

these small lakes there are also the bream, crucian, roach, bleak, pike, perch, eel, and some other kinds of fish.

In many parts of Sweden the tench is considered as a fish of little value, and as not being a wholesome article of food, and consequently it does not sell at a good price. In Germany, where this fish is better known, it is appreciated more. It is stated that it often sells at as high a price as the carp, but generally tench costs about two-thirds of the price of carp. The tench has frequently a more pronounced muddy or peaty flavor than the carp, but if kept in clear, running water for five or six days it will almost entirely lose this flavor.

70.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN JULY, 1886.

By W. A. WILCOX.

With the exception of mackerel the receipts show few changes in quantity from those of the corresponding month of last year. At Gloucester the same number of fares of cod and other ground fish have been landed—277 cargoes each year. Of mackerel 30 fares arrived from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and 7 small broken fares from off the New England coast, against 116 fares during July, 1885, making the aggregate fares 307 in July, 1886, and 393 in July, 1885.

Codfish of good size and quality were abundant. A number of vessels have returned to home ports from their second trips with full fares, caught on Banquereau, Western Bank, and Grand Banks. Nearer home the catches on George's and Brown's Banks have been good, at the close of the month falling off on the former and increasing on the latter. The July catch by the Gloucester fleet of the past two seasons, on these two banks, is of interest as showing the fluctuation in the catch from one bank to the other:

Codfish landed at Gloucester during July.

| | 1885. | 1886. |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Pounds.</i> | <i>Pounds.</i> |
| From George's Bank..... | 1, 671, 000 | 4, 585, 000 |
| From Brown's Bank..... | 3, 007, 000 | 214, 000 |
| Total..... | 4, 738, 000 | 4, 799, 000 |

The fish from George's usually are given the preference, as being of superior quality to those from any other locality.

Halibut have continued scarce, vessels arriving mostly with small fares. A few vessels fishing between George's and Brown's have brought in larger fares than those from the Grand and other banks. The total receipts for the month show a falling off of 170,350 pounds from those of July, 1885.

Hake, haddock, and other ground fish have been fairly abundant on the eastern fishing grounds, and an average catch is reported.

Bluefish have been less plentiful than for a number of years. Only occasionally has any amount been taken, and much of the time vessels have returned empty.

Swordfish have been numerous, the catch being mostly made in the vicinity of Block Island. The price has been as low as 3 cents a pound.

Mackerel, in large bodies, seem to have abandoned their usual resorts this year. All the season, since their disappearance south of Long Island, the fishermen have sought them all along the usual fishing grounds off the New England coast as far as the Bay of Fundy, on George's and Brown's Banks, and in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. After weeks of constant search vessels have been obliged to return to home ports with very few fish, if any. They would at once refit and start again. During the first of the month 125 sail were cruising off the New England coast—50 sail in the vicinity of Block Island and 75 sail in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Small mackerel were found quite abundant, and occasionally small schools of large fish were taken off the eastern coast and about Block Island. In the Gulf of Saint Lawrence the search was equally unsuccessful up to the middle of the month, when the fish appeared in considerable abundance on Bradelle and Orphan Banks, to the north of Prince Edward Island. The fish were mostly taken from 10 to 20 miles from shore, and were of good size and fair quality.

No improvement taking place off the United States shores, the fleet slowly and reluctantly went from the eastern shore to North Bay, at the close of the month 150 sail of the New England fleet of seiners being in those waters. A few sail were hauled up temporarily, and 100 vessels remained scattered all over the fishing grounds off the New England coast. The oldest fishermen report that never have they seen a season that would compare with this for the scarcity of mackerel.

The native fishermen of the Provinces have been equally unfortunate. The few vessels they had engaged in seining could not find mackerel schooling, while the boat fishermen using hand-lines complained that mackerel when found would not take the hook, and consequently their catch was also insignificant.

Bait has been plentiful all the month, the weirs of Cape Cod at nearly all times having an abundance of squid and small mackerel. Along the coast of Maine herring have been in great abundance; at several points for days the weirs and traps would be full and closed, waiting for buyers. Squid have been very abundant along the New England coast; also at times on the leading fishing banks.

Prices of all kinds of salt-water fish have ruled very low, in many cases being below the cost of production, and lower than for years, if ever before. The season thus far has certainly been a most discouraging one for all engaged, yet fishing is persistently and hopefully followed, in hopes of a better future.

Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in July, 1886.

| From— | Fares. | Salt codfish. | Fresh halibut. | Salt hake. | Salt had-dock. | Salt pollock. | Salt cusk. | Fresh sword-fish. | Salt mackerel. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | Pounds. | Pounds. | Pounds. | Pounds. | Pounds. | Pounds. | Pounds. | Barrels. |
| George's Bank | 184 | 4,585,000 | 193,600 | 4,000 | 4,000 | ..... | 10,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Brown's Bank | 6 | 214,000 | 1,600 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Grand Banks | 35 | 1,025,500 | 714,300 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Banquereau | 7 | 287,000 | 123,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Nova Scotia, Cape shore .. | 4 | 140,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Off Labrador | 1 | 2,000 | 27,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Flemish Cap | 2 | 430,000 | 35,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Western Bank | 3 | 335,000 | 1,400 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| New England shore | 35 | 385,000 | ..... | 64,000 | 22,000 | 35,000 | 9,000 | 6,630 | 164 |
| North Bay | 30 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 12,190 |
| From small boats, shore-fishing ..... | ..... | 26,000 | ..... | 20,000 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Total in July, 1886 | 307 | 8,329,500 | 1,095,900 | 88,000 | 26,000 | 35,000 | 19,000 | 6,630 | 12,354 |
| Total in July, 1885 | 393 | 8,220,500 | 1,266,250 | 77,500 | ..... | 3,000 | 17,500 | 783 | *39,637 |

Additional during July, 1886, 22,000 boxes of smoked herring, from Maine.

*Also, in July, 1885, there were 563 barrels of fresh mackerel.

The importations of fish for the year ending July 1, 1886, being the first full year since the termination of the Washington treaty and the return to a duty on fish from the British Provinces, are as follows:

| Kind of fish. | 1885. | 1886. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| <i>Free of duty.</i> | | |
| Fresh fish, salmon excepted | pounds.. 17,913,742 | 19,732,787 |
| Fresh salmon | do. 1,336,541 | 1,423,720 |
| Cod and other dry fish | do. 32,399,578 | ..... |
| Herring, smoked | do. 10,558,315 | ..... |
| Herring, pickled | do. 104,742 | ..... |
| Mackerel, pickled | do. 91,680 | ..... |
| Salmon, pickled | do. 5,872 | ..... |
| <i>Subject to duty.</i> | | |
| Cod and other dry fish | pounds.. | 14,324,080 |
| Herring, smoked | do. | 5,712,725 |
| Herring, pickled | do. 49,643 | 97,922 |
| Mackerel, pickled | do. | 50,847 |
| Salmon, pickled | do. | 4,562 |

Value of all fish imported, including anchovies, sardines, and other canned fish.

| | 1885. | 1886. |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Free of duty | \$3,452,497 | \$1,076,644 |
| Dutiable | 1,353,138 | 2,535,646 |
| Total | 4,805,635 | 3,612,290 |

GLoucester, Mass., August 18, 1886.