

**113.—WHY MENHADEN SEINING SHOULD NOT BE PROHIBITED
WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE SHORE.****By JOSEPH WHARTON.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

Having a fishery and oil tanks in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, I venture to give my views on the subject of prohibiting the seining of menhaden within 2 miles of the shore.

I. Fishing by sail vessels does not destroy the menhaden in excessive quantities, does not worry them constantly in their annual cruise along our coast, and permits the fishermen of each region to enjoy what naturally belongs to their region.

II. Fishing by steamers not only permits the destruction of menhaden in quantities sufficient, perhaps, to jeopardize the keeping up adequate numbers of the fish, but tends to drive them off the coast by keeping them worried all the way from South Carolina to Maine without intervals of peace. It deprives the moderate sailing outfits of the various points along the Jersey shore and more southern coasts of their fair share of the catch, and almost destroys the fisheries of Maine and the north generally.

III. To prohibit fishing within 2 miles of the shore would simply give over the business more completely to the steamers and intensify all the existing evils. Unless the coast were patrolled by swift steam inspectors, the steamers would fish where they liked, not even obeying the law which destroyed their rivals for their benefit.

It seems to me that a law of two short sections would meet the case. Let it prohibit (1) all seine or purse fishing on the Atlantic coast by steamers; and (2) all such fishing by any craft except between June 1 and October 31.

CAMDEN, N. J., *January 13, 1883.*

114.—LARGE HAUL OF DRUMFISH,

[From the Atlantic City Review.]

A special dispatch to the Review, received last evening from Somers Point, on the bay shore, opposite Great Egg Harbor Inlet, and about 3 miles above the lower point of this beach, brought information that 150,000 drumfish were caught yesterday off that place by the fish-oil factory boats, and will be ground up and converted into fish-oil and guano. The nets used are worked by steam, and are, in some cases, a half mile long. At certain seasons the drum congregate near the surface in enormous quantities. They average 25 pounds each.

JULY, 1883.