

fisheries in the river would give us at least 1,500 francs a year; total, 3,500 francs. This year we intend to place 2,500 two-year-old trout in the lake, which will greatly increase the fishing; and I hope that here in a few years we shall put in the lake 5,000 or 6,000 a year, for I think it can hold 20,000. We have much less mortality among the fry coming from eggs obtained at Gouville than from those bought elsewhere, for while the journey does not prevent hatching, it renders the fry more delicate. I forgot to say to you that the trout in the lake have not received special food for eighteen months, but have lived on insects, minnows, &c. This year we have had, including the foreign eggs, 100,000 fish hatched.

#### 69.—FISHING ON AN EDGE OF THE GRAND BANKS.

By Capt. J. W. COLLINS.

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

Capt. George A. Johnson, master of schooner Augusta H. Johnson, who has just returned from a fresh-halibut trip to the Grand Banks, tells me that he fished around the edges of the deep-water pocket on the eastern side of the banks (in north latitude  $44^{\circ} 3'$ ), which he reported some time ago to the Hydrographic Office at Washington.

A remarkable feature of the fishing in that region is the great abundance of ground-sharks. So plentiful were these that Captain Johnson could not leave his trawl-lines out over night, since, if he did, the sharks would get on the hooks and destroy the gear by rolling up in the lines, breaking them, &c. On one occasion his men caught and killed 46 sharks in one day, one dory getting 18 of them on its trawl. Many of these sharks were of extraordinary size, the men reporting them to be much longer than their dories. As a dory is more than 19 feet long over all, this method of measuring would make some of the sharks from 20 to 25 feet in length. This species of shark is noted for its sluggishness, and it is not uncommon for large specimens to be hauled up on trawl-lines, though I have never before known of its occurrence in such numbers as reported by Captain Johnson.

In the deepest part of this pocket the bottom is muddy. Grenadiers (*Macrurus*) are abundant, and some very large specimens of Newfoundland turbot (*Platysomatichthys hippoglossoides*) were taken. The latter weighed more than 20 pounds on an average, as Captain Johnson thinks, which is an extraordinary size. They generally do not average more than from 5 to 10 pounds. Several icebergs were grounded in the pocket. One, which lay about 3 miles inside the pocket's mouth, was grounded on the northern side in 125 fathoms, as Captain Johnson ascertained by sounding near it.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., July 20, 1885.