

## CERTIFICATE OF DR. JOSEPH GARLAND.

This may certify that I was called to visit Franklin D. Langsford, of Lanesville, in Gloucester, on August 12, in consultation with Dr. Levi Saunders, who was in attendance upon the said Langsford, on account of a wound inflicted upon his body by a swordfish on the 9th instant, said swordfish having driven its sword through the bottom of the fishing-dory he was in to the length of 23 inches, penetrating the body of Langsford at the right of the os coccyx and entering about 7 inches, by the side of the rectum, into the pelvic cavity; that said Langsford was dying, and did die, in my presence, of peritonitis, having survived the injury about three days; that the sword accompanying this certificate is the veritable sword that occasioned the accident, and is to be sent to the National Museum, at Washington.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *October 14, 1886.*

**120.—NOTES ON THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN NOVEMBER, 1886.**

**By W. A. WILCOX.**

During the month the fishermen have used their best exertions to make up in a measure for an unprofitable season. The result has not been satisfactory, as the mackerel, pollock, and shore-herring catch all proved more or less a failure, while the codfish catch showed a slight gain over that of the corresponding month of last year.

The amount of mackerel landed by the New England fleet at the leading ports was the smallest of any November for years, namely :

Locality.	Fares.	Barrels.
From off provincial shores .....	17	2,547
From off the New England coast.....	51	2,809
Total, in sea-packed barrels .....	68	5,356

The total amount of the catch up to November 30 was about 80,000 sea-packed barrels. The arrivals from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, with few exceptions, had a small amount of fish, some not a barrel, after having spent from two to three months on the fishing-grounds. Among the last arrivals from off provincial shores were the schooners Fannie W. Freeman, from a two months' cruise, with 40 barrels of mackerel; Spencer F. Baird, absent three months, 11 barrels of mackerel; Herman Babson, 3 barrels of mackerel; J. H. French, the last arrival, 11 barrels of mackerel. These vessels caught no other kind of fish on their voyages. The late or fall catch of mackerel off the provincial shores was disappointing and a failure to all engaged, native, shore, and

vessel fishermen, as well as to the American fleet that fished farther out. The mackerel, which is always a strange fish to understand in its habits and migrations, has proved more so than ever during the past season, and for once has largely escaped capture. During all the month mackerel have been reported more or less abundant in Massachusetts and Barnstable Bays, yet seldom showing up in any considerable quantity, and consequently the catches were mostly small, while the size has generally been large and the quality good. During the month most of the fishing-vessels of New England arrived at home ports and hauled up for the winter. As usual, Gloucester will have quite a fleet of registered vessels engaged in the frozen-herring business, and a much reduced fleet fishing on George's Bank and the fishing-grounds near home. Boston and Provincetown will also have a reduced fleet engaged during the winter in supplying the demand for fresh fish. The pollock catch about Cape Ann in November is largely taken by the Gloucester fishermen in gill-nets, fished near their homes. This season the fish have been scarce and more widely scattered than in former years. They are found more abundant than usual on Jeffrey's Bank, yet only a light catch was made. The following catch by the Gloucester gill-net fishermen shows a great decrease from that of one year ago:

Kind of fish.	November, 1885.	November, 1880.
Codfish.....	<i>Pounds.</i> 336, 024	<i>Pounds.</i> 30, 850
Pollock.....	1, 923, 506	393, 400

The receipts of codfish at Gloucester vary but little from those of the corresponding month of 1885. Last year the catch during November was mostly taken on George's and Brown's Banks, while during the past month the receipts were largely from Western Bank, where fish of good size and quality were found in abundance.

The large fleet from Gloucester engaged in the halibut fishery supply nearly all the fresh and smoked halibut used in the United States. The demand annually increases, while the fish are becoming scarcer, except where they are found in any quantity in deep water of 200 to 400 fathoms, mostly on the Grand Bank and Banquereau. Receipts of halibut the past month show some gain over those of November, 1885.

Fishermen have had no cause to complain from want of bait. On Western Bank plenty of squid have been found all the month. Masters of vessels, knowing this, frequently sailed from home ports without bait, catching all they needed on the banks. Young herring, locally known as spirling, have been very abundant near Ipswich, Mass., and small or half-sized herring have been moderately plentiful about Cape Ann and Cape Cod, the catch being ample for all demands.

Only one vessel, the Arthur D. Story, of Gloucester, went to Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, for herring; she sailed under register, and has been reported as having secured a full cargo.

Quite a fleet under register will engage in the frozen-herring business, buying their cargoes in the Bay of Fundy and Fortune Bay. The first vessels to sail on a herring trip to the latter port in the past three years having started as follows: 1884, November 24; 1885, November 21; 1886, November 19. Seven sail started up to November 30, 1886.

*Fish landed at Gloucester, Mass., by the fishing-fleet in November, 1886.*

From—	Fares.	Mackerel.	Codfish.	Halibut.	Pollock.	Hake.	Haddock.	Cusk.	Menhaden.
Landed by Gloucester vessels:		<i>Bbls.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Bbls.</i>
New England shore	20	734							
Off provincial shores	15	1,907							
Western Bank	45		1,908,000	35,572					
George's Bank	43		771,000	14,100					
Banquereau	6			142,000					
Grand Bank	20		6,000	646,000					
Brown's Bank	2		70,000	550					
Nova Scotia Cape shore	1		25,000			4,000			
Jeffrey's Bank	10		3,300		115,000				
New England shore, trawls	25		32,000		71,500	23,000	3,000	17,000	
New England shore, gill-nets	127		30,850		393,400				
Small shore-boats			201,000		20,830				
Off Sandy Hook	1								280
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>3,056,150</b>	<b>838,222</b>	<b>600,730</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>280</b>
Landed by vessels from other ports:									
Jeffrey's Bank	4		1,000		105,000				
Grand Bank	1			30,000					
New England shore, trawls	4		6,000			41,000	2,000	3,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>7,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Total, November, 1886</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>3,063,150</b>	<b>868,222</b>	<b>705,730</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Total, November, 1885</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>6,564</b>	<b>2,978,424</b>	<b>658,100</b>	<b>1,941,500</b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>26,500</b>	

\*During the month fish were landed by the following schooners: Good Templar, William H. Craig, and William Keene, of Portland, Me.; Flying Dart and Mary S. Hontvet, of Portsmouth, N. H.; Della F. Tarr, of Rockport, Mass.; and Loring B. Haskell, of Boston, Mass.

*Miscellaneous receipts of dried, smoked, and pickled fish, oil, and bait at Gloucester Mass., in November, 1886.*

From—	Mackerel.	Hake.	Haddock.	Herring.	Smoked herring.	Fish-oil.	Fish-bait.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
Maine		700	23				
Ipswich, Mass.							1,934
Lanesville, Mass.				188			
Tiverton, R. I.						1,623	
Grand Manan, New Brunswick	10				10,030		
Prince Edward Island	32						
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>1,934</b>

GLoucester, Mass., November 30, 1886.