

## 63.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN JUNE, 1886.

By W. A. WILCOX.

During this month about the same number of vessels have been engaged in the fisheries as in June, 1885. Owing to the scarcity of mackerel, more vessels have followed cod and other ground fishing, and not so many have engaged in catching mackerel.

The receipts at Gloucester, which may be taken as a basis for the catch by the entire New England fleet, show a large falling off from the corresponding month of last year. Codfish show a decrease of 3,161,200 pounds. Receipts from all the fishing banks show a loss, but mostly from George's and Brown's.

Halibut have been very scarce on the Grand Banks, also on Western Bank, vessels having returned with less than half fares. In the deep water between George's and Brown's fish have been abundant, and good fares were secured, at times arriving in such abundance as to overstock the market, prices dropping as low as 3 cents a pound. The aggregate receipts of halibut vary but little from those of June, 1885. The vessels that went to Iceland for halibut have all been reported as arriving on the fishing grounds, and the prospect was favorable for their securing full fares. Schooner *Mist* was nineteen days on the way from Gloucester to Iceland, and the schooner *Mystery* was only fifteen days. The past winter was spoken of by the natives as very severe.

Weirs along the New England coast have had a light and unprofitable catch of numerous varieties, consisting of herring, squid, mackerel, and ground fish; enough to supply all demands for bait, with only a small amount for the market. At Monomoy Point, south of Cape Cod, the weirs were taken up the first of the month, the catch having been the smallest for years, which is thought to have been caused by the pollution of the water by a guano factory near by.

Mackerel have not been seen in any abundance since early in the spring. The fleet have constantly sailed all over the usual fishing grounds from Long Island Sound to the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia shore, and Gulf of Saint Lawrence, without finding any body of mackerel. The first mackerel reported caught at Chaleurs Bay were taken in traps on June 9, and a few barrels were taken off Prince Edward Island on June 14. The total amount of salt mackerel landed during the month by the entire New England fleet was 2,445 barrels, against 6,626 barrels in June, 1885, and was caught mostly in the vicinity of Roseway Bank.

On June 20 bonitos were seen in large quantities 50 miles south of Block Island. On the same date white water was, for the first time in several years, seen on Middle Bank. Squid have been very plentiful on the fishing banks as well as close in shore.

Menhaden have been scarce. The fleet engaged in their catch often cruised for a week or more without seeing any fish. A few scattering fish taken from the weirs are all the menhaden seen north of Cape Cod.

Whales have been numerous off the New England coast. Three steamers are engaged in taking them, being quite successful, although many that are shot and sink in deep water are not recovered.

Shad were schooling the last of the month in unusual abundance off Seguin and Small Point, Maine. Five hundred barrels were taken in purse-seines by the mackerel vessels and 200 barrels by smaller vessels that fished near shore. The shad were of good size and quality, one-third No. 1 balance mess, and sold at Portland for \$4 $\frac{3}{8}$  and \$8 a barrel.

On June 9 the new schooner Grampus, of the U. S. Fish Commission fleet, arrived at Gloucester. This vessel, designed by and built under the personal supervision of her commander, Capt. J. W. Collins, is of interest as a departure from the prevailing and almost universal style of a New England fishing vessel. She is 83 $\frac{3}{10}$  tons, and by experts is pronounced not only a fine-looking vessel but one that from her increased depth and model gives promise of much greater safety in rough weather, while at the same time she is expected to be a fast sailer. The Grampus is admirably fitted up for the practical and scientific work for which she is intended.

The Gloucester fishing-fleet enrolled and under license on the last day of June was: Under 20 tons each, 54 sail, with a tonnage of 609.25; over 20 tons each, 384 sail, with a tonnage of 26,448.71; making the total tonnage of the fleet 27,057.96.

The demand for all kinds of fish, both domestic and foreign, has continued depressed and far below the average. Although the receipts show a large decrease from those of one year ago, the market has at all times been well and amply supplied at prices lower than for many years. The extreme low prices do not seem to stimulate an increased consumption.

The following is the position of the New England fishing fleet during the last week of June:

Position.	Object.	No. of sail.
Grand Banks, lat. 44° to 46°, long. 52° to 54°	Codfish	175
Grand Banks, lat. 44° to 45°, long. 49° to 51°	Halibut	40
Western Bank, lat. 44° to 45°, long. 60° to 61°	do	30
George's and Brown's Banks, lat. 41° to 43°, long. 60° to 65°	Cod and halibut	230
From Block Island to Gulf of Saint Lawrence	Mackerel	250
Off eastern coast of New England	Ground fish	300
On trips to Iceland or Greenland	Halibut	8
Total		1,033

In addition to the above, three steamers were engaged in taking whales off the New England shore; and one steamer was fishing for mackerel off this shore.

The British steamers Carmona and Concordia arrived at Montreal on June 21, being the first vessels through the Strait of Belle Isle this season. They report many fields of small broken ice and a great number of large icebergs, extending as far east as 110 miles from the strait.

*Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in June, 1886.*

From—	Fares.	Saltcodfish.	Fresh halibut.	Salt hake.	Salt pollock and salt cusk.
		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
George's Bank .....	142	2,880,000	342,650	1,000	.....
Brown's Bank .....	8	253,000	22,800	.....	.....
Grand Banks .....	20	.....	657,000	.....	.....
Cashe's Bank .....	5	165,000	400	42,000	.....
Cape North .....	1	8,000	.....	.....	.....
La Have Bank .....	1	.....	35,000	.....	.....
Nova Scotia, Cape shore .....	3	125,000	.....	.....	.....
Western Bank .....	14	1,112,000	36,000	10,000	.....
Bay of Fundy .....	5	149,000	3,300	45,000	.....
Banquereau .....	1	10,000	18,000	.....	.....
New England shore* .....	28	380,000	72,000	.....	414,000
Mackereeling † .....	23	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, June, 1886 .....	260	5,082,000	1,187,150	98,000	414,000
Total, June, 1885 .....	399	8,243,200	1,204,000	113,800	5212,500

\* In addition to the fares above stated, 2,000 pounds of salt haddock were brought in.

† Of this amount, 34,000 pounds were salt cusk.

‡ Yielding 2,445 barrels of salt mackerel, the amount in June, 1885, having been 6,626 barrels.

§ Of this amount, 103,500 pounds were salt cusk.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *July 15, 1886.*

**64.—REPORT UPON THE SHAD AND HERRING FISHERIES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER FOR 1886.**

**By GWYNN HARRIS.**

Number of shad landed at Washington from March 19, 1886, to June 10, 1886, inclusive .....	180,175
Number of shad landed at Alexandria, Va .....	34,847
Number of shad shipped by steamer Sue to Baltimore .....	48,000
Number of shad shipped by steamer W. W. Coreoran to Baltimore .....	5,600
Number of shad sold on the different shores .....	6,800
Total .....	275,422
Number of herring landed at Washington from March 13, 1886, to June 10, 1886, inclusive .....	7,315,473
Number of herring landed at Alexandria, Va .....	3,979,324
Number of herring shipped by steamer Sue to Baltimore .....	850,000
Number of herring sold on the shores and from trap-nets .....	1,400,000
Total .....	13,544,797