

**37.—STATISTICS OF THE FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES
IN 1880.**

[From the Compendium of the Tenth Census.]

The statistics of fisheries have been a blank, or, it would be more proper to say, a blotted page of the census reports, ever since those statistics were first sought to be obtained in 1850. It is questionable whether the results obtained ever reached 20 if indeed they ever reached 15 per cent. of the actual facts. The census of 1870 reported a total value of products of only \$11,000,000, among the items being 647,312 bushels of oysters. Statistics like these were only calculated to bring the census into discredit, even when they did not have consequences of a more practical nature, as in the international arbitration of Halifax in 1877.

Under the provision of the act of March 3, 1879, the Superintendent, in June, completed arrangements with Professor Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of the United States Fish Commission, by which the scientific direction of a comprehensive investigation into the statistics of the fisheries and the fishing populations of the United States should be assumed by himself, while the administrative charge of the service remained with the Census Office.

The details of the scheme having been arranged, a number of experts and skilled assistants, under the personal supervision of G. Brown Goode, were put into the field in the early summer.

Special canvassers, well trained for such inquiries, were engaged to proceed in vessels along the entire eastern and southern coast, from Maine to Texas, visiting every fishing port or fishing village, and collecting the whole body of social and industrial statistics of the populations engaged in this occupation, together with all facts of economic interest relating to the habits and the haunts of the various species of fish, the methods and apparatus employed, the labor systems in vogue, &c.

Other parties were engaged to canvass the Pacific coast, the northern lakes, and the western rivers, while special agents were engaged to work up the oyster fishery, and to obtain the statistics of the fish markets of the principal ports.

Some of these parties have now been four months in the field. The character of the reports already received puts the success of this investigation beyond a reasonable doubt. Already large bodies of material are being compiled and tabulated in this office. The work will be actively prosecuted through the winter and the coming summer, until every portion of the field shall have been covered.

Statistics of the fisheries of the United States in 1880.

	Grand total.			Persons employed.		Apparatus and capital.		
	Persons employed.	Capital invested.	Value of products.	Fishermen.	Shoresmen.	Vessels.		
						Number.	Tonnage.	Value.
States and Territories.								
The United States	No.	Dollars.	Dollars.	No.	No.			Dollars.
	131,428	37,955,349	43,046,053	101,684	29,742	6,605	208,297.82	9,357,282
New England States	37,043	19,937,607	14,270,393	29,838	7,205	2,066	113,602.50	4,562,131
Middle States, exclusive of Great Lake fisheries.....	14,981	4,426,078	8,676,579	12,584	2,307	1,210	23,566.03	1,382,000
Southern Atlantic States	52,418	8,951,722	9,602,737	38,774	13,644	3,014	60,886.15	2,375,450
Gulf States.....	5,131	545,584	1,227,544	4,882	749	197	3,009.89	308,051
Pacific States and Territories..	16,803	2,748,383	7,484,750	11,613	5,190	58	5,463.42	546,450
Great Lakes	5,050	1,345,975	1,784,050	4,493	557	62	1,768.87	183,200
1 Alabama	635	38,200	119,275	545	90	24		14,585
2 Alaska	6,130	447,000	2,661,640	6,000	130		317.20	
3 California	5,094	1,139,075	1,860,714	2,089	1,005	40	5,240.80	535,350
4 Connecticut	3,131	1,421,020	1,456,866	2,585	546	291	9,215.95	514,050
5 Delaware	1,979	208,231	997,605	1,662	317	60	1,226.06	51,600
6 Florida	2,480	406,117	648,227	2,284	196	124	2,152.97	272,645
7 Georgia	899	78,770	119,993	809	90	1	12.06	4,450
8 Illinois	300	53,400	60,100	265	35	3	209.78	8,500
9 Indiana	52	29,360	32,740	45	7	1	21.90	2,500
10 Louisiana	1,597	93,621	392,610	1,300	297	49	539.09	20,821
11 Maine	11,071	3,375,994	3,614,178	8,110	2,961	606	17,632.65	633,542
12 Maryland	26,008	6,342,443	5,221,715	15,873	10,135	1,450	43,500.00	1,750,000
13 Massachusetts	20,117	14,334,459	8,141,750	17,167	2,952	1,054	83,232.17	3,171,189
14 Michigan	1,781	442,665	716,170	1,600	181	36	914.42	98,500
15 Minnesota	35	10,160	5,200	30	5	1	33.59	5,000
16 Mississippi	186	8,800	22,540	110	70			
17 New Hampshire	414	200,465	176,684	370	38	23	1,019.05	51,500
18 New Jersey	6,220	1,492,202	3,176,589	5,659	561	590	10,445.90	545,900
19 New York	7,266	2,629,585	4,380,565	5,650	1,616	541	11,582.51	777,600
20 North Carolina	5,274	506,561	845,595	4,729	545	95	1,457.90	39,000
21 Ohio	1,049	473,800	518,420	925	121	9	359.51	88,400
22 Oregon	6,835	1,131,350	2,781,024	2,795	4,040			
23 Pennsylvania	552	119,810	320,050	511	41	11	321.99	10,500
24 Rhode Island	2,310	596,678	880,915	1,602	708	92	2,502.77	101,850
25 South Carolina	1,005	66,275	212,482	964	41	22	337.32	15,000
26 Texas	601	42,400	128,300	491	110			
27 Virginia	18,864	1,914,119	3,124,444	16,051	2,813	1,440	15,678.93	571,000
28 Washington	744	30,858	181,372	729	15	7	216.62	11,100
29 Wisconsin.....	800	222,840	253,100	730	70	11	220.25	26,700

