

The same year the crews of trawlers, other steam ships, sailing vessels, large motor ships, small-sized motor boats, and rowing-boats averaged respectively: 25, 16.5, 15, 10.3, 4.8, and 4.1 men each.

The development of the fisheries has greatly influenced the distribution of the population and is the main reason for the migration of the people from the rural districts to the fishing stations and villages on the coasts. There has thus been a large increase in the number of persons employed in fishing and the various industries subsidiary thereto. The numerical total of those dependent on the fisheries for their living was:

1880	3 700 persons, or 12 per cent. of the population
1901	9 000 — — 11 — — — —
1920	18 700 — — 20 — — — —

THE COD FISHERIES

The majority of the decked vessels are occupied in fishing cod and cod-like species, a trade which is also followed almost exclusively by the rowing and motor boats. In 1927 one hundred and thirty eight decked vessels were engaged in cod fishing; 57 in cod and herring fishing, while 68 were employed in the herring fisheries exclusively.

The chief fishing is done during the first 4—5 months of the year (winter fishing season) off the south coast of Iceland, and yields as a rule about three-fifths of the total catch of the year.

The following figures illustrate the catch of cod and cod-like species (in thousands of fish) during the period 1897—1927.

	Cod	Small cod	Haddock	Ling	Other kinds	Total
1897—1900 average	4 639	4 925	4 972	72	289	14 897
1901—1905 —	5 823	6 167	4 223	111	707	17 031
1906—1910 —	7 223	7 182	2 546	217	926	18 094
1911—1915 —	8 735	10 406	2 175	172	1 340	22 828
1916—1920 —	10 566	8 198	3 749	238	1 341	24 092
1921—1925 —	12 717	8 907	2 005	194	1 903	25 726
1926	14 893	10 318	1 217	130	1 492	28 050
1927	18 067	15 755	2 210	159	2 909	39 100

The quantity of fish landed has thus been steadily increasing during the whole of this period. This is due not only to the constantly increasing number of ships, but also and especially to the replacement of the old types of vessels by steamers, steam trawlers and motor ships.