

Barrels to-day are worth \$1.10 apiece. The inspection this year is \$1.60 a barrel. If mackerel hold plenty, barrels will be worth \$1.25 apiece in a week. The George's fishing fleet report plenty of mackerel on George's. Yesterday there were 50 sail of vessels at the wharves landing fish and mackerel. This morning there were 45 sail, mostly mackerel catchers, in the harbors for shelter. There was a fresh breeze, with rain, thunder, and lightning.

Your obedient servant,

S. J. MARTIN.

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NOTES ON NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird, United States Fish Commissioner.]

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *August 8, 1881.*

DEAR PROFESSOR: The harbor this morning is alive with schooling mackerel, and 20 barrels of good quality, mostly twos and a few ones, were taken in the nets last night. The boys have great sport catching mackerel off the wharves. Bluefish are plenty off the mouth of the harbor, and I think they drove the mackerel in. There are some squid in the harbor.

The mackerel catchers have not done well during the last fortnight. The weather has been so foggy that they had to lie in the harbors eight days. Close to the shore the fog is not so thick, and here all the mackerel that have been caught were taken. Mackerel are found from Cape Cod to Mount Desert. There are 1,800 barrels of them on board vessels in the harbor this morning. The schooner Fleet Wing has 80 barrels of very large Block Island mackerel, worth \$25 a barrel. Mackerel sold to-day at the low figure of \$4 a barrel, with the barrel.

A new school of codfish has come on the western part of George's. The fish are the largest I have ever seen at this time of the year. I think they are a squid school, for when a fish is hauled up three or four squid will be found in it. Squid are plenty in Barnstable Bay. One vessel took 16 barrels there. A vessel came in from George's with 1,100 cod, which weighed 18,000 pounds split. The vessel which took 16 barrels of squid caught 21,000 pounds of cod in four days on the western part of George's. Some vessels have taken good trips on the eastern part of George's. The fish, however, are not so large.

I am glad some one has gone into the dogfish business. A steamer and a schooner are catching them at Booth Bay, Maine, and selling them to the factory at \$1 a hundred fish. Dogfish are very plenty all along the coast. Some vessels come in with the whole bottom eaten out of the seine and the pocket.