

induce some of our citizens to try their luck on black cod during the coming summer.

**THE SEASON FOR BLACK COD.**—I very nearly omitted an important point, and that is, the best season of the year for taking black cod. I find that in the spring, when the eulachon run up the inlets and streams, where they spawn, the black cod follow them, and can be taken in quantities; but I am informed by both Haidah and Makah Indians that the black cod can be taken in the deep water at any season of the year when the weather will permit fishing. There are undoubtedly certain seasons which are better than others for taking this fish, but as yet no one has made a study of their habits.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., *January 9, 1884.*

#### 57.—UNUSUAL ABUNDANCE OF COD ON BROWN'S BANK.

By Capt. J. W. COLLINS.

The hand-line cod-fishermen who have arrived recently report fish unusually abundant on Brown's Bank, though they are scarce on George's, as is generally the case at this season.

Capt. William Dempsey, master of schooner *Clara F. Friend*, who has had upwards of twenty-five years' experience in the George's cod-fishery, arrived last Monday—May 25—from a trip to Brown's Bank. He was absent from home eighteen days, seven days of which were spent at anchor on the Bank. In this time, with a crew of 10 men, a fare of 37,000 pounds of fish was caught, 1,400 pounds of which were fresh halibut, the remainder being salt cod. The schooner lay in 45 fathoms, about south-southeast from the "Shoal-water," in north latitude  $42^{\circ} 46'$ .

Captain Dempsey says he never before saw cod so abundant on Brown's Bank, at this season, in all his experience. Not only were they plentiful near the bottom, but they appeared to be numerous nearly to the surface of the water. Many fish were caught "up in the water," and on one occasion Captain Dempsey hooked a pair of fine cod not over 10 fathoms from the surface. "High-course" tides prevailed while the vessel was on the ground, and they ran so strong that much difficulty was experienced in making the gear "tend" bottom. After a little while, however, it was found more profitable not to veer out any more line after once getting bottom, for, as the swift-running current gradually lifted the leaden sinkers from the ground, fishermen were more liable to catch pairs of fish than if they exerted themselves to pay out their lines at intervals, which is the usual method when fishing in a tide-way. These cod were in spawning condition, according to Captain Dempsey, who tells me that the milt ran freely from the fish after they had been landed on deck. Before he left the Bank, several schooners came there from George's, where they reported finding fish very scarce.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *May 30, 1885.*