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198.—NOTES ON THE FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS.**By A. HOWARD CLARK.**

[From letters to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

SPECIMENS.—To-day we received a spotted catfish 4 feet long, a beautiful specimen. I send it in ice to the Smithsonian Institution. The spawned herring struck here Saturday, September 20, a fortnight earlier than last season. Among the specimens received within the past week are some very fine branches of white and red coral; a piece of the latter (*Paragorgia arborea*) measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. The Gussie Blaisdell brought some sea-corn (eggs of *Gasteropoda?*), 19 inches high.—September 22, 1879.

HERRING.—On Saturday, September 20, spawned herring appeared in the vicinity of Norman's Woe. Through the following week a few were taken. On Sunday, September 28, they were taken in considerable quantities. On Monday there was an increase, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday they were very abundant. On Friday, October 3, they disappeared from this locality. On Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5, some were taken near Marblehead. Since then none have been seen. About 100 vessels from Gloucester, Boston, and other places were engaged in this fishery. On Wednesday afternoon, October 1, 71 vessels were kept busy. The nets used were the common gill-nets, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches mesh. In many cases the nets were sunk by the weight of fish, and in a few cases they were never recovered. The Cape Ann Advertiser stated the number of barrels taken at 2,500, but I have found, by calling upon each dealer, that 9,580 barrels were received in the Gloucester market. On October 3, 2,000 pounds of pollock were brought to Gloucester, being the first of the season. On October 6, 4,000 pounds of large pollock were brought in.

MACKEREL.—A fleet of 125 mackerel fishing vessels put in here October 6, because it was too rough for fishing. There arrived this morning two mackerel catchers, the Edward Everett and the Phoenix; the former with 160 barrels, the latter with 150 barrels of good mackerel, caught yesterday 20 miles east by south of this place; about one-fourth of the fish were No. 1. Last year at this time the mackerel had about disappeared. Recently we received a specimen of *Lycodes vahlkii*, the third one in the country. Received October 7, by schooner Herbert M. Rogers, among other things, 25 young black dogfish, each 6 inches long, taken from the parent.—October 9, 1879.

STORM.—The terrible storm of Tuesday caused the loss of at least one

Gloucester fishing vessel; the W. J. King went on the rocks on the outside of Eastern Point, and is smashed into small pieces; the crew saved themselves.—*February 5, 1880.*

MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS.—Mackerel seiners are hurrying south. Twenty-four vessels have already gone from here, and nearly as many more are getting ready. I believe that last year the first mackerel were taken April 13 off Delaware Breakwater. The George's fleet now numbers 110 sail. They have been doing well. The fresh halibut fleet is reduced to 20 sail; the last ones that arrived encountered great fields of ice down as far as Sable Island, and one vessel lost all her trawls by the ice cutting the buoy lines. Shore fishing in Ipswich Bay has been very poor of late; the fleet is very much reduced; fishing off Gloucester has slightly improved; yesterday 6 small craft averaged 1,000 pounds each. The haddock fleet numbered 60 sail through the winter, and is now fast reducing in number, because getting ready for George's and mackerel fishing. Frozen herring are still plenty from Eastport and Menan; nearly 20,000 barrels have been sold here for bait, some of the George's men taking 20,000 herring in number.—*March 24, 1880.*

PREPARING COD FOR MARKET.—The following are the questions of Fredrik M. Wallem, of Norway, with the answers:

1. What size of cod do the fishermen cut?—All sizes, from 1 foot in length upwards, as they are caught. Those measuring 27 inches and over from tip to tip are called large; all others, small; the fishermen receive half price for the small.

2. How far down do they cut the backbone away?—Two-thirds of the way to the tail. The fish are split clear to the tail and the upper two-thirds of the backbone taken out.

3. How do they do with the fish when cleaned?—The split fish are washed in salt water, about a thousand pounds being put in a trough and cleaned with brushes. They are then ready to be put in butts and salted. Small and large fish are kept in separate butts.

4. How much salt is used for 1,000 fish and what kind?—A butt or hogshead of fish contains about 900 pounds; four bushels of salt are used to a hogshead, as follows: A layer of salt, then a layer of fish (flesh up), and so on in successive layers of salt and fish until the butt is full, when the last half bushel is thrown on (the last two layers of fish being flesh down). Cadiz salt is the kind mostly used for codfish. Trapani salt is frequently used on Grand-Bankers, which make trips of three or four months. Liverpool salt is used for mackerel and herring.

5. How much weight is put on for pressing, or is a machine or screw used?—No weight, machine, or screw is used, except to press the fish into the packages for shipment.

6. Where is the fish dried and for how long?—They are left in the butts four days, or longer, if the weather is not suitable for drying. If left for a month or longer more salt must be added. Taken from the

butts the fish are spread upon flakes or wooden frames (flesh up) to dry. If the weather is clear, with dry winds, they will dry in two days (sometimes in one day); at night they are made into piles (about 100 pounds to a pile) on the flakes (flesh down) and protected by wooden covers. If very dry fish are needed, they must be "water hawsed" before going on the flakes; that is, taken from the butts and piled on a board floor (flesh down) to the height of 4 feet and width of 5 feet (or lengths of two fish). They are left in this condition for one or two days in order to allow the brine to drain off. These will cure more quickly and be firmer than fish not "water hawsed." When fish are split aboard the vessels they are piled in the hold flesh up. On a short trip (two or three weeks) one bushel of salt is used to 300 pounds of fish; on a long trip (from one to three or four months) more salt is used, sometimes a bushel to 100 pounds of fish. When landed from the vessels the fish are washed in salt water and resalted in butts. If from a long trip they may be washed and "water hawsed" without resalting.—*March 26, 1880.*

SPECIMEN OF SQUID.—I have just received a letter from Professor Verrill concerning the specimen of squid sent him ten days ago. He says: "The head of the squid belongs to a young specimen of *Architeuthis harveyi*. It is the youngest yet discovered and of interest on that account; moreover, it is in a better state of preservation than any of the other specimens yet preserved, so that it shows some additional points of structure. It is therefore a very interesting and useful specimen."—*April 9, 1880.*

COD AND HERRING.—Since January 12, cod have been very scarce in Boston Bay. Westward of Thatcher's Island at that date they suddenly disappeared from the grounds where they had usually been abundant at that season. Day before yesterday, April 22, fish reappeared 7 miles to the southeast of Eastern Point, when a vessel with seven men took 5,000 pounds of large cod in one day, in trawls with small herring for bait. Boats are hurrying to get ready for this the opening of the spring fishing. Herring are also making their appearance. On Tuesday night the first net of the season was set near Eastern Point, and two herring were caught; Wednesday night a few more were taken; Thursday night, thirty or forty to a net. Several nets are now being set in the same vicinity. With plenty of herring the boats and dories may do a good work this spring.—*April 24, 1880.*

COD AND SPECIMEN OF RARE DEVIL-FISH.—A school of cod seems to have "struck in" near Newburyport. Schooner Lucy Devlin, of Swampscott, arrived here yesterday with 30,000 pounds of large cod, which were taken on Friday and Saturday with trawls 7 miles east from Newburyport bar in 32 fathoms of water. They used small herring from Provincetown for bait. The fleet in Ipswich Bay numbers only four or five sail. The small devil-fish in lot 678 is reported by Professor Verrill to be the second specimen received of the new species *Octopus obesus*.—*April 26, 1880.*

EVAPORATED COD AND HALIBUT.—I inclose a half pound each of evaporated cod and halibut; the latter was made yesterday, the first ever produced. The cost of each will be about 50 cents per pound at retail. Mr. Alden has not yet done much in this manufacture, but expects to make a success of these new preparations. Codfish lose about 90 per cent of their weight in the process; halibut, only about 75 per cent.—*May 1, 1880.*

SQUID.—Some of the George's men have been going eastward for bait, and on their way to George's stopped at Grand Manan Bank and caught some codfish there. Two salmon were taken from the weirs at Kettle Island yesterday morning; also a few mackerel. The schooner *J. J. Clark*, Captain Anderson, arrived yesterday afternoon from Hyannis and vicinity with 275 barrels of squid, salted in bulk, averaging 800 to a barrel. He will take them to Saint Peter's and sell for bait to French fishermen. One other Gloucester schooner is now at Dennisport on a similar trip. Captain Anderson reports that the squid made their appearance at Montauk Point as early as May 4 and worked along to the eastward. They are caught in from 2 to 3 inch mesh gill-nets by shore fishermen, who sell them to the vessels. Last year this business proved a failure to the vessels engaging in it. After finding no squid on the shoals they proceeded to Cape Breton and Newfoundland to seine the squid, but were prevented by the natives. Captain Anderson, then in schooner *Cadet*, was prevented from seining at Cape Breton, and consequently had to purchase; much to his loss.—*May 14, 1880.*

WHALES, SQUID, MACKEREL, ETC.—Whales have recently been numerous in this vicinity, and shore boats report many of them swimming about. Four dead ones have been towed into this harbor; the largest was 65 feet long. I hear from Dennisport that the squid have struck in. One vessel caught 150 barrels last Saturday. Last year I am told that they did not make their appearance till May 20. Mackerel are occasionally caught in the Kettle Island weirs at Magnolia. Thursday morning, May 6, eleven mackerel were taken from the two weirs. May 12, caught sixty fair-sized ones. I hear from Cape Cod that many are taken there. The George's men have to cruise around in order to find fish; some get cod on Grand Manan Bank, stopping there in their way to George's. Most of them get bait now at Greenport, Vineyard Sound, and vicinity. They report menhaden plentiful thereabouts.—*May 13, 1880.*

MENHADEN.—Two vessels are fitting for the Greenland halibut fishery, and will start in about a week. There appears to be an abundance of herring offshore a few miles, but very few come within the range of the nets set by the shore fishermen. Several barrels of menhaden have been taken hereabouts in the weirs at Kettle and Milk Islands. At the former a variety of fish are taken each day, including recently some salmon, striped bass, tautog, menhaden, mackerel, herring, perch, and young pollock. It looks now as if there would be an abundance of

menhaden this season. Last year that fishery was a total failure north of Cape Cod. As we went about the harbor yesterday I noticed innumerable little red specks such as young fish feed upon, floating near the surface, the first I have seen this year. I find that I was mistaken in saying that the squid at Hyannis are caught in gill-nets, for they are taken in weirs and traps, the netting being from 2 to 3 inches mesh.—*May 21, 1880.*

CATCHING SQUID OFF CAPE BRETON.—Capt. Chas. Dagle, schooner Joseph Story, and Capt. David Melanson, schooner Crest of the Wave, expect to leave here about June 7 on a squidding trip to Cape Breton and Saint Peter's. They propose to get squid near Saint Ann's, Cape Breton, and to sell them at Saint Peter's. They specially request me to write to Washington and inquire whether they have the right to catch the squid by setting a trap or weir from the vessel; no leaders to run from the shore, but an ordinary trap with leaders from the vessel would be used in the harbors of Cape Breton. As last year vessels were prevented from seining squid, they dare not try that method again, but wish to know whether traps will be allowed. They are afraid to try even this method unless they can get special word from Washington defining their rights or granting them permission. For the purchase of squid from the natives both time and money are required, for the squid are then taken by jigs, and sometimes unreasonable prices charged. By using traps often large numbers of squid are taken in a short time and at little expense.—*May 28, 1880.*

SQUID OFF CAPE BRETON.—Your letter concerning the capture of squid in traps was received yesterday and read to Captains Dagle and Melanson, whom I advised to write to Secretary Evarts through Captain Babson. Captain Dagle informs me that the natives at Cape Breton capture squid with jigs only because they cannot afford traps or seine, being dependent almost entirely on the sales of the squid, &c., to fishermen. Captain Babson wrote to Secretary Evarts some time ago, asking for definite instructions to be given the fishermen, but has received no reply. Our fishermen are anxiously waiting for decided action, that they may know what course to pursue. There are indications that the mackerel will this season work eastward, some think into the bay of Saint Lawrence, in which case trouble might ensue. I informed Professor Verrill of the appearance of squid on the coast, and he obtained some from Wood's Holl; and on Friday last I sent him twenty-five from here on ice, taken in the trap at Kettle Island.

MACKEREL FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC.—I received yesterday two salt mackerel from the South Pacific Ocean, near the coast of Chili, brought by bark Silas Fish, now at New York and soon to make another voyage to the same region. Mate R. A. Hooper, of the bark, states that the mackerel strike along the coast of Chili in November and continue till spring, working to the southward. The natives do not consider the fish eatable.—*June 2, 1880.*

SPECIMENS SENT.—I send you by express a package containing menhaden feed, stomachs, and spawn, collected by Mr. Frank Fowle, engineer on porgy steamer Geo. H. Bradley, of New Bedford. There are three samples of spawn taken from the menhaden, one from off Shinnecock, Long Island, May 25, 1880; one from Gardiner's Bay, Long Island, June 26, and one from Fort Pond Bay, Long Island, July 1. He saved the largest and ripest. In some cases he found that he could squeeze the spawn out. I send also the spawn of an unknown fish, supposed by some of the fishermen to be menhaden spawn. It came up in the seine from the bottom. While in Fort Pond Bay, July 1, Mr. Fowle noticed in the forenoon quantities of red feed at the surface of the water which the menhaden were eating eagerly. He saved some of it by skimming it from the surface of the water and straining. In the afternoon of the same day the feed sank below the surface, as also did the menhaden. He caught some menhaden, and upon opening the stomachs found some of the feed almost alive, so that it could be positively identified. Mr. Fowle states that he never saw this feed so abundant at any other time or place. He feels confident that this is genuine menhaden feed, and together with Captain Abbe, of the same steamer, is anxious to hear from you regarding it. Several of the porgy steamers have been eastward this season, but I hear of few menhaden being taken north of Cape Cod, although fishermen arriving here have reported schools of menhaden seen along the coast of Maine.—*July 6, 1880.*

MACKEREL ABUNDANT.—Mackerel continue very abundant hereabouts. Over a hundred boys and men were fishing for them this forenoon in the immediate vicinity of Parson's salt wharf, East Gloucester. Last evening Rocky Neck Cove was full of the fish. Some good-sized ones are taken, but most of them are small. In the nets at Eastern Point a considerable quantity of No. 2s was taken. In the Squam River they are plentiful, with blue-fish chasing them. Off Eastern Point yesterday afternoon Captain Babson tells me that horse-mackerel were very numerous, schools of mackerel hugging the shore in their endeavors to escape their enemies. Captain King, of schooner Reporter, from the eastward, reports mackerel solid all along from here to the Bay of Fundy. Large mackerel are becoming more plenty. He says that mackerel, sharks, and horse-mackerel are very numerous, as is natural when so many fish are found. He saw no feed swimming, though what fish were taken had herring shrimps in their stomachs.—*July 15, 1880.*

FISH-TRAPS.—On Saturday, with Captain Martin, I visited the fish-traps, 8 in number, along the shore westward of Eastern Point. All are floating traps similar to Webb's patent trap at Milk Island. Their location is as follows: Two on the west side of Kettle Island; one opposite the island, on the main shore; one on the west side of Egg Rock, off Manchester; two on the east side of the entrance to Manchester Harbor, and two small traps on the west side of Misery Island. I have obtained facts about the fish taken in these several traps, and find that

it will be advisable to visit them at least once a week, for otherwise there will be too much guess-work about the catch; besides, occasional fish of unusual varieties should be watched for.—*July 19, 1880.*

MACKEREL.—The mackerel along this shore appear to be increasing in size. Among those from Kettle Island traps this morning there were about 2,000 No. 1s, some of them from 15 to 18 inches long, though not fat. Mackerel taken by the seiners in Massachusetts Bay continue, however, to be small. What large ones are found seem to be from the traps. I hear to-day of two more traps set: one set yesterday or day before, off Coney Island, near Marblehead; the other off Folly Cove, on the north side of Cape Ann.—*July 20, 1880.*

SMALL MACKEREL.—Our harbor has been full of small mackerel to-day. Three vessels have set seines inside of Eastern Point; and one off Five-Pound Island, in the upper harbor, obtained 20 barrels. Upwards of a hundred small boats are in various parts of the harbor, with boys, getting as high as half a barrel apiece. I have examined the stomachs of a great number and find nothing in them. I send herewith a small lot of food from upwards of two hundred mackerel taken yesterday morning in Kettle Island traps. In a seine set off Ten-Pound Island this morning, besides 70 barrels of mackerel, I noticed flounders, skates, sculpins, and a wry-mouth or ghost-fish. I think that the mackerel are kept in by schools of horse-mackerel.—*July 21, 1880.*

FINBACK WHALE.—Recently a carcass of a finback whale 55 feet long drifted ashore on Long Beach, some two miles from here, opposite Milk Island. I went to see it, and offered two men \$10 if they would get the skull bones out. They worked on it almost two days, and gave up the job. Captain Martin and I went there early yesterday morning, and worked three hours until high tide. We secured the lower jaw-bones, and think that we can get the whole skull after the flesh has decayed a little more.—*July 23, 1880.*

HATCHING MONK-FISH.—We put some monk-fish spawn in one of the Chester hatching-boxes, and it hatched out yesterday, just a week from the time it was placed in the box. They are funny little fish, although the experiment is of no practical value.—*July 23, 1880.*

MACKEREL.—FIRST ARRIVAL FROM SAINT LAWRENCE BAY.—The first vessel to arrive here from the Bay of Saint Lawrence this season came on Saturday. It was the schooner Mary Fernald, with 408 barrels of mackerel, after being gone a month and a day. They report some of the mackerel very large, though most of them are No. 2s and No. 3s. The trip was taken close to Prince Edward Island, between Malpeque and Cascumpeque, all within the 3-miles limit. There were mackerel farther off shore, but mixed with herring. They report that the mackerel had red feed in them, though they saw no other food. The success of this vessel has started several more besides the four or five Gloucester vessels already in the bay. One of the vessels which take temperature and observations for us is among the number fitting

out. I have asked two of the vessels to save some mackerel food, &c. On our visit to Kettle Island trap, Saturday forenoon, we saw a few barrels of large mackerel—No. 1. Measured one mackerel, $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Major Low informs me that in 1860 he measured a mackerel $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.—*July 27, 1880.*

HATCHING MONK-FISH.—On July 15 we found a string of monk-fish spawn (30 feet long) under our wharf clinging to the piles. We preserved some in alcohol, as in the large jar, with label properly marked. We placed a portion of the spawn in one of the Chester hatching-boxes and moored it alongside the wharf, where we watched the development from day to day. The eggs gradually separated from the jelly-like substance that had held them together, and on July 19 began to show the shape of fish. July 22 we found the fish alive in the condition preserved in the small vial sent. One week was taken for the hatching. July 27 we took some from the box and noticed that the yelk-sac was absorbed on a few of them. I send a bottle of them as found July 29, when they were lively and swimming near the surface of the water.—*July 30, 1880.*

HADDOCK.—Schooner H. A. Duncan, twelve men, 87 tons, belonging to George Steele, fully equipped and ready with ice and crew aboard, is to start to-day on a haddock trawling trip.—*September 18, 1880.*

RESULTS OF STORM.—The recent gale did some damage to the Gloucester fleet, and several vessels arrived yesterday disabled. One banker was towed into Portland with both masts gone. The captain of the schooner Laura Sayward reports that while at anchor on George's he saw two men drifting by on a piece of wreck. He cut the cable and was able to rescue the men, when it was too rough to lower a boat. One man has been reported washed overboard from schooner Frederick Geering while the vessel was scudding under bare poles.—*September 13, 1880.*

MACKEREL.—The schooner Victor has arrived from Grand Bank. While in Newfoundland for bait the crew had some trouble, coming to blows with the natives. I am glad to say that the fleet is doing unusually well. Yesterday a mackerel seiner came in with 430 barrels.—*September 21, 1880.*

TRIP TO GREENLAND.—The schooner Mary E., Captain Madson, arrived here yesterday from Greenland. He reports that the vessel left Gloucester April 27; proceeded to Canso and completed crew; proceeded to Flemish Cap, reaching there May 27; staid there till June 28, taking about 75,000 pounds of codfish; left for Greenland; encountered only one field of ice, and this when some 100 miles from Flemish Cap; reached Greenland July 12, and left August 31, reaching Gloucester September 22. The vessel went as far north as Holsteinborg, fished about 20 miles from the coast, and obtained about 80,000 pounds of fitched halibut, making a total stock of about \$6,000. Captain Madson tells me that he never saw the route to Greenland or the coast more

free from ice, and yet the weather was unusually windy, heavy winds from the southwest often preventing their fishing. He expected to find other Gloucester vessels on the coast, but none were there. Last year walrus were abundant; this year they are scarce; sharks, however, were plentiful, injuring a great deal of gear by biting off the hooks. Captain Madson says he was the first who ever got a trip of fish from Flemish Cap. This was in 1872. One other vessel, schooner *Carrie S. Dagle*, went the same year. In 1871 a vessel, schooner *George Peabody*, went there from Salem, but lost gear and anchor, and got no fish. In 1873 and 1874 trips were made there with other vessels. In 1875 and 1876 no vessels from Gloucester fished there. In 1877 and 1878 he made trips to Flemish Cap and Grand Bank. In 1879 he made half a trip to Flemish Cap and finished up the season by going to Greenland. This year he obtained, as above stated, 75,000 pounds of cod on Flemish Cap and 80,000 pounds of halibut at Greenland. Two other vessels, the *Concord* and *Carrie S. Dagle*, went to Flemish Cap this year. The *Mary E.* is rather a small vessel, only 67.22 tons, and this makes a good season's work for her. Capelin made their appearance on the coast of Greenland about a fortnight after the vessels reached there.—*September 23, 1880.*

PUFFING PIG.—I have a puffing pig, caught in a net this morning. It is a perfect specimen, 3 feet long, and weighs 38 pounds.—*September 27, 1880.*

TILE-FISH.—The schooner *H. A. Duncan*, about which I telegraphed recently as ready for the trip to the *Lopholatilus* ground, arrived a few days since from a week's trip. She stocked \$512.—*October 2, 1880.*

HATCHING HERRING.—I have made a successful experiment in hatching herring in one of the Chester floating hatching-boxes. On Saturday last I went to Kettle Island hoping to get some herring and procure some ripe spawn. No herring were in the trap, but by hauling the trap we found masses of herring spawn some half inch thick matted on the bottom netting. We gathered some, brought it in a large tin bottle to Gloucester, and put it in the hatching-box alongside the wharf. A microscopic examination that day showed the eggs entirely undeveloped, with yolks whole. On Monday the yolks in many cases were burst and the fish developing. On Tuesday we could see the little fellows alive in the egg, though very small. On Wednesday they were still in the egg, larger and wriggling about as if trying to get out; under the microscope we could see the heart beat. Thursday they were out of the shell in considerable numbers. To-day a multitude of the cunning infants are in the tank, thus showing that five or six days were required to develop the fish. The temperature of the water on Saturday was 55° F.; Sunday, 54°; Monday, 54°; Tuesday, 55°; Wednesday, 54°; Thursday, 50°; Friday, 53°.—*October 15, 1880.*

COD, HAKE, POLLOCK, AND SHORE FISHERIES.—Capt. George Martin (son of Capt. S. J. Martin), of schooner *Northern Eagle*, wishes to

make a trial of gill-nets for cod fishing in Ipswich Bay. Before getting an outfit for the vessel he would like to use the three cod gill-nets we have in stock at Gloucester. Perhaps the use of such nets may result in profit to the fishermen, especially at times when bait is scarce. A small school of cod has appeared on the outer grounds off Thatcher's Island. Hake are unusually plentiful and pollock are abundant. It is the opinion among the fishermen that the shore fisheries will succeed this winter.

MENHADEN.—I heard to-day that on Friday last menhaden were numerous off Plymouth, where the steamer George Humphrey took 600 barrels. I heard also that during the previous week schooner Phantom took 75 barrels; Henry Friend, 45 barrels; Ossipee, 100 barrels. These are the only hauls of menhaden that I have heard of north of Cape Cod, although menhaden may have been taken by gill-nets in Casco Bay during the summer.—*November 1, 1880.*

109.—NOTES ON THE FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From letters to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

Four weeks ago the prospect for a large catch of fish on the Grand Banks was doubtful, as the whole fleet was seeking bait for four weeks. But on June 25 capelin struck the coast of Newfoundland in great abundance and all the vessels got bait. On reaching the Banks codfish were found to be plentiful. One vessel caught 30,000 pounds for three days consecutively. The prospect for a large catch is good, as squid came on the Banks when the vessels left for home.

During the past week there have been 33 arrivals from George's Banks, with good fares, averaging 25,000 pounds of codfish to a vessel. The vessels were absent from home from ten to fourteen days. Last week there were also 4 arrivals from Grand Banks, averaging 125,000 pounds of codfish to a vessel; 11 arrivals from the Banks, with small fares of 23,000 pounds of fresh halibut to a vessel; 6 arrivals with salt mackerel, 4 fares of small and 2 of large, caught at Block Island. The large mackerel caught at Block Island sold for \$16.50 per barrel. Small mackerel sold yesterday for \$5 per barrel.

In a letter dated Surrey, Prince Edward Island, June 30, 1884, Capt. Charles Martin says: "We have seen no mackerel yet, though we were over to the west shore on June 27, and down the island June 28. Again we saw none yesterday, but to-day a few were to be seen with a school of herring off Surrey. There are about a dozen sail, some of which have been to Chaleurs Bay, but found no mackerel. We left forty sail at North Cape." Again, in a letter dated Surrey, Prince Edward Island, July 6, 1884, Capt. Charles Martin says: "There are 45 sail here to-day.