

RED SNAPPERS AND POMPANO.—I send by express to-day a little box containing a bottle of fine sand-worms, a bottle of sponge-like stuff which the red snappers are now feeding upon, and a few of the pompano shells. During the past month the red snappers have not been biting well, being filled with this spongy matter. We have not noticed the same kind of food in such abundance before this, and I have had a good chance to observe such things. A short time ago I had examined 450 large snappers' stomachs, and in only one case found anything but the matter that I am sending. Snappers are rapidly becoming scarce.

The "pompano shells" are the favorite food of the pompano. It is in pursuit of them that the fish come in shoal water along the sea beaches. The fishermen claim that when these shells wash ashore, pompano are present. We are getting pompano and other shore fishes from Tampa and vicinity. Other kinds, like the bluefish, have not appeared this winter, but I think they will come back some time.

PENSACOLA, FLA., *March 8, 1884.*

**151.—A CALIFORNIA SALMON TAKEN IN JAMES RIVER.**

**By W. RUSSELL ROBINSON.**

[From a letter to M. McDonald.]

It gives me pleasure to report to you the capture on the 16th instant, about 20 miles below the city, in a herring seine, of a California salmon of 9 pounds' weight. The fish was kept for me several days, but the messenger not finding me it was cut up and sold in the market. The fisherman bringing it to market did not know what it was, but it was recognized by a fish-dealer who purchased it for \$1. This dealer is familiar with salmon, as he very often gets on order small lots of the Atlantic salmon frozen from New York dealers. The pink flesh and fat condition is mentioned by a gentleman who bought a part of it, and the remains of the head place beyond doubt the fact of its being a salmon. I do not know whether it was male or female. It appears to me highly improbable that the only salmon entering the river should be caught, and I have high hopes of others being reported. I have seen all the important dealers, and offered controlling price for any other that may come in. I hope to send you a fresh specimen on ice. May not climatic or other causes, as yet not understood, be the reason for such a long delay in the return of the fish from the sea. Mr. Palmer and our association are very much cheered. It is a pleasant break of the monotony that has hung over the James River salmon question for these many years.

RICHMOND, VA., *May 26, 1884.*