

Shad and herring nets in Chesapeake Bay, 1883.

Name of shore.	Number of firms engaged in fishing.	Number of nets.	Length of nets in fathoms.	Number of pockets in each.	Season's catch.	
					Shad.	Herring.
WEST SHORE OF CHESAPEAKE BAY.						
South of Smith's Point.....	1	1	300	3	(a)	(a)
Taskmaster's Creek.....	25	38	(b)	1	(b)	(b)
Dammeron's Marsh.....	3	4		1	(c)	(c)
Between North Point and Windmill Point.....	1	2		1	(c)	(c)
Mouth of Rappahannock River.....	7	11		1	(c)	(c)
Inside of Rappahannock Spit.....	16	30		1	(c)	(c)
South side of Rappahannock Entrance.....	5	9		5	(c)	(c)
Hill's Bay, mouth of Piancatank River.....	4	6		1	(c)	(c)
South Shore.....	2	3		1	(c)	(c)
Gwynn's Island.....	7	16		1	(d)	(d)
Mobjack Bay.....	21	21		1	(e)	(e)
Wolf Trap Spit.....	1	5		1	(f a)	(f a)
Dias Creek Bar.....	11	17		1	(f a)	(f a)
York Spit.....	21	62		1	(f a)	(f a)
York Spit and Too's Point.....	11	19		1	(f a)	(f a)
EAST SHORE OF CHESAPEAKE BAY.						
Cape Charles.....	6	6		1	(g)	(g)
Picket's Hole.....	5	9		1	(h)	(h)
Total.....		412				

(a) Catch large.

(b) Three of the thirty-eight pound-nets at Taskmaster's Creek measured 100 fathoms each. Their catch consisted of 3,500 shad and 95,000 herring; that for twenty-three was of fair size, and that for the other twelve was very slight.

(c) Catch fair.

(d). The catch for fourteen of the sixteen pound-nets at Gwynn's Island consisted of 21,000 shad and 950,000 herring; that for the other two is not known.

(e) Four of the twenty-one pound-nets at Mobjack Bay contained one pocket, fourteen contained two pockets, and three contained three pockets. The catch for one pound-net was fair, that for three was light, and that for the remainder was not reported.

(f) The best season ever known, the nets averaging from 10,000 to 25,000 shad each, together with great quantities of herring of which no record was kept. The catch was one-third larger than that of last year, and greatly exceeded any catch made during the previous eight years.

(g) Two of the six pound-nets at Cape Charles measured 100 fathoms each. Their catch consisted of 1,000 shad and 10,000 herring; that for the others was fair, and better than last year.

(h) Catch fair and better than last year.

43.—EARLY CATCH OF MACKEREL.

By BARNET PHILLIPS.

[From letter to S. F. Baird.]

Mackerel in market to-day caught on Thursday [March 29] off Hatteras. In 1882 they were in New York markets on the 1st of April; in 1881 on the 23d of March.

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