

It is rare to find the blue, yellow, goggle-eyed, wall-eyed, or white pike (all the same fish, *Lucioperca*, only variations of the same species, the result of difference in their surroundings, neither does the difference in structure amount to anything more, and perhaps not as much) on the market averaging more than 1½ pounds from the upper lakes, perhaps 2 pounds, and all scarce at that, 10 to 14 cents a pound undressed. Twenty-five years ago you could buy a 15-pound fish for a quarter of a dollar, and pay a good price at that.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, *May 27, 1884.*

116.—SPAWNING IN GERMANY OF THE LARGE-MOUTHED BLACK BASS SENT FROM THE UNITED STATES IN 1882.

By MAX VON DEM BORNE.

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

You will recollect that you kindly sent to me, in the fall of 1882, by Mr. George Eckerdt, 7 large-mouthed and 75 small-mouthed black bass. In consequence of the long passage the greater part of the lot died, so that I had this spring 3 large-mouthed old fish, and 10 small-mouthed two-year-old bass.

To-day I had the satisfaction of finding that the three large fish had spawned, and the pond actually swarms with fry. I have caught with a small net more than 2,000 and have put them into another pond which is free from other fish.

I have no doubt that next spring the small-mouthed bass will spawn, and that the experiment will be successful.*

BERNEUCHEN, GERMANY, *June 15, 1884.*

117.—TRANSPORTATION OF CLAMS AND OYSTERS,

By R. E. C. STEARNS.

[From a letter to Richards & Harrison, San Francisco, Cal.]

In reply to your question as to the best method for transporting clams and oysters, I would say as to clams that they are in my opinion more difficult to handle than oysters, and further, that the abundance of several varieties of clams on the west coast of America, from and in Puget Sound south along the coast at many points to San Diego, would not warrant the experiment.

* Another effort was made this year to send black bass to von dem Borne in charge of Captain Briand, of the French line of steamers from New York. Mr. Blackford delivered 40 bass, March 26, on the steamer with orders to leave them at the Havre Aquarium subject to order of von dem Borne. Unfortunately the fish all died at sea in transit.—C. W. S.

As to the oysters which you speak of as occurring at one of the Kurile Islands, if to be sold for immediate consumption, the large ones (adult) are what you want. If, on the other hand, you intend to plant them for subsequent business purposes the smaller ones are better—safer, measurably, to transport, &c.

As to what place you had better plant them in, I am not prepared to answer, as I do not know the conditions or peculiarities of the region in the Kuriles which enter into the particulars of the habitat. It would be prudent to bear in mind that these and similar mollusks do not stand heat well. The cool season of the year would be best for the experiment.

The oysters should be put in rather open crates and mixed in with rock or bladder weed, and frequently watered with sea-water *en route*; kept shady and cool all the time, and jarred or shaken as little as possible, and planted where they will be covered by the tide to the extent that prevails in their native bed; and as a suggestion I should think that near the head of Drake's Bay, on the coast north of San Francisco Bay (which you will see by the map contains a "bight," as the sailors call it), with a rocky or shelly bottom, would or might be a good place.

After planting you will have to look out and protect the bed from the star-fishes, periwinkles, and whelks which are as fond of oysters as the genus *homo*.

If you should deem it best to attempt the experiment, please have your men collect any and all shells as well as some of the larger individuals of the oysters, and send the same to this Institution so that we may examine them here.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,
Washington, D. C., June 13, 1884.

118.—CATCHING FISH IN A CREEK IN TENNESSEE BY A WATER-SNAKE.

By J. S. WARNER.

Just one mile from where I write a bold spring issues from under a rock and sends out so considerable a stream that it affords power for an old-fashioned saw-mill three-fourths of a mile from the spring. Just a few rods from where I am writing fish 8 to 10 inches in length are caught as they come up stream. Last year I saw a water-snake leaving the creek with a fish about 5 inches in length, just as described by Mr. Nye, in *Fish Commission Bulletin*, 1883, page 196. I killed the snake, rescued the fish, and returned it to the water, but it seemed to be too badly wounded to recover. The snake was making way for a place of safety where it might devour its prey.

JONESBORO', TENN., June 14, 1884.