

Fish have been plentiful, too much so, the demand being only moderate and prices of all kinds of fish being too low for any profit.

The mackerel fleet are making ready for the season's work, while the almost universal desire is that no mackerel be caught before June, thereby protecting the spawning fish and giving time for the old stock to be worked off and the new to improve in quality; yet, if no prohibitory law is passed, probably nearly as many vessels will engage in the early southern catch as of late years.

The leading receipts at Gloucester during the month as compared with the corresponding month last year show a large increase, being as follows:

Years.	Fares.	Cod.	Halibut.	Haddock.
1885.....	77	<i>Pounds.</i> 1,093,900	<i>Pounds.</i> 310,700	<i>Pounds.</i> 216,000
1886.....	146	2,143,000	927,800	146,000

*Receipts of fish at Gloucester, Mass., in February, 1886.*

From—	Fares.	Codfish.	Halibut.	Haddock.	Frozen herring.
		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
George's Bank .....	52	1,365,000	134,800	146,000	.....
Brown's Bank .....	6	270,000	24,000	.....	.....
La Have Bank .....	5	45,000	58,000	.....	.....
Grand Banks .....	21	.....	711,000	.....	.....
Ipswich Bay, trawl .....	23	264,000	.....	.....	.....
Ipswich Bay, nets .....	16	190,000	.....	.....	.....
Fortune Bay, Newfoundland .....	11	.....	.....	.....	4,810,000
Bay of Fundy .....	12	.....	.....	.....	3,097,000
Total.....	146	2,143,000	927,800	146,000	7,907,000

**24.—A GOOD FISHING GROUND IN THE SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN.**

**By CHARLES ENDICOTT.**

Several years ago I was in a ship bound to China, and one morning we made St. Paul Island, in the South Indian Ocean [latitude 38° 43' S., longitude 77° 38' E.]. We sent a boat in and loaded it with fish of a superior quality in a very short time. Here the water is perfectly alive with them. In hauling up one a thousand would follow it to the surface; and I think a vessel could be loaded with them in a very short time, and make the voyage in from six to seven months. In view of the many disasters to our fishermen and the terrible loss of life off the North American coast, I suggest this as a new fishing ground. The suffering and exposure would be much mitigated, and the general dangers would be nothing in comparison to those of the Grand Banks. The time to start would be in the autumn, as in our winter months they would find it summer there and pleasant weather.

SALEM, MASS., December 11, 1885.