

one of the out-riggers goes into the rail at the main rigging. There is an iron plate on the rail. What the fishermen call a 'goose neck' is on the inner part of the out-rigger that goes down through the iron plate on the rail. The forward out-rigger is forward of the fore-rigging and is fixed the same as the after one. There is a guy on the end of the out-riggers to keep them steady. The guy on the after one leads aft, and the guy on the forward one leads forward. The length, the distance between the out-riggers on board of a ninety-ton vessel, is 32 feet. The mouth of the bag is 33 feet wide; it is fastened on the out-rigger to within 4 feet of the end. There are stops on the out-riggers to fasten the pocket on. The inner part of the pocket is made fast to the rail of the vessel between the two out-riggers. There is a block on the outer part of the out-rigger. A block is made fast to the rigging, half way up the mast, that forms a tackle to the outer end of each out-rigger. When the seine has mackerel in it, the pocket is made fast to the inner part of the seine, the out-riggers are lowered down to the edge of the water and the mackerel are poured into the pocket. The pocket will hold two hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel. It is made of stout twine,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh. Some of the vessels have dressed a whole trip out of the pocket. When the mackerel are in the pocket, the seine is ready for a new school. All the seiners are having pockets made. All rigged, the pockets cost \$80. The size of the pocket is 8 fathoms deep, 32 feet wide, 14 feet long.

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#### FIRST APPEARANCE OF FISH AT GLOUCESTER, 1881.

By CAPT. S. J. MARTIN.

The herring came May 5, and were small. May 6, the large herring came. May 13, the first mackerel caught in trap at Kettle Island, thirteen in number. The first tautog were caught May 13 in the trap at Kettle Island. The first perch caught May 8. Flounders and sculpin first caught April 21. The small pollock came in the harbor May 2. Alewives first caught May 13. The first menhaden caught off Long Branch May 6, by Gallup & Holmes' steamers, of New London; 800 barrels taken in one day. Finback whales have been plenty since the first of April. Schooner Alice, of Swan's Island, was in Boston Monday, with 30,000 mackerel, caught off Block Island. The mackerel are coming east fast and are of good size. Pollock are plentiful at Chatham. Two vessels got 35,000 pounds each with seines; they were schooling on top of the water, the same as mackerel.

GLOUCESTER, *May 18, 1881.*