

Pensacola fishermen have caught all the pompanos that they could and have sold them readily, although at a low price. It is probable that there will be a good many taken in May, and as they become less abundant elsewhere the prices will be better.

Bluefish did not appear until the last of April, and none have been seen in a large body. They are caught in company with Spanish mackerel in small lots. The bunches are small in number and the fish small in size. It is strange that there are so few large bluefish on this coast similar to those found on the Atlantic coast. Bluefish will likely be caught all summer in considerable quantities, although the fishermen do not expect as good a run as usual.

The following figures are given to show the difference in the catch of these shore fishes of the past two seasons, from the first run to the 1st of May. In 1884, the season began the 1st of March, and in 1885 it began the 1st of April. Pompano, 1884, 10,632 fish; 1885, 6,988 fish. Spanish mackerel, 1884, 33,212 pounds; 1885, 121,931 pounds. Bluefish, 1884, 39,580 pounds; 1885, 6,000 pounds. The prices of 1885 have averaged one-third less than those of 1884.

PENSACOLA, FLA., *May 1, 1885.*

63.—PROPOSED TRANSMISSION OF SALMON EGGS TO CHILI AND IMPORTATION OF CHILIAN SPECIES OF FISHES.

By JUAN DE LA C. CERDA.

On sending the salmon spawn to Chili it will necessarily have to be under the charge of some competent person, who must not only know how to overcome the difficulties the voyage presents, but also to superintend their hatching in Chili and the preparation of the fish at the first period before letting them loose in the rivers.

In a word, what we want to realize in Chili is the establishment of one or more hatching houses, taking as a model those of the United States, not only for the introduction of salmon, carp, and other foreign fish, but likewise the study of ours, of which up to the present very little is known, since no one has taken the trouble to study them from an industrial point of view.

In order to carry out the wishes of my government to make a contract with the person who is to take the salmon and fit up the hatching houses, I have seen several persons in this city who have been recommended to me as competent in this branch. Up to the present, however, I have not entered into any arrangement with any of these gentlemen, as the epoch for realizing this enterprise is still distant, being in the months of September and October; nevertheless, the necessary preparations must be made in August.

From what I know of some of the rivers in California, as the Sacramento, San Joaquin and its affluents, I can assure you that it would

be easy to stock the rivers in Chili with salmon, as they are as suitable as the rivers in this country. The temperature of the Chilian rivers is generally from 40° to 50° F., and, with the exception of one or two, all the rest, which exceed fifty, are of clear water, of gentle current, and some of them have their origin in lakes of great extent, such as Llanquihue, of 740, and Nahuelguapi, of 1,260 square kilometers.

The fish of Chili worthy of being studied and brought to this country are the following :

The Lisa (*Mugil chilensis*) is a fresh and salt water fish, resembles the common mullet, is about 3 feet long, and its body is oval-shaped, covered with fine silvery scales, which give it a smooth aspect, hence the origin of its name. Some of them weigh as much as 20 pounds. Its flesh is white, tender, and juicy, and of so delicate a taste that I venture to assert that neither in this country nor in Europe have I ever eaten any other superior to it. It is found in few places in Chili, the principal being a small lake found on the Convento estate, about 85 miles from Valparaiso, and about the same distance from Santiago, formed by the river Yaly at its entrance into the Pacific Ocean. The waters of this lake are perfectly sweet in winter, and very brackish in summer, and yet this fish lives in both seasons, as is proved from its being caught all the year round. I am not acquainted with any details respecting its reproduction and habits; for that reason I think it would be worthy of study on account of the importance of its flesh.

Another fish of importance which lives exclusively in fresh water is the Pejerrey (*Cyprinus regius*), or kingfish. Its ordinary length is about 1 foot, and its weight from 1 to 2 pounds. It has fine and silvery scales, like that of the Lisa, and its flesh is fine and delicate. This fish is found in almost all the Chilian rivers and lakes, but where it thrives best is in the lake of Aculeo, about 40 miles to the south of Santiago. There some are caught a foot and a half long, and more than 3 pounds in weight.

Among the sea fish the Robalo (*Esox chilensis*) is notable; its flesh is excellent, and it is found along the Southern Pacific coast as far as Cape Horn. In some parts, as in Chiloe, it is found in such abundance that the inhabitants of the coast dry and smoke it, and in this way they carry on a very fair trade; its length exceeds 3 feet.

Another important sea fish is the Corvina (*Sparus chilensis*), which usually reaches 6 feet in length, and is esteemed for its excellent flesh.

Among shell-fish the Choro (*Mytilus chorus*) is worthy of note. It inhabits the submarine rocks of the Island of Quiriquina, opposite to the port of Talcahuano. The length of its shell is generally about 7 inches, and its breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$; its flesh is of a yellowish white color, very savory and much esteemed in the country.

Scientific details respecting these fish and shell-fish are probably to be found in the Natural History of Chili, by C. Gay.

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF CHILI,

San Francisco, Cal., May 9, 1885.