

## 37.—CATCH OF SHAD IN CONNECTICUT FOR 1887.

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The statistics of the catch of shad for the year 1887 in the State of Connecticut are as follows:

## POUND FISHERIES.

From the mouth of the Connecticut River to New Haven Harbor:

15 traps in Saybrook .....	26,700
21 traps in Westbrook .....	26,600
10 traps in Clinton .....	8,650
18 traps in Madison .....	1,800
7 traps in Guilford .....	1,500
8 traps in Branford .....	2,000
5 traps in East Haven .....	4,000

Total shore fisheries .....	71,250
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## RIVER FISHERIES.

Thames River .....	27
Connecticut River and tributaries:	
Hauling-seines .....	10,100
Gill-nets .....	13,900
Quinepiac River, hauling-seines .....	2,500
Housatonic River:	
Hauling-seines .....	8,400
Stake-nets .....	4,000

Total river fisheries .....	38,927
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Total catch of shad in the State .....	110,177
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The past spring was a time of remarkably calm weather, as there was not a day during the fishing season when the Sound fishermen could not haul their nets. The run of shad was about the same each day, none of the usual large hauls being made. The fish were of uniform size and of very fine quality.

The first shad was caught April 18 in the Connecticut River, 5 miles from the mouth. The season closed suddenly about June 12, fifteen days earlier than usual.

The falling off in the catch is very great every year in all the waters of the State, but it is most marked in the Thames River. Formerly the fishermen would sometimes take 2,000 shad at a haul. It has decreased in a few years, so that now the total catch reported for the last two years has been but 45 and 27 respectively.

SAYBROOK, CONN., *September 24, 1887.*