of Coastal Fisheries under International Law.* Washington: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1942, xii, 296 pp., indices. Detailed history of efforts by various nations to define the international legal status of the sea from the middle ages, through the “cannon-shot,” or 3-mile rule, and to the beginning of World War II. Subsequent events would lead to the 200-mile limit, but Riesenfeld’s monograph, republished by William S. Hein & Co, Buffalo, NY, is a lively, if wonkish, history of international steps leading to its establishment, including discussion of the Bering Sea fur seal arbitration hearings.


Sparck, Harold. *A New North Pacific International Order for Pelagic Fisheries.* Master’s thesis, University of Virginia, 1990, xiii, 105 pp, maps, tables, bibliography, appendices. A Bethel-based fisheries advocate, Sparck analyzed the growing threat from high-seas driftnets, which he proposed should be banned, and called on the U.S. to withdraw from the INPFC, both of which later happened. His thesis includes a summary of historic fishing activity on the high seas, attempts to govern it, and proposed legislation.

12 – Marine Fisheries, Post-Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)


Ito, Jun, William Shaw and Robert L. Burgner, editors. *Symposium on Biology, Distribution and Stock Assessment of Species Caught in the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean.* Vancouver, BC: NPAFC, 1993, 576 pp., maps, tables. Technical examination of issues involved in the high-seas driftnet fisheries accused of intercepting salmon. In three volumes, Vol. 1, 90 pp., has a good description and photographs of the squid and other fisheries involved. Vol. 2 examines the oceanography, biology and ecology, and Vol. 3 looks at the harvest and impact of fisheries. The 1991 symposium was organized by the INPFC in advance of UN consideration of the issue. Late that year, the UN adopted a ban on the driftnets. The report was published by the NPAFC after the INPFC was dissolved in 1993.


Strong, James W., and Keith R. Criddle. *Fishing for Pollock in a Sea of Change: A Historical Analysis of the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery.* Fairbanks: Alaska Sea Grant program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2013, vi, 177 pp., photographs, graphs, citations. In terms of volume, Alaska pollock is among the largest fisheries in the world. This analysis examines the history of the fishery from foreign exploitation in the 1930s, its Americanization under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and “rationalization” under the American Fisheries Act. The authors also discuss current issues facing the fishery and the Community Development Quota program.


### 13 – Halibut


Thompson, William F. *The Problem of the Halibut*, in *Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries for the Year Ending December 31, 1915*. Victoria, BC: Province of British Columbia, 1916, pp. 130-140. A year into his study on halibut, Thompson reviewed the life history of the species, declining catch rates, risk of depletion, and “dearth of information” available to find solutions. Thompson would later fill those gaps; this report shows an inquisitive scientific mind thinking through a challenging problem. The commissioner’s report also includes a summary of catch statistics.


Wolfe, Alfred. *In Alaskan Waters*. Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, 1943, 196 pp. Remembrances of halibut fishing from Southeast Alaska to Kodiak before World War II.

14 – Crab


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15 – Seals and Whales

Note: See also *Alaska Fishery and Fur- Seal Industries*, under 5 – Canneries.


Various authors. *Fur Seal Arbitration*. Washington: GPO, 1892-1895, 15 volumes, maps, illustrations. Proceedings of the Tribunal of Arbitration, convened in Paris from 1892 to 1893, under a treaty between the United States and Great Britain to determine the jurisdictional rights of the United States in the waters of Bering Sea. The initial decision favored Canada but wasn’t the last word in the dispute over sealing in the Bering Sea.


photographs, maps. History and management of the fur seal harvest by a NMFS management biologist. The issue also includes articles on the landscape, birds, flowers, and residents of the Pribilofs.


MacLeish, Sumner. *Seven Words for Wind: Essays and Field Notes from Alaska's Pribilof Islands,* Kenmore, WA, Epicenter Press, 1997, 159 pp. Reflections and stories of life on the Pribilof Islands, including its fur seals, during the 1980s.


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16 – Policy and Economic Analyses


Cone, Joseph, and Sandy Ridlington, editors. *The Northwest Salmon Crisis: A Documentary History.* Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1996, 374 pp., photographs, glossary, index. An annotated compilation of 80 historic documents that span 140 years and address such issues as habitat, hatcheries, dams, fisheries, tribal fishing rights, and watershed management. Focuses on the Pacific Northwest states, but includes references to Alaska, Pacific Salmon treaty, Boldt decision, etc.


Finley, Carmel. *All the Fish in the Sea: Maximum Sustainable Yield and the Failure of Fisheries Management.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011, 208 pp., notes, index. History and critique of using “maximum sustainable yield” as a management goal in salmon and tuna fisheries, with references to Alaska and Bristol Bay.

Greenberg, Paul. *American Catch: The Fight for our Local Seafood*. New York: Penguin Press, 2014, 320 pp. Greenberg tackles the paradox that while America imports over 90 percent of the seafood we eat, we also export many species we produce, such as Alaska salmon. Also looks at New York oysters and Gulf of Mexico shrimp. Includes references to the Pebble Mine issue in Bristol Bay.

Gregory, Homer E., and Kathleen Barnes. *North Pacific Fisheries with Special Reference to Alaska Salmon*. San Francisco: American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations, 1939, xviii, appendices, index. A broad look at the economics of the Pacific fishing industry, with chapters on conservation, marketing, and labor. Focuses on growing international issues created by Japanese fishing activities in Bristol Bay in the 1930s.


Kresge, David T., et al. *Bristol Bay, A Socioeconomic Study*. Anchorage: Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, University of Alaska, 1974, 152 pp., maps. A broad look at the region’s economy, population, labor force, land use, etc., but with a focus on the region’s dependence on fisheries.


17 – Resource Development Conflicts

Allee, Brian J., editor. North Aleutian Basin Energy-Fisheries. Anchorage: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Sea Grant, 2008, vi, 201 pp., index. Workshop proceedings on potential fishery impacts from oil and gas development in the North Aleutian Basin in the Bering Sea, off Bristol Bay. The basin was offered for exploration in the late 1980s,
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but leases were bought back following the Exxon Valdez disaster. Concerns were renewed when the basin was again considered for leasing, but the basin was subsequently withdrawn.


Chambers, Dave, Robert Moran, and Lance Trasky. *Bristol Bay’s Wild Salmon Ecosystems and the Pebble Mine: Key Considerations for a Large-Scale Mine Proposal*. Portland, OR: Wild Salmon Center and Trout Unlimited, 2012, 112 pp., photographs, maps, citations. Critical review of contamination threats and potential impacts from the proposed Pebble copper and gold mine in Bristol Bay, the state permitting process, and overview of the economic and other value of salmon to the region.


photographs, maps, tables, graphs, notes. Summary of the state’s response to the 1989 spill and its aftermath, including a section on commercial and subsistence fisheries.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *An Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska*, 2014. Seattle, WA: EPA Region 10. An assessment to determine the significance of Bristol Bay's ecological resources and evaluate the potential impacts of large-scale mining on these resources. Available via web at www.epa.gov/bristolbay.


### 18 – Limited Entry and Other Fishery Access Programs


Graham, Michael. *The Fish Gate*. London: Faber and Faber, 1943, 196 pp, plates, illustrations. With European fisheries shut down during WWII, a British fishery economist considered chronic problems facing the industry and concluded with his *Great Law of Fishing*: “Fisheries that are unlimited become unprofitable.”

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Johnson, Ralph W. “Regulation of Commercial Salmon Fishermen: A Case of Confused Objectives,” in Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Vol. 55, No. 4, October, 1964, pp. 141-145. After fish traps were banned, the author argues for entry limitation and fleet reduction for greater economic efficiency.


Lowe, Marie E., and Courtney Carothers, editors. Enclosing the Fisheries: People, Places and Power. Bethesda, MD: American Fisheries Society, 2008, 223 pp, index. Despite the move toward limitation of access rights to address overcapitalization and other problems, the authors examine the social impacts of restricted access: ownership consolidation, loss of jobs and income, decreased labor mobility, prohibitive entry costs, loss of fishing rights from small communities, and other distributional inequities.


19 – Subsistence


Barker, James H. *Always Getting Ready, Upterrlainarluta: Yup’ik Eskimo Subsistence in Southwest Alaska*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1993, photographs. Barker follows the Yup’ik Eskimo of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta through a year’s cycle, beginning with spring seal hunting and ending with a winter celebration of life. Photographs and text capture a people “always getting ready,” constantly alert to opportunities to meet their year-round subsistence needs.


Smelcer, John E., and Morgen A. Young, editors. *We are the Land, We are the Sea: Stories of Subsistence from the people of Chenega, Alaska*. Anchorage: Chenega Heritage, 2007, 176 pp., photographs. An anthology of 30 stories of subsistence users in the Prince William Sound community.


Wolfe, Robert J. *The Subsistence Salmon Fishery of the Lower Yukon River*. Bethel: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 1982, 27 pp., maps. Profiles of subsistence fisheries of the communities of Alakanuk, Emmonak, Fortuna Ledge, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Pitkas Point, Scammon Bay, Sheldon Point, Stebbins, St. Mary’s, and Unalakleet.

20 – Recreational Fisheries
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Cremata, Andrew. *Fish This! An Alaskan Story*. Skagway, AK: Lynn Canal Publishing, 2013. A Skagway writer collected his "Fish This!" stories into one volume, including stories about fishing, life in a small Alaska town, and the streams nearby where one can escape to enjoy time in the outdoors.


Howard, Harry W. *Sport Fishing for Pacific Salmon in Washington, Oregon, Alaska: How, When and Where to Catch Salmon*. Eugene, OR, Koke-Chapman Co., 1954, 135 pp., photographs, maps. Explains the basic fishing methods, including tackle, baits, and lures necessary to hook the fish, as well as salmon habits and habitat.


### 21 – Memoirs and Biographies


Burgner, Robert L. *My Career with the Fisheries Research Institute*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 2009, 90 pp., references. “Bud” Burgner, the first employee of UW's Fisheries Research Institute, recalls his six decades of research in Bristol Bay and other Alaska fisheries.


**Burning the Iceberg** in fiction lampoons practices in the competitive Bristol Bay salmon fishery.


Duvall, Ivo W. *Salmon Industry Alaska*. North Charleston, SC: CreateSpace, 2014. Remembrances of a Petersburg resident on the history of salmon fishing in Alaska, including background on harvest methods, canning, vessels used, etc.


Jensen, Erv. *Little Boats and Big Salmon*. Silverdale, WA: Three Trees Pub., 1999, 208 pp. Erv and his brother, Sven, started commercial fishing from little boats for big salmon in southeast Alaska nearly a half century ago and were among the pioneers of techniques for catching chinook salmon, such as mooching.

Jordan was involved in many early investigations of Alaska fisheries, which he recalls among other memories in his two-volume, 1,600-page autobiography.

King, Robert W. “Crescent Porter Hale, Revisited.” *Proceedings of the Alaska Historical Society conference in Juneau, 2006.* Anchorage, Alaska Historical Society, pp. 55-65, photographs. Hale helped build the second cannery in Bristol Bay in 1886 and returned for 50 years until his death, during which he had a role in nine different canneries and became known as the “best all-around, competent canneryman in Western Alaska.”

Lord, Nancy. *Fishcamp: Life on an Alaskan Shore.* Washington, DC: Island Press, 1997, 261 pp. Author writes of her life from June to August, days filled with setnet fishing near Cook Inlet and with the nature and cultures that surround their site.


22 – Fiction

despite being thwarted by bankers, unions, and others, is saved by a woman of ill repute and the fish trap. Twice made into a film.


23 – Trade Recipes


Alaska Packers Association. *Canned Salmon Recipes, St. Louis World’s Fair Edition*. San Francisco: Mutual Label & Lithographic Co., 1904, illustrations. An early effort by the canned salmon industry to appeal to consumers, this includes basic recipes like salmon croquettes, salmon loaf, salmon pie, and even cold salmon: “delicious just as it is taken
from the can.” Also recipes for military use of canned salmon (hard tack required) and salmon cutlets (“shape like cutlets”). Begins with instructions on how to open a can and has recipes for making mayonnaise and hollandaise sauces. Illustrations include artwork depicting the Spanish American War-era Great White Fleet. APA issued many reprints in succeeding years under the title How to Eat Canned Salmon and featuring their various brands of canned salmon, which were marketed regionally.

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. Taste the Pride of Alaska: Canned Salmon. Juneau: State of Alaska, c. 1980s, 14 pp., illustrations. ASMI was formed in 1981 to respond to marketing problems affecting canned salmon. Among its initial efforts was to promote canned salmon with refreshed recipes for basics like fritters, omelets, and salmon melts, and also salmon-zucchini quiche squares, salmon spinach turnovers, salmon manicotti, and more.

Associated Salmon Packers. Thousand Dollar Prize-Winning Recipes. Seattle: Associated Salmon Packers, 1927, reprinted, 31 pp., illustrations. Mrs. Wm. M. Jones of Covington, Kentucky took the $500 top prize for her recipe for salmon patties; Mrs. Minnie Childs of Tustin, California was second for her salmon omelet. Includes recipes from celebrity chefs in Seattle and San Francisco, and salmon serving suggestions for children, picnic spreads, and more. Includes as well Department of Commerce Circular No. 48. Washington: GPO, 1926, with recipes for canned pink and chum salmon.

Association of Pacific Fisheries. Canned Salmon: Alaska’s Greatest Resource, Facts about its Production and Recipes for its Use. Seattle: Association of Pacific Fisheries, 1935, 16 pp. photographs. A souvenir of the Ketchikan Industrial Fair, Aug. 30 through Sept. 3, 1935. After the state of Washington banned traps from its waters, the canners issued this recipe booklet for Ketchikan residents that linked the local economy to traps. Noting the trap logs and wire netting produced in Ketchikan, they concluded: “the welfare of this community is so inseparably connected with that of the canned salmon industry that any movement which has for its objective the imposition of confiscatory taxes, or the dictation of uneconomic methods, must eventually endanger the wellbeing of the community itself, and inflict hardship on every resident, including the very class whom it is designed to benefit.” Also recipes for salmon loaf, bisque, and soufflé.


Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Outdoor Fish Cookery. Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, Circular 189, c. 1960s, 9 pp. Thoughts on seafood preparation as America moved to the suburbs, including recipes for barbecued Italian-style halibut and lemon-butter salmon steaks. With advice on how to generate smoky flavor and how to start the barbecue: “NEVER USE GASOLINE!” (emphasis not added).

Canned Salmon Institute. *Quick and Easy Ways with Salmon*. Seattle: Canned Salmon Institute, c. 1950s, reprinted under various brand names, 16 pp., photographs. Salmon macaroni salad, salmon Romanoff, deep-dish salmon pie, and salmon vegetable paella.

Cremeans, Lola M. *Canned Salmon Delicacies*. College, AK: University of Alaska, 1937, 12 pp. A collection of experimental recipes created at the UA’s home economics laboratory, all involving pink salmon flavored with Angostura bitters. Underwritten by Pacific American Fisheries, the recipes include the basics plus salmon chop suey, salmon mulligan, salmon fondue, and more.


Martin, Mary Hale. *How to Serve, How to Buy Canned Salmon*. Chicago: Libby, McNeill, and Libby, c. 1930s, 23 pp., photographs, illustrations. Martin, a home economist for Libby, offers 16 recipes, including jellied salmon loaf and salmon mock omelet. Plus a guide for salmon shoppers, discussion of salmon varieties and a “day with the fishing fleet,” an introduction to the fishing industry.


North Pacific Bank Note Co. *Presenting a Story of Peter Pan*. Seattle: Good Housekeeping Bureau, 1939, illustrations. Verse depicting J.M. Barrie’s playful “boy who never grew up” learning about the salmon canning industry and fish traps, with many recipes. Prepared for the Alaska Pacific Salmon Co., Peter Pan was used as a brand name beginning in 1914 and remains the name of one of Alaska’s major seafood processors.
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Spencer, Evelene, and John N. Cobb. *Fish Cookery*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1921, x, 348 pp. index. A home economist for the Bureau of Fisheries, Spencer became known as the nation’s “fish evangelist.” She and the head of the UW College of Fisheries offer general cooking advice and over 600 recipes for the preparation of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic animals such as turtles, frogs, porpoise, and whale meat. Dedicated to the “women of the United States who, during the world war, assisted so willingly in the ‘eat more fish’ campaign.”


Wakefield’s. *Recipes for Serving Wakefield’s Fresh Frozen Alaska King Crab Meat*. Seattle: Wakefield’s, c. 1958, 18 pp., illustrations. Published by the king crab pioneer, this booklet includes king crab bisque, crab Newburg, and crab “Snug Harbor, an excellent bridge-club luncheon.” The text brags of Wakefield’s “fleet of trawlers, with enormous nets to drag the sea bottom” for crabs. Those nets were later banned in favor of crab pots.

24 – Pictorial Histories and Photographic Essays


Troll, Tim. *Sailing for Salmon: The Early Years of Commercial Fishing in Alaska’s Bristol Bay 1884-1951*. Dillingham, AK: Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood Tikchik Land Trust, 2011, 60 pp., photographs. A nostalgic look, through photographs and recollections, at Bristol Bay before 1951, when salmon were exclusively harvested from sailboats.


25 – Writings of Patricia “Pat” Roppel


Roppel, Patricia. “In Search of Point Ward Cannery.” Juneau: *Alaskan Southeastern Magazine* (January 2003). With few clues and no historic photographs, Roppel explores Ernest Sound for the site of a salmon cannery that operated in the early 1900s.


Roppel, Pat. Articles published in Juneau’s *Capital City Weekly*, 2010-2014, many under the general heading *Southeast History*. These were short articles, often just a single page, some with historic photographs, and are available at [www.capitalcityweekly.com](http://www.capitalcityweekly.com):

“Sounding Leads: Early Depth Sounders.” Design and use of lead weights to measure water depth and sample the bottom. March 17, 2010


“‘Chums Should Not Be Canned at All.’” In 1903, the nation’s top fish scientist considered chums and pinks to be “imitation salmon.” May 19, 2010

“‘Menace to the Salmon: History of Commercial Dolly Varden fishing in Southeast Alaska.’” Considered a predator to some and game fish to others, Dolly Varden were fished commercially in Southeast beginning in 1906. June 30, 2010

“Fish Pirates of Icy and Chatham Straits.” Robbing fish traps to the north and west of Juneau in 1920. July 14, 2010

“Rare Prowfish Identified in Petersburg in the 1950s.” An unusual species is landed in Chatham Strait in 1954. July 28, 2010
“Necessities of Life for Chinese Cannery Workers in 1890.” Food and opium used by cannery workers. September 22, 2010. Also see related article on December 8, 2010.


“Opium at Canneries and other Narcotic Use 80 Years Ago.” December 8, 2010

“Petersburg’s First Cannery.” Canneryman Peter Buschmann claimed land at the north end of Wrangell Narrows in 1896, now the site of the Icicle Seafoods. February 9, 2011


“The Kippers of Baranof Island.” Scottish lassies were used to pack herring at Little Port Walter, 1916-20. April 13, 2011


“Klawock’s First Commercial Saltery.” Built in the 1870s. July 6, 2011


“No Booze in Ketchikan Hotel.” Fishermen smuggled liquor from Prince Rupert during prohibition, but hotel maids tried to keep it out. July 27, 2011

“Early Days of Black Cod Fishing.” Beginning in 1913. September 14, 2011

“Bootlegger Blames Floating Fish Trap for Lost Booze.” A 1920 lawsuit filed by a man who claimed his boat sank in Dixon Entrance after running into an unmarked fish trap. The trap owner claimed otherwise. November 30, 2011

“The Demise of the Baranovich Saltery.” At Kasaan Bay on Prince of Wales Island in 1900. Conclusion of a 4-part series on life and times of pioneer miner, salmon salter, and bootlegger Charles Vincent Baranovich, d. 1879. May 9, 2012
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“What didn’t happen at Port Bazan.” Denial of a permit a defense contractor sought to test a noisy jet engine in a remote inlet on Dall Island. July 4, 2012.


“Saltery and Cannery at Sarkar Cove.” November 21, 2012


“Baranof Island’s Redfish Bay Cannery”. The Baranof Packing Company, 1891-1899, on what is now Tumakof Creek. December 26, 2012


“Exploring the Burnett Island Cannery Site.” On Etolin Island, west of Wrangell. February 13, 2013

“Salting Salmon at Boca de Quadra.” Near Kah Shakes, south of Ketchikan. February 27, 2013


“Those Pesky Octopi.” Stories about encounters with octopus. April 24, 2013


“Two of Baranof Island’s Herring Plants.” At Big Port Walter and New Port Walter. June 5, 2013

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“Cape Muzon the Southwest Corner of Dall Island.” Shipwrecks and other incidents at the Southern tip of Southeast Alaska, including a stories about a fish tender and fish trap crew. October 31, 2012

“First Years in Craig.” Early history of the Prince of Wales community once known as “Fish Egg.” November 20, 2013

“'75 Visit to Kasaan.” Remembering a trip to survey historic resources at Kasaan, including a visit to an old cannery. December 4, 2013

“Sharing Memories.” Remembrances of fisherman Pete Hocson about fishing as a greenhorn out of Petersburg in 1954. February 5, 2014

“A Teen Crewman in the Mid 50s.” Remembrances of an incident while working aboard the fishing vessel Pride. February 12, 2014

“Schooners Still Sail Southeast.” Halibut schooners still in use. March 5, 2014


“Kell Bay's Isolated Salmon Cannery.” On Kuiu Island, 1899-1901, one of the canneries where Mont Hawthorne worked and related in the books of Martha McKeown (see “Biographies and Memoires”). July 23, 2014

“Bombs, Bolsheviks and Salmon at Port Althorp.” The Deep Sea Salmon Company on the northern end of Chichagof Island, part 1 of 2. September 17, 2014

“The Fire that Destroyed One of Southeast’s Largest Canneries.” Concluding the previous article with the story of the loss of the Port Althorp cannery in 1940. September 24, 2014