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**90.—ON THE SPECIMENS RECEIVED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FROM THE UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.****By Prof. S. F. BAIRD.**

The arrangement made by the Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service, early in the year, for the telegraphic announcement to the Smithsonian Institution of the stranding of marine animals has already been productive of important results. The series of specimens thus far received is in every way remarkable, and should the system continue to be so productive it is impossible to say what good may not result to zoology. The first specimen received was that of a shark (*Pseudotriakis microdon*) from Station No. 10, Amagansett, N. Y., Mr. Joshua B. Edwards, keeper. This species had hitherto been captured only off the coast of Portugal, and its discovery in our waters was a matter of great interest to American ichthyologists. The only specimen known to be preserved besides this one is the type of the species.

Shortly after this shark was received, a still more remarkable animal was announced from Station No. 8, at Spring Lake, N. J., Mr. Henry S. Howland, keeper. This was a pigmy sperm whale, which was entirely new to the North Atlantic, and apparently new to science as well. It has been provisionally named *Kogia goodei*. Few specimens of this genus have ever been collected, and these from the most remote parts of the globe, some from New Zealand, and one from Mazatlan at the entrance of the Gulf of California. These animals resemble the great sperm whale, to which they are closely related, but do not seem to attain a length of more than 9 or 10 feet, and are truly the pigmies of their race. The New Jersey specimen was peculiarly interesting in that it was a female with young. In dissecting the animal a fetus fully 3 feet long was found, which is probably the first ever seen.

The enthusiasm aroused by the arrival of this specimen had scarcely abated when the stranding of another cetacean was announced from Station No. 17, at Barnegat City, N. J., Mr. J. H. Ridgway, keeper. This remarkable animal floated in upon the tide and was secured by Mr. Ridgway and his crew after considerable exertion. The curator of mammals and an assistant were dispatched from the National Museum and a cast of the exterior was made and the skeleton prepared for shipment to Washington. As the huge animal lay upon the sand the question of its identity proved quite a puzzling one to the zoologist who viewed it; but when the skull was cut out, it was at once apparent that the animal belonged to the whales known as the Ziphioids, and proba-

bly to the species *Ziphius cavirostris*, an animal for which no common name exists, but which may be termed a bottle-nose whale. It is probably the second specimen ever taken on the coast of the United States.

Ziphioid whales have a most interesting history. In ages past they were very abundant, perhaps as much so as the common porpoise of today, but at present only stragglers are found in remote quarters of the globe. It would seem as if they were but the surviving relics of a great race, which sprung into existence, reached the maximum of its abundance, and declined long ages before man appeared on the earth.

From Station No. 20, at Fire Island, N. Y., Mr. Daniel S. Hubbard, keeper, and Station No. 37, at Turtle Gut, N. J., Mr. Uriah Gresse, keeper, came two specimens of a porpoise, which, unlike the cetaceans which have been already referred to, is of common occurrence on our Atlantic coast, and is probably also represented in European waters. The casts, however, which the National Museum was enabled to make, are probably the first of the species in any museum in the country, and with the skeletons which were preserved form an excellent basis for comparison with other forms. The animal is commonly known as the bottle-nose dolphin, and is identical with or closely allied to the species *Tursiops truncatus*.

In addition to the shark previously mentioned several peculiar and interesting fishes have been received. Among these is a fish known as the "star-gazer" (*Astroscopus anolophus*) from Station No. 6, at Deal's Island, N. C., Mr. Malachi Corbel, keeper. The "star-gazer" is a southern species which occasionally strays northward as far as Cape Cod, but it is very rare in museums. A very closely allied species (*Anolophus V. græcum*) is said to possess electrical powers in life. From Station No. 2, at Point Judith, R. I., Mr. Herbert M. Knowles, keeper, was received a specimen of the "lumpfish." The "lumpfish" (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) as a rule is an inhabitant of colder waters than that in which it was found. The "flute mouth" (*Fistularia serrata*) from the same station is a very rare species on our coast. The "angel fish" (*Pomacanthus arcuatus*) taken at Barnegat City, N. J., has not hitherto been known north of Florida.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25, 1884.

**91.—WEIGHTS OF SALMON TAKEN AT McCLOUD RIVER STATION  
IN 1880.**

**By LIVINGSTON STONE.**

The following table showing the weight of female salmon after spawning, was accidentally omitted from the report for that year of the operations at McCloud River station. The average weight of those taken August 31 was  $9\frac{3}{8}$  pounds; of those taken September 9,  $8\frac{1}{8}$  pounds; of the entire lot,  $9\frac{7}{16}$  pounds.