

**24.—THE FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS., IN MARCH, 1887, WITH NOTES ON THOSE OF OTHER LOCALITIES.****By W. A. WILCOX.**

During a large part of the month the weather was so stormy as to seriously interfere with fishing, and many vessels lost anchors, cables, and deck-gear, but they escaped serious disaster.

The leading receipts of the month have been cod, halibut, and frozen herring. On George's Bank cod and halibut have been scarce; old fishermen report them more so than for twenty-five years, but the decreased receipts are accounted for, in part at least, by the weather, which was unfavorable for fishing. In Ipswich Bay a fleet of sixty sail has found codfish both abundant and large in size. The fish were mostly taken with trawls, the largest catches being made where the trawls were most numerous; the thousands of baited trawls apparently attracting the fish.

Halibut receipts were mostly from 18 to 20 miles ENE. of Sable Island. These grounds have of late years been seldom visited by American fishermen, but fish were recently found plentiful there, about two-thirds of the catch being white halibut. The few vessels fishing on the Grand Bank have had a moderate catch of halibut, though they met with much drift ice, which in many cases carried away their trawls. Fish from this locality averaged only one-half white.

The Western Bank codfish fleet have begun to sail for the fishing-grounds. A larger proportion than usual will fish with hand-lines and salt-clam bait, instead of using trawls and fresh bait, as formerly. By this means they will avoid the necessity of visiting any foreign port except for wood, water, shelter, or repairing damages. It is reported that about 7,000 barrels of clam bait have been sold to provincial fishermen by dealers in Maine.

Fourteen sail of cod-fishermen are reported as having started for the Western Bank from Booth Bay and Southport, Me. Provincetown will this season have a reduced fleet engaged in the cod and mackerel fisheries, as a number of the vessels have been sold, some of them having left the country and no new ones have been added. That port during the month has had twenty-two vessels engaged in catching fresh fish for the Boston market.

The schooner *Grampus*, of the U. S. Fish Commission, has done good work in gathering codfish eggs for the hatchery at Wood's Holl, and in turning loose the young fry. Much time has been lost by rough weather, yet the millions of eggs gathered, hatched, and turned out into the waters of Massachusetts Bay may reasonably be expected to produce good results in the future. Her work in this line for the season ends with March, as she is to go south to meet and follow the mackerel, ale-

wife, bluefish, and other migratory fish, concerning which much important information is yet to be obtained.

The spring mackerel fleet have been actively engaged in making ready for the work of the season. The first vessel to start, the schooner *Mayflower*, sailed from Gloucester on March 11, and was followed during the month by the steamer *Novelty* and 38 other mackerel vessels hailing from Maine and Massachusetts ports. Up to the close of the month no mackerel have been caught or seen.

A few vessels from Gloucester will go to Flemish Cap for codfish, but probably none will visit the Greenland coast this year. The Gloucester schooners *Davy Crockett* and *Arthur D. Story* sailed on halibut trips to the coast of Iceland on March 23, followed, two days later, by the *Annie M. Jordan*. The schooner *Concord* will soon sail for the same locality. No other American fishing vessels are expected to visit Iceland during the season.

*Fish landed at Gloucester by the fishing fleet in March, 1887.*

Fishing grounds.	Number of fares.	Codfish.	Halibut.	Frozen herring.	Pickled herring.
		Pounds.	Pounds.	Number.	Barrels.
<b>By Gloucester vessels:</b>					
George's Bank .....	121	8, 178, 000	177, 900	.....	.....
Grand Bank .....	13	6, 000	312, 400	.....	.....
Off Sable Island .....	18	.....	556, 709	.....	.....
Bay of Fundy .....	4	.....	.....	861, 000	.....
Fortune Bay .....	2	.....	.....	725, 000	160
Ipswich Bay .....	21	400, 000	.....	.....	.....
Off New England shore .....	53	178, 400	.....	.....	.....
Off New England shore (by small boats) .....	.....	6, 000	.....	.....	.....
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>8, 761, 400</b>	<b>1, 047, 000</b>	<b>1, 586, 000</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>By vessels belonging at other ports:*</b>					
Ipswich Bay .....	7	77, 000	.....	.....	.....
Off New England shore .....	3	0, 900	.....	.....	.....
Grand Bank .....	1	.....	25, 000	.....	.....
Bay of Fundy .....	1	.....	.....	140, 000	.....
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>83, 900</b>	<b>25, 000</b>	<b>140, 000</b>	<b>.....</b>
<b>Total in March, 1887 .....</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>8, 845, 300</b>	<b>1, 072, 000</b>	<b>1, 726, 000</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Total in March, 1886 .....</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4, 568, 834</b>	<b>1, 106, 100</b>	<b>1, 860, 000</b>	<b>.....</b>

NOTE.—The miscellaneous receipts from other ports during the month consisted of 1,000 boxes smoked herring, 1,650 quintals hake, 100 quintals cod, 25 quintals haddock, 25 quintals cusk, and 21 barrels fish-oil from Maine; and 1,675 barrels fish-oil from Tiverton, R. I.

\* These fish were landed by the following schooners: *Venus*, of Eastport, Me.; *A. C. Newhall*, of New Castle, N. H.; *Franklin S. Sohenok* and *Mary S. Hontvet*, of Portsmouth, N. H.; *E. A. Williams*, of Boston, Mass.; *Mary E. Story*, of Swampscott, Mass.; and *Clara R. Grimes*, *Estelle S. Nunan*, and *Edith Conley*, of Rockport, Mass.

**25.—NOTES ON THE FROZEN-HERRING TRADE WITH NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE BAY OF FUNDY DURING THE WINTER OF 1886-'87.**

**By W. A. WILCOX.**

The frozen-herring business of the past winter closed early in April. The Newfoundland trade, in which twenty-seven vessels from Gloucester were engaged, was quite successful. The first one in search of frozen herring sailed on November 20, the last on January 21. The first