

The catch for the Delaware in 1886 shows a considerable falling off, while the southern catch and that in the Hudson River show an increase. The gains in the different sections depend much upon the weather. Elizabeth City, N. C., and vicinity, had an exceedingly good catch, while considerable amounts were taken in South Carolina and Florida.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., *July 29, 1886.*

#### 95.—DISTRIBUTION OF SHAD FRY DURING 1886.

By M. McDONALD.

The total distribution of shad fry for the season of 1886 amounts to over 90,000,000. As the entire number of shad taken for market is something less than 6,000,000, it will be seen that for every shad taken from the waters this season for market, there have been artificially hatched and returned to the waters fifteen young shad. Assuming that the entire cost of production and distribution has been \$20,000 (and it will not exceed this), the young fish have been produced and distributed over the entire United States at a rate of about \$215 for a million, or about forty-six fry for a cent.

Another interesting fact to note is that for the entire time up to and including 1882 there were produced 200,000,000 young shad; while for 1886 alone the total was over 90,000,000. This indicates that we are certainly getting to a point where the work may be regarded as profitable from a commercial standpoint.

The following is a summary of the shad distributed during the season of 1886, arranged by river basins:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Tributaries of Narragansett Bay.....                              | 2, 534, 000  |
| Tributaries of Long Island Sound .....                            | 749, 000     |
| Hudson River.....   | 2, 312, 000  |
| Delaware River.....   | 21, 618, 000 |
| Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay .....                               | 52, 560, 000 |
| Tributaries of Albemarle Sound .....                              | 1, 990, 000  |
| Streams draining into the Atlantic south of Albemarle Sound ..... | 4, 183, 000  |
| Mississippi River and minor tributaries of Gulf of Mexico.....    | 4, 758, 000  |
| Colorado River, Gulf of California.....                           | 850, 000     |
| Columbia River Basin.....   | 850, 000     |
| Total.....  | 92, 404, 000 |

WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 21, 1886.*