

**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.

on board, which were brought on deck and baited with clear salt pork (we having no other bait on board). The lines were lowered and immediately each line had a fish. On being hauled in we found them to be codfish, and for two hours we caught codfish as fast as we could lower and haul in our lines. We caught several hundred. A breeze sprang up, and we filled away for the Chesapeake. The weather being very warm, we dressed and split our fish and salted them in our chain cable boxes, having no other means to keep them. We arrived at Baltimore the next day, and there was a great demand for our corned codfish. We had a great rush for them and soon sold out. I have no doubt that codfish can be caught in the same locality to-day. It is but a short run from Norfolk, Va.

6 BOYLSTON HALL, BOSTON, MASS.,

February 20, 1882.

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**RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO POND CULTIVATION.\***

**BY MR. EBEN-BANDITTEN.** *u*

Read at the general meeting of the Fishery Association of East and West Prussia.

[From *Deutsche Fischerei-Zeitung*, vol. 5, No. 6, Stettin, February 7, 1882.]

In all works on pond-cultivation, and by all practical carp-cultivators, spawning-ponds of small extent are considered best suited to the purpose.

With your permission I shall give a brief extract from the fourth report of the Fishery Association of East and West Prussia, for the years 1880-'81, which contains a general description of pond-cultivation:

"The spawning-pond, as its name indicates, serves for the increase of the carp. For this purpose small ponds of an area of one-tenth to one-half hectare are selected, with a depth of water remaining as much as possible the same at all times. Such ponds are easy to superintend; they are quickly warmed by the sun, and furnish ample food for the young fry. Only in a few places the water need be 1 meter deep, whilst its general depth should not exceed 10 to 20 centimeters. *Frogs are considered as dangerous enemies.* For spawning-carp well built and (especially as regards fins and scales) perfectly healthy fish are selected, weighing from 1½ to 2 kilograms."

The above was written by Prof. Dr. Benecke, the secretary of our association, who, by his enthusiasm for, his knowledge of, and his experience in, pisciculture, has gained an almost European reputation.

I fully subscribe to all he has said in the above quotation, but would remark at the same time that I, as well as many others, have not succeeded in raising carp with absolute certainty. The best proof of the

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\* "Neuere teichwirthschaftliche Mittheilungen."—Translated from the German by Herman Jacobson.