

Mar. 4.

# WILL CHANGE METHOD OF FRESH HALIBUT BUYING.

## New England Fish Company Adopts Plan of Cutting Off Heads.

### Will Be More Satisfactory to Vessel Owners and Crews.

The New England Fish Company which is the largest fresh halibut concern in this country, has decided to make a change in the method of buying halibut fares at this port and Boston, and the old custom of weighing the fish with the heads on and then deducting 14 pounds per hundred weight for the heads will be discontinued.

The change is an important one, and the solution of a problem which has for a long time been a matter of much discussion between halibut buying concerns, halibut skippers and owners of vessels engaged in that fishery.

The company will now buy the fish as they are, with the heads on, the same as cod and haddock are bought, and take off nothing for the weight of the heads. It may or may not be that this will result in a slightly lower average price throughout the year for halibut, but it will accomplish the desired end, that of doing away entirely with the much discussed question as to whether or not the heads actually averaged 14 pounds per hundred weight of fish. Naturally the skippers and vessel owners have always claimed that 14 pounds per hundred was too much to take off, and also that while they received nothing from the heads thus cut off, the same were a source of some revenue to the concern buying the trip.

The action of the New England Fish Company in this matter will without doubt be carried out by the other concerns buying halibut here and at Boston.

Recently the New England Fish company and the American Halibut Company did away with the time honored custom of weighing trips bought on the old-fashioned beam scales and substituted the regulation platform scales.

#### Fleet Have Been Landing Considerable Halibut at Portland.

For some time there has been a feeling of dissatisfaction at halibut buying methods and in consequence, a few seasons ago, several vessels, quite a large part of the fleet gave the Boston market a tryout by taking their fares there direct.

This has gradually been abandoned by all but a few vessels, and then another market came into prominence, for a number of crafts making Portland took out there and liked the methods there. This resulted in many trips going there all last season, some Gloucester crafts landing all their trips for the year there, the skippers apparently liking the plan followed there of cutting off the heads before weighing the fish, thus eliminating the dispute as to the weight of heads entirely.

Of course the major part of the halibut caught still continued to be landed at this port, but the amount carried into Portland was of such large proportions as to command considerable respectful attention.

This year many of the halibut fleet followed up their last year's custom of going to Portland, with the effect that to date that port has taken in about 184,000 pounds of halibut, as against about 270,000 pounds at this port, which is acknowledged to be the center of the halibut market and fishery.

#### Buyers Disposed to Meet the Vessel Owners and Captains Halfway.

It is an open secret that the owners of the vessels engaged in the halibut fleet had conferences with the halibut concerns here early this year and the matter of what to do to induce the halibut fleet as a whole to land here was carefully and thoroughly discussed. Several plans were suggested on both sides, for the halibut concerns were as anxious to have the vessels back here as the owners were to have them come. While apparently no agreement was reached it would seem that the stand of the vessel owners has been met in good spirit by the halibut buying concerns and that the latter, by installing the platform scales and doing away altogether with the heads as a factor in weight to be deducted, have shown a willingness to meet present conditions and take action which to their minds should result in the desired end, the bringing of practically all the halibut fares to this port for market.

How the new plan will work out will be watched with much interest as much depends on its success or failure; indeed with which of these it may meet may depend the passing or domination of Gloucester as the halibut buying center of the Atlantic coast.

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#### Sch. Selma Stocked \$2172.49 on Halibut Trip.

Sch. Selma, Capt. Charles Colson, stocked \$2172.49 on her recent fresh halibut trip, the crew sharing \$60.75. With their headline fish the men averaged about \$65 each.

#### Fresh Halibut Sale.

The fare of Georges halibut of sch. Marsala was sold to the American Halibut Company yesterday at 17 cents per pound for white and 14 1/2 cents per pound for gray, a fancy price indeed.

#### Will Fit for Halibuting.

Capt. Andrew Gouveau will fit sch. Claudia for Georges halibuting as soon as the craft arrived from New York, where she has been discharging her cargo of salt herring.

#### Now in Sch. Gertrude.

Capt. John Fields, whose schooner, the Louise C. Cabral, was burned in Provincetown harbor a few weeks ago, has taken out sch. Gertrude.

#### Sold Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Margaret, Capt. William Grady, of this port, was at Portland yesterday with 15,000 pounds of halibut.

#### No Pollock Off Here.

Two of the pollock fleet put back here last night. They report seeing no schools off here and that a number of the fleet went to the eastward.

#### Will Take Frozen Herring to Boston.

Schs. Strathcona and Elizabeth N. will go to Boston with their fares of frozen herring.

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#### SCHOONER LAUNCHED.

##### New Provincetown Schooner Will Be Rigged at This Port.

The new schooner Josephine DeCosta for Capt. Marion Perry of Provincetown, which was launched at Essex yesterday was towed down here in the afternoon, the tug bringing the new craft up the Annisquam river and through the canal. The vessel will be rigged and fitted at this port and will engage in the haddock fishery.

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# SHORE BOATS LANDED FARES.

## Morning a Quiet One Along the Water Front.

It is another quiet morning here in the fish arrival line, nothing in with anything to take out and but few in bound out for the fishing grounds. Some of the bankers and halibuters will probably get away before Monday and something is expected by that date from the pollock fleet, the bulk of which is reported gone to the eastward in search of schools.

Yesterday afternoon quite a number of the shore boats landed fares here, the landings running from 2000 to 6000 pounds, all of which found a good and quick market. Steamer Nomad brought in a thousand weight of fresh fish just before dark. Sch. Marsala, which came in about noon yesterday from a Georges headline trip, had a fine fare, 35,000 pounds of salt cod and 3000 pounds of halibut, the latter bringing a fancy price.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

#### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Steamer Nomad, shore, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Rob Roy, via Boston.

Sch. Julietta, via Boston.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.

Steamer Quartette, pollock seining.

Sch. Reliance, pollock seining.

Sch. Ida M. Silva, shore, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Hortense, shore, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Blanche F. Irving, shore, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Margie Smith, pollocking.

Sch. Margie Smith, pollock seining.

#### Vessels Saile..

Sch. Theodore Roosevelt, salt banking.

Sch. Mary F. Curtis, haddocking.

Sch. Actor, shore.

Sch. Maude F. Silva, shore.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.

Sch. Manomet, shore.

Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.

Sch. Priscilla, shore.

Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, shore.

Steamer Nomad, pollocking.

Sch. Benjamin A. Smith, haddocking.

Sch. Mary F. Curtis, haddocking.

Br. sch. Strathcona, Boston.

Sch. Elizabeth N., Boston.

#### Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut, 14 cts. per pound for white and 11 cts. for gray.

Georges halibut, 17 cents per lb. for white and 14 1/2 cents for gray.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

Large salt headline Georges cod, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.

Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, round 65 cts., dressed 70 cts.

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Much difficulty is experienced on the South West Coast in getting men for the banking voyage. The sch. Hispaniola, Capt. John Lewis, arrived at Harbor Breton on Saturday week, and the sch. Excelda, Capt. J. F. Lewis, is also there. The latter and his crew came by the Portia and the Hispaniola's crew have also returned to their homes both vessels finding it impossible to get men for the banking voyage, so that they will remain at Harbor Breton until men are procurable.

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#### Portland Fish Notes.

Loaded almost to the gunwales with fish offal the "gurry" boat Helen Lane, Capt. Coffin, left Wednesday for Vinalhaven to discharge her cargo at the glue factory.

The Rockland sch. Christie Cox came into port here Wednesday and discharged a fare of 5000 pounds of fish at Central wharf.

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## PRICES DROP AT T WHARF.

Have Been Kept Up by Extra Demand For Fish.

The drop in prices of off shore haddock and cod which has been looked for for some time, but which an extra large demand for fish has warded off for some time, in spite of over large receipts, came this morning, and even now the figures cannot be called low, though they appear low when compared with the big prices which have prevailed generally throughout the winter. Off shore haddock are bringing \$2.25 today, with large cod at \$2.50 and market cod \$1.60 to \$1.75.

The market boats also come in for a cut and the skippers say, too, that haddock are "dropping off" along shore.

Whatever comes now for a while, in the shape of reduced prices or smaller fares, there is little chance to kick, for the season has been an extra good one in every respect. That the price of off shore fish will go off seems a certainty as the time is now close at hand when the big codfish trips from Georges and mammoth haddock fares from La Have banks are due to begin to pile in.

This morning there are 24 arrivals at T wharf, with three off shore among them the trio being schs. Pontiac, Natalie J. Nelson and Conqueror, the latter having 40,000 pounds of cod, in her fare of 53,000 pounds. The other two vessels have good fares.

The shore boat fares do not average up very heavy, the bulk of them running from 4000 to 10,000 pounds. There are some fine ones in the bunch, however, for Capt. Frank Watts in sch. Gladys and Nellie is keeping up his grand work and has 21,000 pounds. Schs. Sylvia M. Nunan, Rose Standish and Yankee also have nice fares and the Provincetowners Rose Dorothea and Matchless have what they went after.

The receipts in detail are:

### Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Matchless, 20,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 6000 pollock.  
Sch. Cherokee, 2000 cod.  
Sch. Rita A. Viator, 8000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake, 1500 pollock.  
Sch. Valentinna, 7500 haddock, 1000 cod, 2500 pollock.  
Steamer Lydia, 1000 haddock, 900 cod, 700 hake, 1000 cusk.  
Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod.  
Sch. Evelyn M. Thompson, 3000 haddock, 3000 cod, 3000 hake, 500 cusk, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Victor and Ethan, 7000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake.  
Sch. Emily Cooney, 3000 haddock, 1300 cod, 2000 pollock.  
Sch. Galatea, 1000 haddock, 6000 cod, 2000 pollock.  
Sch. Conqueror, 12,000 haddock, 40,000 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Rose Dorothea, 15,000 haddock, 500 cod, 400 hake.  
Sch. Emily Sears, 2000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Gladys and Nellie, 19,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Motor, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 pollock.  
Sch. Topsail Girl, 6000 haddock, 800 cod, 400 hake.  
Sch. Annie and Jennie, 2300 haddock, 1200 cod, 300 pollock.  
Sch. Yankee, 12,000 haddock, 500 cod, 3000 hake, 1500 pollock.  
Sch. Rose Standish, 11,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2500 hake, 2000 pollock.  
Sch. Sylvia M. Nunan, 14,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 hake, 500 pollock.  
Sch. Pontiac, 28,000 haddock, 12,000 cod.  
Sch. Natalie J. Nelson 38,000 haddock, 15,000 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. Dixie, 600 haddock, 1000 cod, 4000 pollock.  
Sch. Buema, 2000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 hake, 500 cusk, 200 pollock.  
Georges haddock, \$2.25 per cwt.; Georges large cod, \$2.50; Georges market cod, \$1.60 to \$1.75; shore haddock, \$3.50; shore cod, \$3.50 to \$4; hake, \$3.50 to \$6; pollock, \$3.50; cusk, \$2.

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## RECEIPTS LIGHT AT CLOSE OF WEEK

Confined to Shore Boats and Pollockers.

The week closes with very light receipts here. It has been quite calm all night and this morning brings but one arrival, a shore boat with but 1000 pounds of fresh fish.

Yesterday afternoon the steamer Nomad landed 8000 pounds of fresh fish and steamer Bessie M. Dugan had 1000 pounds of pollock. Sch. Mary DeCosta took out 4000 pounds of fresh codfish and sloop Maxwell brought in 1500 pounds of the same sort of fish.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Sloop Maxwell, shore, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.  
Sch. Florida, pollock seining.  
Steamer Bryda F., pollock seining.  
Steamer Mascot, pollock seining.  
Steamer Mystery, pollock seining.  
Steamer Nomad, shore, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Steamer Bessie M. Dugan, shore, 1000 lbs. pollock.  
Sch. Clara G. Silva, shore, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.  
Sch. Topsail Girl, shore.  
Sch. Tartar, Noank Conn.  
Steamer Pet, Portland.  
Sch. Margaret, via Portland.  
Steamer Joppaite, pollock seining.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Arthur D. Story, Georges.  
Sch. Bohemia, salt banking.  
Sch. Selma, Georges halibuting.  
Sch. Catherine Burke, Georges halibuting.  
Steamer Nomad, pollock seining.

### Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut, 14 cts. per pound for white and 11 cts. for gray.  
Georges halibut, 17 cents per lb. for white and 14 1-2 cents for gray.  
Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.  
Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.  
Large salt headline Georges cod, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.  
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.  
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.  
Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.  
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, round 65 cts., dressed 70 cts.

### Portland Fish Notes.

During this week there have been four halibut craft enter port and their total fares have aggregated nearly 90,000 pounds, making the biggest week not only for this winter but for several winters.

Another Gloucester halibut catcher was in port Thursday, the schooner Margaret arriving from a five week's trip to Green's Banks with a fare of about 15,000 pounds. Owing to the heavy receipts of halibut this week prices have fallen, only 9 cents being paid for gray and 11 cents for white, in place of 13 and 15 cents paid for the fares landed on Monday last. The skipper reports very rough weather on the Banks, but suffered no damage.

On Friday sch. Colonial came in with 20,000 pounds of halibut and could not get an offer as good as the Margaret sold for.

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### Salt Mackerel Imports.

Imports of salt mackerel at Boston to date, of the catch of 1909 were 30,880 barrels, against 41,082 barrels at this time last year, and 23,625 barrels up to date in 1908.

### Will Go Pollock Seining.

Capt. Solomon Jacobs is fitting sch. Elmer E. Gray for pollock seining.

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## BOSTON FISH PRICES FAIR.

Many Arrivals Expected Monday or Tuesday.

Eight of the market boat fleet are at T wharf this morning, four with small catches and four with pretty good trips.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart with 19,000 pounds has the largest fare, and schs. Belbina P. Domingoes, Mary Edith and Genesta have good trips.

The market is fair. Haddock brought \$3 to \$3.10, with large cod at \$3 to \$3.75 and hake from \$3.50 to \$5.

With the recent good weather, the dealers are looking for a big bunch of the off shore Georges haddockers on Monday or Tuesday.

The reason for the failure of the fishermen to reach T wharf Thursday was made known yesterday morning, and well illustrates the big part chance has in the fishing business. A fleet of the fishermen which had been out on Georges and had taken good catches, had started Wednesday for Boston. They were being helped on by a favorable wind, and had crowded on all the sail the vessels would bear, and the men were rejoicing in the prospect of the big shares they would have.

Everything went well until the vessels, led by the Pontiac and the Natalie J. Nelson, reached the northern end of Georges, when the wind died out, and left them without power to proceed. For four hours the vessels lay there with only wind enough to prevent the vessels from reaching T wharf Thursday, and the big shares the men had in view melted away like other visions as they watched the sky for a symptom of a breeze.

For the week ending March 4, 83 fares of fresh fish, aggregating 1,822,800 pounds, were landed at Boston, as against 96 arrivals with 1,952,500 pounds for the corresponding week last year.

The receipts in detail this morning are:

### Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Marguerite, 3000 cod.  
Sch. Walter P. Goulart, 15,000 haddock, 500 cod, 3000 hake.  
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, 8000 haddock, 500 cod, 5000 hake.  
Br. sch. Strathcona, frozen herring via Gloucester.  
Sch. Elizabeth N., frozen herring via Gloucester.  
Sch. Mary Edith, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.  
Sch. Lillian, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.  
Sch. Motor, 3000 cod.  
Sch. Genesta, 7000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake, 2000 cusk, 1800 pollock.  
Sch. Thalia, 5000 haddock, 300 cod, 1500 pollock.  
Haddock, \$3 to \$3.10 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$3.75; market cod, \$2.50 to \$3; hake, \$3.50 to \$5; cusk, \$2.25.

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## POLLOCK SCHOOL DISAPPEARED.

Fleet Has Gone East in Search of the Fish.

It looks as though pollock seining had a black eye for a while at least. During the past two days the fleet has had the finest kind of a chance to fish as ever was and has cruised from Eastern Point to Portland and back and not seen a ripple.

Some of the larger vessels of the fleet did not stop when Portland was reached but kept on way to the eastward, determined to give the game a good try and have a thorough search all the length of the Maine coast.

Some of the smaller crafts came in here last night, while others started off to the eastward again. Others remained off around Boon Island ledge where schs. Little Fanny and Thomas J. Carroll got their hauls early in the week. Steamer Bessie M. Dugan brought in 1000 pounds, the net result of the only school seen for the trip.