

The development of the fishing fleet during this period is due solely to the increased employment of steamers, steam trawlers and large and small motor boats, for the sailing vessels have practically disappeared, and the number of rowing-boats is steadily diminishing. This development is clearly illustrated by the following table, which shows the increase in the number of gross register tonnage:

Year	Sailing vessels	Motor ships	Trawlers	Other Steamers	Total
1905 . .	7 881		151	255	8 287
1910 . .	6 431		1 106	199	7 736
1915 . .	3 721	990	5 059	1 248	11 018
1920 . .	1 190	3 538	8 730	223	13 681
1925 . .	328	5 691	13 570	2 769	22 358
1927 . .	51	4 798	15 193	2 992	23 034

As motor ships had hardly begun to make their appearance by 1905, sailing vessels may be said to have constituted 95% of the gross register tonnage of the decked fishing fleet. By 1927 only one of these old craft was left, while 66 per cent. were now represented by steam trawlers, and 13% and 20.8% respectively by other steamers and motor ships. The trawlers, 46 in number, aggregated a (gross) tonnage of 15193 tons, an average of some 330 tons per trawler. Other steamers numbered 29 with an average tonnage of 103 tons (gross) per steamer, whereas the tonnage of the whole motor ship fleet amounted to 4798 tons (gross), giving an average of 26 tons per ship.

FISHING SEASONS AND FISHERMEN

The fishing seasons vary greatly in length for the off-shore and in-shore fisheries. All the trawlers and the majority of the motor ships are run almost all the year round, while the small-sized motor boats and rowing boats are in a much higher degree dependent on the fishing grounds near the places where they are stationed. For them therefore the length of the fishing season may vary from a few weeks to six months or even more, according to the locality.

In 1927 the number of men and boys actually engaged in fishing from Icelandic ports, was 8617, distributed among the various types of vessels as follows:

Decked vessels	3 557	men
Motor boats (small-sized)	2 363	—
Rowing-boats	2 697	—