

tude 41° to 43°; 12 sail, codfish, off Nova Scotia shore, latitude 43° to 43° 25', longitude 65°; 250 sail, ground and swordfish fishing, off the New England coast; 11 sail, halibut, off Greenland and Iceland; 6 steamers, taking whales, off the New England coast; total, 1,033 sail, 6 steamers.

Capt. J. W. Collins, assistant of United States Fish Commission, having recently returned from a month's cruise to the eastern fishing banks, on the United States Fish Commission steamer Albatross, makes the following report, of special interest to the fisheries: Upwards of 2,000 fathoms were obtained in the position where Hope Bank (with a depth of 45 fathoms) has been laid down on the chart.

Researches about the eastern part of Banquereau proved that the charts of that region are inaccurate.

A series of trials with hand-lines was made on Misaine Bank, and codfish were found there in as great abundance as on any of the adjacent fishing grounds. Heretofore this bank has not been frequented by fishing vessels.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., August 12, 1885.

116.—NOTES TAKEN DURING CRUISE OF THE ALBATROSS TO GRAND BANKS IN JUNE AND JULY, 1885.

By WILLARD NYE, Jr.

Trout.—There are two or three varieties in the clear freshwater ponds of Newfoundland. The first is remarkably brilliant colored, and is comparatively longer, with a more pointed head. On first being taken from the water its scales look as though made of silver and gold. The second is more thickset, and much like our brook-trout, except the red spots are more irregular. This variety in Newfoundland is called mud-trout, but I could see no reason for it other than its darker color. The fishermen speak of a third variety, which is still darker.

Sticklebacks.—These were taken from a spring pond at the top of Signal Hill, at an elevation of about 300 feet. These sticklebacks seem to differ from those taken from brooks at the point where they empty into the salt water.

Whales, &c.—On July 13, twenty-four swordfish were counted from the ship in four or five hours. Most of them were very large, only two being small. Later in the afternoon finback whales were seen in all directions. They seemed to be skimming up feed from the surface. On examination, the water was found full of *Copepoda*; but a little after sunset all this small life disappeared, and not one could be caught at the surface. Several clots looking like blood were seen floating, and some were obtained in the net, which, on examination, were considered excrement of finback whales, taking its color from the deep red of the *Copepoda*. A school of large porpoises was with the finbacks, and seemed to be after the same feed.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., August 10, 1885.