

**77.—NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES IN AUGUST, 1886.****By W. A. WILCOX.**

Of all the leading varieties of food-fish caught by the New England fishing fleet, codfish appears to be the only kind that has been abundant during the present season. On all the leading fishing banks they have been found in great numbers, and receipts have been somewhat larger than for the corresponding month of last year. Vessels from the Grand Banks have all brought in full cargoes. The schooner Henry S. Woodruff, of Lamoine, Me., a three-master, brought home 5,000 quintals, the largest single fare on record. Prices have remained so low that even with full cargoes not much, if any, profit has remained for the fishermen or owners of the vessels.

Mackerel continue to show a large falling off in receipts as compared with the corresponding month of former years. Off the New England coast no body of mackerel has been found. If they have been there they have remained below the surface, and only occasionally have small schools been seen and caught. Many vessels have left the New England coast for the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, meeting with much rough weather, and a large part of the time finding mackerel scarce and the prospect discouraging. The following extracts from reports of masters of fishing vessels and persons on the fishing grounds in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence during the month are reliable and of interest:

GEORGETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 3.—“Boat fishermen have not done anything this season; mackerel are now plentiful, but will not take the hook.”

TIGNISH, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 5.—“The mackerel fleet remain to the northward; a few local seiners close in shore doing something most every day, but no large hauls. Schools are small; size, fair; not so plentiful off here as a week ago.”

MIRAMICHI, NEW BRUNSWICK, AUGUST 8.—“One hundred sail of seiners in this vicinity; schools small, and catch only moderate.”

SOURIS, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 10.—“No mackerel schooling, and boats make only small catches with hooks; size good and large.”

MAGDALEN ISLANDS, AUGUST 10.—“Few mackerel caught about here to date. A recent storm appears to have brought them up, and the prospect improves.”

NEW LONDON, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 11.—“The fleet are to the north; no fish schooling off here; a light catch the past week.”

HARBOR AU BOUCHE, NOVA SCOTIA, AUGUST 16.—“One hundred sail of seiners are now near West Cape, taking some mackerel. The schools are small and often mixed with herring. The present prospect favors a light fall catch in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. During the past two weeks the weather has been fine, and by hard work some vessels have done well. Many vessels here five or six weeks have not half a trip. Soon we may expect rough weather, and many vessels will no doubt return with slim fares.”

BAY OF CHALEURS, AUGUST 16.—“No seiners from the United States in this bay, or allowed here. A large fleet last week, between Pigeon Hill and Miscou Point; they took some mackerel. Traps in Chaleurs Bay are doing little, taking from 2 to 5 barrels a day each. Mackerel keep wide out from the shore; none hooked for two weeks.”

SOURIS, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 16.—“Weather stormy; seiners from the United States have had no catch for two weeks; mackerel are close in shore and very wild; boat fishermen not doing much; prices are so low they are leaving the shore.”

NEW LONDON, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 16.—“No catch of mackerel the past week; the weather has been very bad; a gale every day.”

TIGNISH, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 16.—“Weather has been stormy most of the past week; few mackerel seen schooling or caught; not one vessel out of twenty has taken any fish; no catch by shore hookers, as fish do not bite; prospect is poor.”

MALPEQUE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 18.—“Forty-three sail of seiners are now detained here by high winds; they report mackerel scarce and wild.”

GEORGETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 18.—“The boat fishermen about here have had no catch to date; of late, seiners have had a light catch, and the present prospect is poor; most of the fleet of seiners are at West Cape and North Cape.”

NEW LONDON, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 20.—“Weather is unsettled much of the time; too rough to fish; sixty sail of seiners now in here for shelter.”

PORT MULGRAVE, NOVA SCOTIA, AUGUST 23.—“One hundred and seventy-three mackerel seiners now in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence from the United States, and forty-five sail from provincial ports.”

GRAND ANUCE, NEW BRUNSWICK, AUGUST 24.—“Mackerel of large size are now schooling heavy in Bay of Chaleurs. One trap salted 200 barrels the past week. Present prospect is favorable, as fish are plentiful and of good size.”

MALPEQUE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 26.—“For the past three days one hundred and twenty sail of seiners have been in this port, detained by a strong east wind. No catch of mackerel since the 19th. Remainder of the fleet are at West Cape.”

CASCUMPEQUE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 26.—“Mackerel are wild and in small schools; they keep well off shore. A strong east wind prevents fishing a large part of the time. Some vessels now on the fishing grounds for three weeks and have no fish.”

MAGDALEN ISLANDS, AUGUST 27.—“No mackerel being caught about here.”

MALPEQUE, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 29.—“A small catch of mackerel of late; over one hundred sail now in port, detained by high wind.”

NEW LONDON, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AUGUST 30.—“Weather fine, but no catch of mackerel; we judge the fish have left.”

A number of vessels have secured good fares of mackerel in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence during the month, but the fleet in general have taken comparatively few. With the exception of a short time during July that mackerel were freely taken to the north of Prince Edward Island, they have not been found in any abundance off the provincial or United States shores.

The only encouraging feature has been the sharp and steady advance in prices caused by the light catch and poor prospect. Not until the catch, as compared with the corresponding date of 1885, was over 100,000 barrels short, did the price take much of a rise. The first of the month cargo sales in fishermen's order were made at \$4.62½ a barrel; August 9, \$5.87½; August 11, \$6.12½; August 23, \$9.75; August 27, \$10.75; August 30, \$12—on the latter date, fish that were packed and inspected sold for \$9.50 for No. 3's, \$12 for No. 2's, \$16 to \$18 for No. 1's. Prices given being for fish that were caught in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Mackerel caught off the New England shore at all times bringing higher prices than from anywhere else: \$11 for No. 3's, \$14 to \$15 for No. 2's, \$20 to \$25 for No. 1's. Extra large bloater mackerel caught off Block Island sold from \$35 to \$40 a barrel.

Receipts of halibut have continued light from most of the fishing banks.

On August 23 the schooner Arthur D. Story, of Gloucester, the first of the Iceland fleet to return, arrived home with 99,000 pounds of halibut; only a partial cargo. The master, Capt. Joseph Ryan, reports that for only a short time after arriving was the weather suitable for fishing. After taking part of a cargo he sailed for Greenland to complete the fare, in hopes of more favorable weather. Leaving Iseford on July 20 he soon encountered heavy field-ice in Davis Strait, and for three days was surrounded with ice and snow-storms. Being obliged to abandon the attempt to reach the fishing grounds off Greenland by that route he came direct home by way of the Strait of Belle Isle. Calling at several harbors along the Labrador coast and making inquiries for mackerel, he was told that none had been seen this season. The master reports that the winter was fine, and codfish were taken by the natives all winter. May was favorable for halibut fishing, but from that time gales of wind,

with snow-storms, prevailed. The French fleet were having a light catch of codfish. Reports from Norway are favorable, the catch of cod being one of the largest on record.

All halibut brought from Iceland are salted as soon as caught, and on arrival at the home port are smoked before going into the market. Vessels fishing for halibut on the banks nearer home put their catch on ice as soon as caught, and land it fresh. It is then packed with ice in boxes and quickly distributed through the leading fish-markets of the country.

Bait has been abundant all the month, weirs at Cape Cod nearly all the time having abundance of squid or small mackerel, often both. Weirs off the Maine coast have had a good catch of herring, more than was wanted by the fishermen.

*Number and location of the New England fishing fleet during the last week of August.*

Location.	Object.	No. of vessels.
Grand Banks, lat. 44° to 46°, long. 52° to 54°	Codfish	80
Grand Banks, lat. 44° to 45°, long. 49° to 51°	Halibut	25
Banquereau, lat. 44° to 45°, long. 58° to 59°	do	15
Between George's and Brown's Banks	do	15
George's and Brown's Banks, lat. 41° to 43°, long. 66° to 68°	Codfish	225
In Gulf of Saint Lawrence	Mackerel	175
Off the New England coast	do	75
Off the New England coast	Ground fish	290
On the way home from Iceland	Halibut	6
Off the New England coast	steamers	3
In Gulf of Saint Lawrence	steamer	1
Total		910

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

From—	Fares.	Codfish.	Halibut.	Hake.	Had-dock.	Cusk.	Pol-lock.	Sword-fish.	Mack-erel.	Men-haden oil.
		<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Bbts.</i>	<i>Bbts.</i>
George's Bank	142	2,906,000	273,713	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,530			
Brown's Bank	19	702,000	1,450							
Banquereau	7	80,000	112,000				2,000			
Bay of Fundy	9	103,000	150	35,000				12,573		
Grand Banks	34	3,010,000	432,200							
New England shore	9	83,000		32,000	7,000		2,000	265		
Flemish Cap	2	570,000	15,000							
La Have Bank	9	289,000	57,000			7,000				
Nova Scotia, Cape shore	4	165,000		15,000						
Iceland	1		39,000							
Off Newfoundland	1		12,000							
Western Bank	6	339,000	46,800	15,000						
Off Seal Island	7	223,000	2,500				4,000			
Gulf of Saint Lawrence	27								11,525	
Off New England shore	4								122	
Tiverton, R. I.	1									800
From small boats		12,000		39,000						
Total in August, 1886	282	8,482,000	1,051,813	141,000	7,000	12,000	8,000	15,868	11,647	800
Total in August, 1885	414	7,122,000	1,112,950	60,000	42,000	39,000		70,345	48,237	700

Additional receipts from Maine in August, 1886: 15,000 boxes of smoked herring, 600 quintals of dry hake, 88 barrels of cod oil.

Mackerel landed by the New England fleet, in sea-packed barrels, at all ports, was as follows:

Time.	1885.	1886.
Up to August 1 .....	116, 836	19, 112
Week ending August 7 .....	40, 150	1, 849
Week ending August 14 .....	18, 303	10, 381
Week ending August 21 .....	18, 584	1, 118
Week ending August 28 .....	19, 066	2, 031
Three days ending August 31 .....	10, 153	2, 812
Total to September 1 .....	223, 152	37, 303

*Whaling fleet of Provincetown, Mass., August 13, 1886.*

Name.	Net tonnage.	No. of boats.	No. of men.	Location of whaling grounds.
Schooner William A. Grozier * .....	111.00	2	16	Atlantic Ocean.
Brig David A. Small .....	113.83	2	16	Do.
Schooner Quickstep † .....	89.25	2	16	Do.
Schooner Ellen Kizpah † .....	63.43	2	16	Do.
Schooner Mary G. Curran † .....	97.03	2	16	Do.
Schooner Rising Sun † .....	65.99	2	16	Do.
Schooner Agate † .....	76.95	2	16	Do.
Schooner Arctarctic † .....	95.57	2	16	Do.
Schooner Baltic † .....	76.81	2	16	Do.
Schooner Bloomer † .....	70.13	2	16	Do.
Schooner Aloyone † .....	87.61	2	16	Do.
Schooner Gage H. Phillips † .....	101.37	2	16	Do.
Steamer Angola B. Nickerson .....	26.97	.....	6	Off New England coast.
Total .....	1, 076.03	24	198	

\* Arrived on August 9. † Now on voyage. ‡ Arrived June 14; now on second voyage.

**GLOUCESTER, MASS., August 31, 1886.**

**78.—HAWAIIAN FISHING IMPLEMENTS AND METHODS OF FISHING.**

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[Abstract.]

The Hawaiians have five methods of fishing: by spearing, hand-catching, baskets, hook-and-line, and with nets.

The spearing of fish is of two kinds, below and above water. That below water is the most important, and is generally employed for the different kind of rock fish. The spear used by the diver is a slender stick of from 6 to 7 feet in length, made of very hard wood, and sharply pointed at one end, but more tapering at the other. Since the possession of iron, spears are always tipped with it, but perfectly smooth, without hook or barb. Diving to a well-known station by a large coral rock or against the steep face of the reefs, the diver places himself in a half crouching position on his left foot, with his right foot free and extended behind, his left hand holding on to the rock to steady himself,