

make a trial of gill-nets for cod fishing in Ipswich Bay. Before getting an outfit for the vessel he would like to use the three cod gill-nets we have in stock at Gloucester. Perhaps the use of such nets may result in profit to the fishermen, especially at times when bait is scarce. A small school of cod has appeared on the outer grounds off Thatcher's Island. Hake are unusually plentiful and pollock are abundant. It is the opinion among the fishermen that the shore fisheries will succeed this winter.

MENHADEN.—I heard to-day that on Friday last menhaden were numerous off Plymouth, where the steamer George Humphrey took 600 barrels. I heard also that during the previous week schooner Phantom took 75 barrels; Henry Friend, 45 barrels; Ossipee, 100 barrels. These are the only hauls of menhaden that I have heard of north of Cape Cod, although menhaden may have been taken by gill-nets in Casco Bay during the summer.—*November 1, 1880.*

109.—NOTES ON THE FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From letters to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

Four weeks ago the prospect for a large catch of fish on the Grand Banks was doubtful, as the whole fleet was seeking bait for four weeks. But on June 25 capelin struck the coast of Newfoundland in great abundance and all the vessels got bait. On reaching the Banks codfish were found to be plentiful. One vessel caught 30,000 pounds for three days consecutively. The prospect for a large catch is good, as squid came on the Banks when the vessels left for home.

During the past week there have been 33 arrivals from George's Banks, with good fares, averaging 25,000 pounds of codfish to a vessel. The vessels were absent from home from ten to fourteen days. Last week there were also 4 arrivals from Grand Banks, averaging 125,000 pounds of codfish to a vessel; 11 arrivals from the Banks, with small fares of 23,000 pounds of fresh halibut to a vessel; 6 arrivals with salt mackerel, 4 fares of small and 2 of large, caught at Block Island. The large mackerel caught at Block Island sold for \$16.50 per barrel. Small mackerel sold yesterday for \$5 per barrel.

In a letter dated Surrey, Prince Edward Island, June 30, 1884, Capt. Charles Martin says: "We have seen no mackerel yet, though we were over to the west shore on June 27, and down the island June 28. Again we saw none yesterday, but to-day a few were to be seen with a school of herring off Surrey. There are about a dozen sail, some of which have been to Chaleurs Bay, but found no mackerel. We left forty sail at North Cape." Again, in a letter dated Surrey, Prince Edward Island, July 6, 1884, Capt. Charles Martin says: "There are 45 sail here to-day.

No fish schooling yet. Yesterday the wind was southeast, to-day it is southwest."

GLoucester, MASS., *July 13, 1884.*

During the past week there have been 54 arrivals from George's Banks, with average fares of 23,000 pounds of salt codfish; 5 arrivals from Grand Banks, with 120,000 pounds of salt codfish to a vessel; 8 arrivals from the Banks, with 24,000 pounds of fresh halibut to a vessel; and 24 arrivals, averaging 350 barrels of salt mackerel to a vessel. Most of these mackerel are small, and were caught in the Bay of Fundy. No mackerel have yet been caught in the Bay of Saint Lawrence, and 50 of the 165 sail that went there for mackerel are on their return home. The disappearance of the mackerel that were seen down the Nova Scotia shore is a mystery which has not yet been solved. If the whole fleet comes on this coast, small mackerel will sell at a low figure. Yesterday small mackerel sold at \$4.50 per barrel, with the barrel, which is worth 70 cents. There are 10 sail of mackerel catchers in the harbor, with 3,500 barrels of mackerel that were taken in the Bay of Fundy. I think mackerel will be sold to-morrow at \$4 per barrel.

GLoucester, MASS., *July 20, 1884.*

SUMMARY.—There has been the largest amount of fish landed at Gloucester the past week of any week in eight years. There were 67 arrivals from George's Banks, with 1,680,000 pounds of salt cod; 17 arrivals from the Grand Banks, with 2,780,000 pounds of salt cod; 7 arrivals from the Grand Banks, with 182,000 pounds of fresh cod and 65,000 pounds of hake; 80,000 pounds of shore cod; 120,000 pounds of cod from the Western Bank; 220,000 pounds of salt cod from Banquereau; and 6 arrivals with 1,000 barrels of salt mackerel. Mackerel are reported plenty in the Bay of Fundy, but of small size. To-day 5 vessels arrived from the Bay of Fundy, with 1,500 barrels of salt mackerel.

GLoucester, MASS., *July 27, 1884.*

SUMMARY.—The amount of fish landed in Gloucester in July was as follows: There were 186 arrivals from George's Banks, with 3,841,000 pounds of salt cod and 36,900 pounds of fresh halibut; 28 arrivals from Grand Banks, with 4,120,000 pounds of salt cod and 19,000 pounds of fresh halibut; 9 arrivals from Western Bank, with 660,000 pounds of salt cod and 6,500 pounds of fresh halibut; 9 arrivals from the coast of Nova Scotia, with 302,000 pounds of salt cod and 8,500 pounds of halibut; 34 arrivals from the Banks, with 780,000 pounds of fresh halibut; 522,000 pounds of shore fish; 22,818 barrels of mackerel from the Bay of Fundy; 770 barrels of mackerel from Block Island; 478 barrels of mackerel from the Bay of Saint Lawrence; 260 barrels of mackerel caught in traps; making a total for July of 246 arrivals, with 9,445,000 pounds of cod, 850,900 pounds of halibut, and 24,326 barrels of mackerel.

GLoucester, MASS., *August 6, 1884.*