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**53.—THE SPAWNING OF BLUEFISH—AN OPINION OF THE CAUSE OF
MORTALITY OF FISH IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.**

By H. D. PIERCE.

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

I have repeatedly taken bluefish in Lake Worth, Florida, also at Jupiter Inlet, fully ripe and ready for spawning, in the month of January. In April, I have seen great numbers of young bluefish at the south end of Lake Worth. This is a salt-water lake, with no fresh water flowing into it of any account, and the only lake of the kind on the Florida coast. I have no doubt that it will be found that the bluefish spawn all along the Florida coast.

I do not believe the theory that the occasional mortality of the fish of the coast is caused by poisonous water coming from the Everglades. If the water in which these dead fish were found had been tested with a thermometer the reason would probably have been found. I once tried it by immersion and succeeded in giving myself the worst chill I ever had. The next day, for a distance of four miles, there were thousands of fish on the beach all floating in the water. All were what we call bottom or rock fish with one exception, the flying fish, of which a great many were killed. This was in the month of July, when there was no fresh water coming out of the Everglades within 60 miles of where the fish were found.

BISCAYNE BAY LIFE SAVING STATION,
Miami, Fla., August 31, 1883.