

Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., September, 1885—Continued.

From—	Swordfish.	Herring.	Mackerel.	Hallbut fins.	Oil.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
George's Bank .....					
Brown's Bank .....					
Grand Banks .....					
Grand Banks* .....					
Grand Banks† .....					
Nova Scotia, Cape shore .....					
New England shore .....	12,600	600	24,643		20
Greenland, Flemish Cap .....				122	
Iceland .....				107	
La Have Bank .....					
Bay of Fundy .....					
Harbor nets .....		2,535			
North Bay, by railroad .....			1,227		
North Bay, by steamer to Boston .....			710		
Total .....	12,600	3,135	26,580	229	20

Other receipts: dry fish from Maine, 1,650 quintals hake; 400 quintals cod; 450 quintals haddock.

\*Subject to duty, from British vessels.

†Fresh fish, duty free, from British vessels.

Location of the *New England fishing fleet during the last week of September*.—325 sail, mackerel, between Cape Cod and Portland, Me. 25 sail, mackerel, off Nova Scotia and in Gulf of St. Lawrence. 85 sail, halibut, on the Grand Banks, in latitude 44° to 44° 12', longitude 49° 12' to 49° 25'. 50 sail, codfish, on the Grand Banks. 140 sail, codfish, on George's and Brown's banks, in latitude 41° to 43°, longitude 65° 30' to 69°. 5 sail, codfish, off Nova Scotia. 175 sail, ground-fishing, off New England coast. 50 sail, herring, off New England coast.

10.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN OCTOBER, 1885.

By W. A. WILCOX.

October 3, the month opened with strong NE. winds; to-day, a dense fog, light rain, with thunder and lightning; very few mackerel taken the past week; 200 sail of the fleet are to-day detained in the harbor at Gloucester. On October 6 some good fares of fine mackerel were taken between Newburyport and Thatcher's Island. Among the vessels reported we notice the schooner Fannie Belle, 190 barrels; Lizzie Maud, 240; Onward, 80; Henry W. Longfellow, 80; Mystery, 260; Ellen M. Adams, 100; James and Ella, 300 barrels, the latter taken in Ipswich Bay. The fishing fleet are once more detained in this and other ports by high winds and rough weather. October 8 was a fine day, in which the fishing fleet were all busy. Between Eastern Point (just out from Gloucester Harbor) and Thatcher's Island 300 sail and three small steamers were busy in the catch of mackerel. The fish were of good size, mostly No. 2, and quite fat. From the bluffs at East Gloucester thirty seine boats were at one time counted, all busy taking fish. The catch for the day amounted to 6,500 barrels. Fifty vessels made hauls that averaged something over one hundred barrels each. This was the largest amount taken in any one day during the month.

October 9, the fleet worked over to Cape Cod, remaining off Cape Cod and in Barnstable Bay during the month. At times quite a body

of mackerel was found, and many vessels made good hauls. Much time was lost from stormy weather; the aggregate catch of the month was not up to expectation, and vessels began to leave for home ports. At the close of the month 150 sail had given up the catch, and about the same number remained for a short time longer.

*Gulf of Saint Lawrence.*—A few vessels from Massachusetts have remained about Prince Edward Island. Much of the time the weather was unfavorable for fishing, and but a very small amount was added to the catch. We quote from a letter received from Georgetown, Prince Edward Island, dated October 20: "Mackerel kept on the north side of the island this year, and scarcely any were taken on this side by boats or vessels. We can report this season as one of the worst and most unprofitable in the history of the fish business for our fishermen. We do not hear of any mackerel having been taken during the past two weeks."

*Gill-net fishing.*—As the schools of ground fish begin to draw in near the coast, the first of October finds the gill-net fishermen on the grounds with these nets that are now so generally used by the shore fishermen. Only a few years ago they were unknown to the American fishermen. On being introduced by the U. S. Fish Commission, in 1878, the shore fishermen soon saw the many advantages and value of them, gradually giving up the hook and line for gill-nets.

October 7, the first gill-nets were put down this season. Six nets were set on Brown's fishing-ground, 7 miles from Gloucester. These nets were hauled the next day, the catch being 1,000 pounds of codfish and 100 pollock that weighed 2,400 pounds; the pollock by gill-net catch averaged 24 pounds each. A few sail hand-line fishing on the same ground took but few fish, none of their pollock of over 12 pounds weight. Soon the hand-line fishermen gave it up. The catch by gill-nets increased daily, the fish coming in abundance, and more vessels and nets being engaged. The aggregate catch for the month amounted to 2,768,790 pounds of pollock and 112,770 pounds of codfish. The fishermen engaged in this catch live mostly at Gloucester; they leave home between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning; having only 12 to 15 miles to go, they arrive on the fishing grounds at an early hour, run their nets, taking from 6,000 to 8,000 pounds of pollock and 1,000 to 3,000 pounds of codfish; are back in port, fish sold, and money received for same before dark, the fisherman averaging from \$3 to \$5 each for his day's work, spending his night at home, and being off again the next morning. This of course applies only to the time when the weather is favorable and fish remain in this immediate neighborhood. Another month will find fish and fishermen moved from their present location of Half-way Rock into Ipswich Bay, where the gill-net cod-fishing will be carried on during the winter.

Codfish receipts at Gloucester during the month aggregate 5,107,372

pounds of cured fish, direct from the several fishing-grounds, against 4,567,700 for the corresponding month of 1884. The Grand Banks fleet have nearly all returned, bringing full fares. The amount landed at Gloucester by the New England shore fleet, 235,135 pounds, is a large increase over the corresponding month last year, in which only 82,700 pounds was landed. The catch on George's Bank was light, caused largely by want of good fresh bait. The amount landed during the month was 1,964,000 pounds, as against 2,735,000 pounds in October, 1884.

Halibut receipts at Gloucester during October, 1885, 742,170 pounds; during October, 1884, 729,000 pounds.

The vessels that fished off Greenland and Iceland for halibut, with one exception, have all returned. There having been much bad weather, they took only partial fares. Schooner Alice M. Williams, of Gloucester, after securing her trip, on September 5 struck a rock off the Iceland coast and was soon a total wreck. The particulars, as given by the Boston Post, for November 17, 1885, are as follows:

"Capt. G. W. Pendleton, of the wrecked fishing schooner Alice M. Williams, has just returned home after a terrible experience of privation and hardship.

"'We left Gloucester,' he began, 'the latter part of July for Iceland, halibut fishing. We were the last of the fleet to start up for the season, and we had a very good catch, so that by the first of September we were nearly full with some of the finest fish I ever saw, and were about ready to come home. We were, September 5, on the southwest coast of Iceland, and about two miles from land, running before a brisk breeze, when all at once the vessel struck hard and fast. The weather was quite cold, and as the schooner struck on the rocks the seas made a clean breach over her. We launched our dories, saving some of our clothes and all the ship's instruments and charts.

"'The scene of the wreck was about two miles south of Bildall, and the rock was not laid down on the chart. We pulled to Bildall, which is a small Iceland town, composed of a series of mud huts, yelping dogs, shaggy ponies, miserable men and women, and a small army of dirty children. We could not get much to eat, for the poor creatures had very little for themselves, but we found that the only means of getting out of the country was by traveling thirty miles over the snow-covered mountains to a place called Thingyri, where, if we were expeditious, we would be in time to catch the last steamer of the season for Scotland. After a great deal of coaxing, threatening, and wrangling, I succeeded in getting possession of a little Iceland pony not much bigger than a rabbit, to the back of which I strapped the ship's instruments, and with a guide, who wanted all the money I had for his services, we started on a journey which, though not very long, proved to be one of the most severe and uncomfortable I ever experienced.

"'We left Bildall early one morning and set out bravely for the high-

lands, but night found us scarcely ten miles from our starting-point, in a thick snow-storm, and with the weather intensely cold. We lay down in the snow, but could not sleep, it was so cold, and although our traveling over the jagged rocks and drifting snow had made us weary, we were obliged to keep stirring in order to keep warm. The next morning we again started up the mountain. It had stopped snowing, but the cold increased as we ascended, and our party was pretty well used up. We did not halt the second night, but pushed on and arrived at Thingyri the next morning. This place was somewhat more of a town, and could boast of a few European residents, all Danes, however. One gentleman, in particular, a Mr. Gram, who makes yearly visits to Iceland to trade, kindly volunteered to lend me \$850, without which we could not have got out of the country before next spring. We were obliged to wait at this place twenty days before the sailing of the steamer on which we were to embark for Scotland. My men, fourteen in number, had to sleep in the little round huts of the natives. Before the steamer arrived one of the men was taken very sick, and we hailed the arrival of the craft which was to take us away from this desolate shore with great pleasure, thinking our sufferings would soon be at an end. We landed at Granton after a twenty days' passage from Iceland, and went at once to Edinburgh, that being the nearest consulate. There were two other shipwrecked crews landed at the same time, a Danish and a Norwegian, who applied to their respective consuls for aid, and were met with immediate and full relief; but the American consul turned a deaf ear to our pressing wants. I then left him and was glad to get to Glasgow, where I immediately laid my case before Mr. Underwood, the American consul at that place, who approved my bill, gave me money with which to reimburse Mr. Gram, bought us clothing, and gave the men six shillings apiece and a passage home."

Stormy weather the past month has much of the time detained the fishing fleets in the nearest ports. As the season is fast drawing to a close, and with the mackerel in the best condition, time lost by detention is most severely felt. Our New England fishermen have been fortunate in having their losses of the month mostly confined to detention in the nearest ports during stormy weather.

On October 12 a severe gale off the Labrador coast was very disastrous to life and property. The fisheries off the Labrador coast the past season having in many cases proved a failure, the great loss by this storm is said to have been caused by the fishermen remaining out much later in the season than usual, being in hopes of helping out their catch from the great abundance of mackerel that were off that coast. We have in previous reports noticed the unusual and great quantities of mackerel off the Labrador coast this season. In past years they have seldom been seen and no attention paid to the catch, the natives scarcely thinking them a food-fish, or worth saving.

Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in October, 1885.

From—	Fares.	Mackerel.	Herring.	Codfish.	Pollock.	Haddock.
		<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
New England shore.....	130	25,062				
Gulf of Saint Lawrence .....	13	5,293				
George's Bank .....	90			1,964,000		
Brown's Bank .....	5			143,000		
La Have.....	7					
Nova Scotia, Cape Shore.....	11			581,667		86,667
Nova Scotia, Cape Shore*.....	1			40,000		
Grand Banks .....	27			1,930,000		
Grand Banks*.....	1			40,000		
Greenland, Flemish Cap .....	1			60,000		
New England shore, trawl.....	88			235,135	32,000	87,667
New England shore, hand-line .....	85			800	842,000	
New England shore, gill-nets .....	201			112,770	2,768,790	
New England shore, nets .....			4,821			
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>80,915</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>5,107,872</b>	<b>8,142,790</b>	<b>74,834</b>

From—	Hake.	Halibut.	Cusk.	Swordfish.	Fresh mackerel.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
George's Bank .....		68,170		1,131	
Brown's Bank .....		1,700			
La Have .....		100,000		488	
Grand Banks .....		532,800			
Greenland, Flemish Cap .....		40,000			
New England shore, trawl .....	282,002		4,500	2,860	250
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>282,002</b>	<b>742,170</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>250</b>

\* British vessels; fish paid duty.

Other receipts: dry fish, from Maine, 4,975 quintals hake, 1,070 quintals cod, 300 quintals haddock, 11,000 boxes smoked herring, 450 barrels pickled herring; fresh fish landed from market vessels and small boats, 70,000 pounds hake, 47,000 pounds cod, 15,000 pounds cusk.

11.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN NOVEMBER, 1885.

By W. A. WILCOX.

November brings in most of the fishing fleets that have been at work during the season. The mackerel, Grand Banks cod-fishery, shore herring, and eastern or Maine shore fisheries are over. From this until spring few ports except Gloucester will have any vessels on the fishing grounds.

Fish have been fairly abundant, and the catch, mackerel excepted, will show a gain of most varieties over that of 1884.

During the entire season the demand has been very moderate; competition, sharp; foreign importations, notwithstanding the duty, quite large. Prices so low that the season has been one of disappointment, with small if any profit.

The late or fall catch of mackerel was very light; at times quite a body of fish was found in Barnstable Bay and off Cape Cod, but high winds held the fleet in port much of the brief time while the fish remained, and only a small amount was added to the catch. The middle of the month found the catch given up by all except four vessels that were off the Nova Scotia shore; the latter all arrived during the month without a