

AN INQUIRY AS TO THE CAPTURE OF YOUNG CODFISH IN CHESAPEAKE BAY.

BY J. W. COLLINS.

WASHINGTON, *March 23, 1882.*

Prof. S. F. BAIRD,

Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: I herewith submit a copy of a letter and replies to questions concerning the capture of young codfish in Chesapeake Bay, which I have just received from Mr. P. W. Savage, of Cherrystone, Va.

Respectfully,

J. W. COLLINS.

CHERRYSTONE, VA., 3, 21, 1882.

DEAR SIR: I have, according to promise, seen the party who caught the fish that I was talking to you about while at this place, and have answered your interrogations.

Any information or assistance I can give will be gladly given.

Very respectfully,

P. W. SAVAGE.

Capt. J. W. COLLINS,

Washington, D. C.

LIST OF QUESTIONS AND REPLIES.

1. Date of capture?—Answer. Some time in June.
2. What kind of apparatus were the fish caught in?—Answer. Haul seines.
3. Length of fish?—Answer. Six to eight inches.
4. The exact locality where they were taken?—Answer. At the mouth of Hunger's Creek.
5. Number of fish caught?—Answer. Some six or eight; don't know exactly.
6. Were they all taken at one time or at various dates?—Answer. Thinks they were caught three or four times.
7. Is there any doubt of these fish being the true cod?—Answer. Some said they were [cod]; others said there was a doubt. Some fishermen took them for "pollit" or "pollock."

[It is very desirable to prove the existence of cod in Chesapeake Bay by the possession of specimens caught there, and it is hoped that persons who capture what they believe to be that fish will forward some of them to the United States Commissioner of Fisheries at Washington. Young cod were introduced in the bay by the United States Fish Commission last winter, and it is thought that some of these have been taken by fishermen. It is proper to remark here that two species of hake are

known to occur in the bay, one of them very abundantly; but as these have only two fins on the back while the cod has three, it will be easy to distinguish them; young pollock, too, can be at once distinguished from cod by the long lower jaw, which protrudes far beyond the upper, even when the mouth is closed.—EDITOR.]

ON THE INSENSIBILITY OF THE GERMAN CARP TO FREEZING.

BY DR. GEORGE WIGG.

[Extract from a letter to Prof. Spencer F. Baird.]

I have a German carp in my office frozen stiff six times in one month, yet each time after six hours came out all right; am going to put him into a tub in the garden.

CLAY CENTER, Mo., *March 23, 1882.*

FIRST ARRIVAL OF MACKEREL IN NEW YORK IN THE SPRING OF 1882.

BY CAPT. J. W. COLLINS.

[Letter to Prof. Spencer F. Baird.]

Mr. W. A. Wilcox, writing from Boston, under date of April 1, says: "The first new mackerel arrived in New York this afternoon. Schooner Nettie Rowe—new vessel from Gloucester—brings in fifty barrels; all large fine fish."

AN INQUIRY INTO THE FIRST FOOD OF YOUNG LAKE WHITE-FISH (*Coregonus clupeiformis*)

BY PROF. S. A. FORBES.

[A letter to Prof. Spencer F. Baird.]

I write only to inform you of the successful conclusions of a final experiment relating to the first food of the lake whitefish. I kept several thousand in a tank in the Exposition Building in Chicago, and kept them constantly supplied, for two weeks, with everything that a towing-net of very fine Swiss would take from the water of the lake. A hundred specimens were put into alcohol every two days, and finally all remaining were similarly preserved. During the latter part of the time they could be easily seen pursuing and catching the entomostraca. I have not time at present to examine the fishes preserved, as I am busy with other work. I have just searched the intestines of ten, taken out March 23, to get at some idea of the result of the experiment. Taking them at