

TABLE 17
ALASKA COD LANDED IN CALIFORNIA—1863-1937

Year	Number of fish ¹	Year	Number of fish ¹
1863.....	7,100 ²	1901.....	1,429,000
1864.....	54,500	1902.....	2,073,000
1865.....	225,000	1903.....	2,022,300
1866.....	724,000	1904.....	2,021,200
1867.....	943,400	1905.....	2,610,133
1868.....	580,000	1906.....	2,368,632
1869.....	1,032,000	1907.....	1,858,751
1870.....	1,467,000	1908.....	1,904,403
1871.....	926,000	1909.....	1,497,361
1872.....	305,500	1910.....	1,060,600
1873.....	563,000	1911.....	1,348,000
1874.....	369,000	1912.....	1,624,984
1875.....	362,000	1913.....	1,374,847
1876.....	844,000 ³	1914.....	2,412,202
1877.....	857,000	1915.....	2,367,900 ²
1878.....	1,129,000	1916.....	2,537,500
1879.....	1,499,000	1917.....	2,557,000
1880.....	1,203,000	1918.....	2,606,268 ⁴
1881.....	1,061,000	1919.....	2,961,500
1882.....	1,241,000	1920.....	2,284,000
1883.....	1,720,000	1921.....	1,318,000
1884.....	1,622,000	1922.....	1,277,000
1885.....	1,374,000	1923.....	1,806,377
1886.....	1,183,000	1924.....	1,371,647
1887.....	1,126,000	1925.....	1,734,000
1888.....	1,046,000	1926.....	1,074,704
1889.....	816,000	1927.....	931,000
1890.....	1,138,000	1928.....	599,402
1891.....	1,220,000	1929.....	915,000
1892.....	1,312,000	1930.....	813,000
1893.....	1,216,000	1931.....	482,660
1894.....	894,000	1932.....	556,423
1895.....	939,000	1933.....	514,000
1896.....	728,000	1934.....	541,485
1897.....	1,065,000	1935.....	512,039
1898.....	742,000	1936.....	737,731
1899.....	1,302,000	1937.....	508,974
1900.....	1,532,000		

¹ Average weight of fresh cod 12 pounds each.

² Data for 1863-1915, from Cobb, John N., Pacific cod fisheries. U. S. Comm. Fish., Rept. (for 1915) App. 7, 1917. Data for 1916-1937, from Pacific Fisherman.

³ 1876 includes catches of shore stations which operated for the first time in 1876. Figures for following years include station fish brought to San Francisco.

⁴ Includes landings by Japanese vessels from Okhotsk Sea. 1918, 728,000 fish, four vessels. 1919, 612,500 fish, three vessels. 1920, 92,000 fish, one vessel.

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coupled with adverse economics played an important part in curtailing California's Alaska cod fishery. The catch had to be transported thousands of miles for processing and marketing, and because handling costs increased more rapidly than retail prices, it became continually less profitable to handle Alaska cod. Finally it was more profitable to process Atlantic cod, *Gadus morrhua*, a close relative of the Alaska cod, shipped from eastern Canada, and this has been the condition in California since our fleet left the fishery after 1937.

A method of vacuum packing the salted cod in cans was introduced to the industry in 1936 and held promise of reviving the demand for cod by making it more accessible to the retail trade. It was believed that canning would overcome the handicaps of a perishable product, troublesome to transport and difficult to display effectively. Although this vacuum pack did facilitate handling and displaying unfortunately canning did not prevent spoilage during hot weather because no sterilization process was used. The freshly cured cod reached the market in more acceptable condition but canned cod did not gain much popularity among the discriminating buyers.