

and reared in artificial ponds which have been made in the salt marsh lands near that city. There are many of these ponds, and large numbers of these fishes are produced therefrom for the Honolulu market. The inhabitants there rate the mullet as next to the red-fish, which is taken in rather deep water and is not so abundant. I was informed that the mullet was a very hardy fish, easily cared for, and in the opinion of gentlemen of experience in such matters no difficulty would be found in transporting the small fish by steamer from Honolulu to San Francisco. The climate of Honolulu is warm and mild even in winter, and it is possible that the mullet would not thrive in our cold regions, but no one at Honolulu seemed to doubt that it would do well in California. Mr. C. R. Bishop, a banker of Honolulu, owns a number of ponds containing mullet, situate on his place at Waikiki, a suburb of Honolulu. He will give you full information in respect of these fishes. The United States Consul, Mr. David McKinley, is also quite familiar with the facts relating to the propagation of the mullet. Mr. Bishop, I have no doubt, would take pleasure in giving you assistance should you desire to obtain a number of the fish for the use of the United States Commission.

I am quite sure that the Hawaiian mullet would prove a valuable addition to the food fishes of the United States.

During my recent visit to Honolulu I made many inquiries in respect to this and other fishes, saw many specimens, inspected the ponds, and enjoyed the mullet\* (very much indeed) cooked in many styles, in all of which I found them good.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 13, 1883.*

#### 67.—THE INCIPIENCY OF NIGHT-SEINING FOR MACKEREL.

By **GEORGE MERCHANT, Jr.**

[From the Cape Ann Bulletin.]

As early as 1864, seining operations were conducted in the night time for pogies; as many of the old pogie fishermen (of whom I am one) can testify. Up to 1874, no mackerel of any account had been caught in this manner, although there had been a few exceptional lots. In 1874, and up to 1877, a larger quantity was taken. Since the latter date, it has been the general custom of the fishermen in the latter part of the summer and fall to expect to capture the greater part of their trip in this manner.

GLoucester, MASS., *November 9, 1881.*

\* This is said to be *Mugil Chaptalii* Eyd. & Soul. voy. Bonite, Zool. I, p. 171, pl. 4, fig. 1. I suppose that like other species of *Mugil* it is migratory, and that it feeds on organic substances found in mud and sand. Of its propagation I have not yet been able to learn anything. Jordan and Gilbert do not mention it in their *Fishes of the Pacific coast*. I am preparing a description.—T. H. BEAN.