

The vessels in this fishery now number about 100 sail and are largely hakers, belonging along the Maine coast.

Mackerel have been very abundant, a large fleet arriving daily with full fares. The number of vessels arrived here the twenty-four hours with mackerel has been 30, with 12,230 barrels; of which 10,909 barrels were shore catch, and the rest taken in the Bay of Saint Lawrence. About 20 vessels are now in the bay. The catch there this year by the American fleet, numbering 49 sail, has been between 12,000 and 13,000 barrels.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *September 8, 1884.*

### 215.—TRAPPING GASPEREAU IN TANGIPAHOA RIVER.

**By J. DOCK. HARRELL.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

We are also beginning to note the increase of the gaspereau in our river. Previous to the war they were plentiful, but during the war there was a system of trapping inaugurated, which in a few years almost exterminated them. They are white, resembling the buffalo in shape, and have been caught here weighing from 20 to 50 pounds. They have two bones imbedded in their head that seem to have no connection with any organ of the head whatever. They have been caught this size by means of a trap known here as a wing-dam trap. This is built with a strong fall to the mouth and latticed to allow the water to pass through; fingers extend back of the fall-board which prevent the fish from taking any side advantage of the current and force of water produced by the fall-board. The trap is generally placed in the middle of the river in shallow water, and a dam constructed on each side to the bank is built of stakes and brush in the shape of a letter V, with the trap in the center where the wings join. The dam is built to raise the water to a depth of 3 to 4 feet above, and allows no fish to proceed down stream without being caught. A current is produced in front of the trap so that if one of any size stops within 3 feet of the mouth of the trap, in the twinkling of the eye he feels himself going over the fall-board. Then there is no chance in the world for him to save himself. This is a system of trapping that should be a direct violation of the law.

Bass\* are found to be on the increase here, and are discovered in numbers from 3 inches long upward. They are very game when hung with a hook.

OSYKA, MISS., *August 1, 1884.*

\*A specimen sent was pronounced by Dr. Bean to be the fresh-water drum or sheeps-head (*Haplodonotus grunniens*).—C. W. S.