

**COD FISHING WITH GILL-NETS FROM GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.****BY S. J. MARTIN.**

[Letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I will tell you last week's doings with cod gill-nets; fish caught in nets last week, 90,000 pounds. Fish are scarce. I think most of them have moved off the rocks. Most of the boats have had their nets up for repairs. They will all be set Monday. The nets rot very fast. The best thing to keep them from rotting is linseed oil. I saw some twine that had been put in a net last winter which is as good as ever this winter. Seven boats have their nets off here. That makes it better to have the nets in two places. They all have a better chance. I hope they will do better next week; if not, some will take trawls and give up the nets.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *December 31, 1881.***CODFISH CAUGHT NEAR CAPE CHARLES, MOUTH OF CHESAPEAKE BAY, IN 1834.****BY FRANCIS W. RYDER.**

[Letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I cut the inclosed\* from the Boston Journal of February 16th instant. It would appear by this and other reports in the papers that codfish are seldom caught south of the New Jersey coast. The following is what a Cape Cod boy knew about codfishing near the capes of the Chesapeake forty-eight years ago:

In the summer of 1834 I was a boy on board the brig *Calo*, of Boston, a packet sailing between Boston and Baltimore, and commanded by Capt. Franklin Percival, of Barnstable, Cape Cod. We were on our passage from Boston to Baltimore and became becalmed near Cape Charles, Smith's Island being in sight. We had three or four fish-lines

\* Copy of extract entitled "Cape Cod turkeys for Virginia."

[Special dispatch to the Boston Journal.]

WASHINGTON, *February 16.*

The United States Fish Commission is endeavoring to propagate codfish in Chesapeake Bay. Some are caught by the fishermen on the coast of New Jersey, but it is very seldom that they have been caught inside of the capes. The codfish eggs are brought here for hatching, and the young fish will be sent to Fortress Monroe. Should the predictions of Professor Baird and his associates be realized, Chesapeake Bay will in a few years have fleets of codfishers rivaling the oyster fleet, and will supply the South and Southwest with fresh codfish.