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# BAY OF ISLANDS HERRING NEWS

# HALIBUT BOATS ROUGHLY USED

# CLAM FLATS ARE TO BE INSPECTED

## Agent of U. S. Bureau of Fisheries Will Visit Essex River to Determine Cause of Depopulation of Great Beds.

Herring were scarce at Bonne Bay when the Meigle was there.

There were good indications of herring off Curling on Monday and yesterday.

There is a large fleet of vessels now at North Arm, seeking herring cargoes.

N. Fisher shipped 150 barrels pickled herring from Humbermouth last week.

At Meadows on Monday, herring were plentiful, and those who had nets set there did well.

The sch. Atalanta, from Gloucester, reached Bonne Bay on Friday, on her second herring trip.

The Gloucester sch. Ramona arrived at Bay of Islands last week on her second herring trip for the season.

In Middle Arm, Bay of Islands, herring have struck down, but in Goose Arm boats get from 5 to 20 tubs daily.

The American sch. Senator, on her second herring trip for the season, arrived at Bay of Islands on Saturday.

The early part of last week there was very good herring fishing at Bonne Bay and boats secured from 5 to 30 tubs daily.

Last week the herring in Humber Arm meshed best by day, and those who set for day fishing secured good hauls.

The sch. Bohemia found herring scarce at Bonne Bay, and has come to Bay of Islands seeking a cargo. She is now at Middle Arm.

The Lunenburg sch. Nobility, chartered by Davis Bros. of Gloucester, arrived at Bay of Islands on Saturday seeking herring cargo.

At the upper part of the Humber Arm, Bay of Islands, herring have been numerous for some time, and boats get from 5 to 25 tubs per fleet.

The weather last week was very stormy, and herring fishermen at North Arm lost considerable time, being able to get to their nets, only three days for the week.

The American vessel Tattler, and the Lunenburg vessel, J. B. Young, after herring cargoes, arrived at Woods Island on Monday.

There are four vessels at Bonne Bay seeking herring cargoes. The Lizzie Griffin wants 300 barrels to finish, and the Blanche is trying to procure enough barreled herring to complete her cargo.

The following vessels arrived at Bay of Islands for herring cargoes from Wednesday to Friday: Harry A. Nickerson, Agnes, Oriole, Gossip, Ramona, Independence II.

Most of these vessels are now at North Arm.—Western Star, Dec. 2.

Another vessel of the New England Fish Company has come to grief and is now at Yakutat, Alaska, awaiting a vessel to tow her south. She is the steamer Kingfisher, which has lost her propeller and broken her shaft. Orders have been given for the steamer New England to proceed North and bring the Kingfisher to port. This means a tow of nearly 1,000 miles. The New England had a bad time herself, losing gear to the value of \$1,800.

### Salt Herring Receipts.

Receipts of Newfoundland herring at this port since November 10, when the first cargo was landed by sch. Atalanta, are 17,873 barrels, being divided into 16,372 barrels of salt bulk herring and 1501 of pickled herring. The herring was brought here by eight Gloucester vessels, three British schooners and one British steamer.

### Did Well.

During the months of September, October and November a Boothbay Harbor, Me., fisherman made \$340 taking lobsters.

### Going for Herring.

Capt. Lewis Wharton is fitting sch. Clintonia for a trip to Newfoundland for frozen herring.

### Sch. Judique at Eastport.

Sch. Judique arrived at Eastport yesterday from the Bay of Islands, N. F., with 1300 barrels salt herring.

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### Sardine Season Over.

The sardine factories of Maine are closing their doors. Fish flashed up sky-high in price toward the closing. Some fishermen reaped a harvest of from \$20 to \$25 a hoghead for fish. The season has been far from satisfactory because there was no carry-over of stocks from last year. That is a phase of the situation that buyers may have disregarded, but they are coming to grief if they expect to buy cheap sardines at this time of day. The pack is 500,000 short, but supplies in hand are even more short.—Fishing Gazette.

### Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Preceptor, Capt. William McKay, was in Portland yesterday with 10,000 pounds of fresh halibut, which sold for 15 1-2 cents per pound for white and 10 cents for gray. The Preceptor also has 12,000 pounds of salt cod, and 4000 pounds fresh fish.

### Having New Foremast.

Sch. Rebecca is having a new foremast stepped at the Rocky Neck shears.

As a result of a report submitted by Capt. Gustaf F. O. Hanson, commanding the United States Fish Commission sch. Grampus, stationed at this port, regarding the widespread death of the clams in Essex river, the Bureau of Fisheries has detailed H. W. Nightingale to make an inspection and submit a report on this subject.

This will be welcome news to the clambers who have for the past four or five years been bothered by the unknown disease depopulating many of the beds from which they formerly made a living.

Capt. Hanson, after making an investigation of conditions submitted a report, which in substance reads as follows:

"The first serious case of this unknown disease was found at Wheeler's reef near the lower end of Neck Channel in an area including about 10 acres, across which flows a strong current of salt water from Ipswich.

"This section previously supplied the best of clams. In the spring of 1909, a bed of young clams began to die and not over five per cent. were left alive. They became sick and watery, their necks turned black and they shrank one-third in size.

"In the fall when cold weather came, the stronger of the few that remained burrowed deeper to get away from the cold. The weaker ones had not enough strength to do likewise, and they perished from exposure. The pe-

riod of sickness lasted about three months.

"The clams were not all stricken the same time, but the progress was like a contagious disease. The disease struck the bed near Comonomo land, and about 60 per cent. died. The south side of Choate Island was affected, and about 20 per cent. of the bed died, but there was little damage done to the large part of the bed.

"This year the bed known as 'The Spit' was stricken and although many were killed on the western side, the disease did not spread over the entire bed.

"Since the disease first struck, the clams have seeded on Wheeler's reef at least three times, but they have gone the same way. In other places they have seeded, and they seem to all right.

"The stricken area below Comonomo Point is where the water is cleanest and coldest during hot weather. Wheeler's reef may be the breeding place of the germs, or whatever causes the disease, and they are carried by the tide which distributes them over the river."

I will be seen that this is a serious matter, and the officials of the bureau recognizing it as such have detailed Mr. Nightingale to make an investigation. Capt. Hanson will do all in his power to assist and will place at the inspector's disposal the Grampus and its launches.

The clambers hope that as a result of the investigation something will be done to improve conditions of the clam beds.

## STR. THELMA HAD A BIG SEASON

Steamer Thelma, owned by M. Wallen and Sons and Capt. Elroy Prior, has just finished her season's work, stocking \$15,298.67 in mackerel seining and netting. The share was \$573.53 clear, which makes a good eight months' work.

During the seining season the steamer in command of Capt. Prior, stocked \$13,663.92 from which the crew shared \$421.77 each. The steamer was in command of Capt. John F. Vautier in the netting branch, the stock being \$1634.75 and the share \$151.76.

### Porto Rico Fish Market.

San Juan, P. R., November 24.—Our fish: Our markets are well supplied and we hear of substantial quantities due this week which will not tend to further weaken the situation. Last sales of spot goods were made \$30 per cask, but importers will buy for shipment at more than c.i.f. The demand continues fair.

Pollock and haddock: Prices declined to \$23.50 per cask of 448 "net ex wharf"; stocks, however, not excessive.—S. Ramirez & Co.

### Will Stay Ashore.

Capt. Lemuel Spinney has given command of sch. John Hays Hammon and will remain ashore for the season. The vessel will now be fitted for docking by Capt. William McCann.

### WAS WELL KNOWN HERE.

Capt. Thomas E. Wells of Pensacola Is Dead.

Capt. Thomas E. Wells, owner of the wholesale fish business of E. E. Saunders & Company, a large holder of real estate bank and grocery stock and other large interests, and ex-mayor of Pensacola, Fla., a resident for 38 years, died in that city recently. He was one of the most enterprising citizens the city has ever been honored with.

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# ORACE WYLDE HAS FINE TRIP

## Ingomar Landed Fresh Fish at Gloucester Fresh Fish Co. Here.

Ingomar, Capt. Horace Wyld, landed yesterday afternoon from an trip from La Have bank with 10 pounds of fresh fish which sold at Gloucester Fresh Fish Co. Paragon, Capt. William Her- arrived during the night from land where she took out a small of halibut. The gill netters were not out yes- day, being the third consecutive that the boats have been unable to. A few of the steamers ventured this morning to find their nets.

### Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail

Ingomar, La Have Bank, 50,000 fresh fish, 800 lbs. fresh halibut. Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., via Bos- Paragon, via Portland, 6000 lbs. cod. Josephine DeCosta, shore (went Boston.)

### Vessels Sailed.

Josephine DeCosta, Boston.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

andline Georges codfish, large, \$5 cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3. Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25. Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4; snappers, \$3. Haddock, large, \$3; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50. Dressed halibut, 10c per lb. Haddock, \$1.75. Pollock, \$1.75. Newfoundland herring, \$3.75 per for salt bulk.

#### Fresh Fish.

Whittling prices: Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt. Eastern cod, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2; snappers, 75c. Western cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c. Haddock, large, \$2.40; medium, \$2.10. Codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 lbs less than above. Haddock, \$1.40. Haddock, large, \$1.80; medium, \$1.25; snappers, 50c. Pollock, round 80c; dressed 90c. Fresh halibut, 13c for white and 10c for gray.

Fresh mackerel, 30c each for large, 20c for medium.

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# BOSTON FARES STILL VERY FEW

## Prices Soar As Dealers Have Not Enough Fish to Go Around.

Fresh fish receipts at the Boston fish pier this morning continued light, three arrivals being reported. They were the beam trawler Spray with 15,000 pounds and 7000 pounds lemon sole, sch. Leonora Silveria from the Cape Shore with 52,000 pounds and sch. Josephine DeCosta with 3000 pounds.

Wholesalers quoted \$6 to \$7.35 a hundred weight for haddock, \$7.35 to \$7.50 for large cod, \$5 to \$6 for market cod, \$4 for hake, and \$4 for pollock.

### Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Str. Spray, 13,000 haddock, 200 cod, 2000 hake, 7000 cusk. Sch. Leonora Silveria, 16,000 haddock, 23,000 cod, 3900 hake, 5900 cusk, 400 halibut. Sch. Josephine DeCosta, 2000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake. Haddock, \$6 to \$7.35 per cwt.; large cod, \$7.35 to \$7.50; market cod, \$5 to \$6; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$4.

# LOOK FOR COD PRICE TO DROP

Says the Fishing Gazette: Although the demand of foreign markets has jumped up the price of codfish in Newfoundland, the price for that commodity elsewhere shows a downward tendency.

The markets for salt fish in Havana and Porto Rico are readjusting themselves with the colder weather, and the domestic outlook is somewhat brighter than heretofore.

A leading New York salt fish merchant summed up the foreign markets in the following fashion: "It's a question of credits. They want us to draw, but we don't feel able to take any chances at the present time. We are having some unsolicited orders at the present time, but we must see certain payment before we deliver."

Said an eminent New York authority last Thursday:

"No material change in the situation of any variety of salt fish has occurred during the week. While the demand, as usual at this season, is light, there is no pressure to sell, and prices are held steadily up to previous quotations.

Says an exchange: "The price of codfish is expected to go up—news we are sorry to hear.

"It is only partly the war this time. Thanks to the success of the British in keeping the Atlantic open, fish merchants expect, it is true, to find extra markets for the season's Newfoundland catch of cod in Mediterranean

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ports and Brazil. But unfortunately the season's catch, amounting to 850,000 quintals, is 250,000 quintals short of the average. Hence the expected jump in price.

"Cod is a wonderful fish—plentiful, cheap, clean, good eating. Fresh or dried, it ought to be more popular than it is. Too many families in comfortable circumstances look down on cod as an inferior fish. This is all wrong. They know better in Massachusetts. Cod, boiled or baked, supported by mashed potatoes and a yellow sauce with pieces of hard-boiled egg therein, is a dish worthy of any occasion or company."

# NO HERRING AT BONNE BAY N. F.

Word received by the Times this morning states that the weather was mild at Bonne Bay, N. F., yesterday and no herring are being taken.

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# START WORK ON BREAKWATER

Work has begun on another improvement at the great fish pier in South Boston, which already represents an investment of \$3,000,000. At a cost of \$17,879, a timber breakwater is being constructed on the easterly side of the pier, forming a protected basin for the fishing craft.

Since the fish pier has been in operation the fishing vessels coming into port with their fares have used the easterly side of the pier practically not at all. The custom is to unload the catch on the westerly half and then make for the old T wharf on Atlantic avenue where the fishermen can bait up in protected waters.

This custom is entirely due to the fact that the easterly side of the fish pier is unprotected from prevailing easterly winds and gales, which make rough water for the light vessels.

To obviate this difficulty and make the most of the modern pier the Directors of the Port decided to have constructed a breakwater that would not only permit vessels to unload their fares in this side of the market, but would also provide a haven for the vessels after they have unloaded. October 29 bids were opened and the contract was awarded to W. H. Ellis & Son Company, whose figure, \$17,879.19, was the lowest. The governor and council approved the contract November 11, and the contractors undertake to complete the work in four months, or by March 11.

The timber breakwater will be 1325 feet in length over all. There will be an entrance facing the main ship channel 100 feet in width. The protected basin will be large enough to accommodate all the fishing craft bringing their fares to the pier.

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# LARGE COD IS QUOTED AT \$11

## Only Two Arrivals at New Fish Pier Today—Supply Very Short.

Only two arrivals docked at the Boston Fish pier since yesterday. The down east sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan and the beam trawler Wave brought small fares, which were promptly snapped up and brought big prices, on account of the shortage in the market.

Wholesale quotations were \$8 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$11 for large and \$7 for market cod, \$4.50 for hake and \$5 for pollock.

### Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 2500 haddock, 17,000 cod, 500 hake, 2500 cusk, 800 pollock. Str. Wave, 22,000 haddock 300 cod, 500 hake. Haddock, \$8 per cwt.; large cod, \$11; market cod, \$7; hake, \$4.50; pollock, \$5.

# NEARLY LOST AS WAVE SWEEP DECK

Sch. Preceptor, of this port, arrived Tuesday at Portland from a six weeks' cruise on Georges and LeHave Banks, having a catch of 10,000 pounds of halibut and about 12,000 pounds of salt cod. The halibut were sold to the Commercial wharf fish dealers, while the Lord Brothers took the salt catch. The skipper reports the roughest kind of weather on the banks and in one of the numerous gales encountered the schooner had five of her dories smashed by a heavy sea which swept her decks of everything movable, some of the crew having a narrow escape from going over with the debris.

# THREE GOOD HADDOCK TRIPS

Sch. Esperanto, Capt. Asa Baker, stocked \$2100 and the crew of 23 men shared \$42 each on the recent haddocking trip.

Sch. Benjamin A. Smith, Capt. Hugh Quinlan, stocked \$2305 and the crew shared \$50 on a similar trip.

Sch. Smuggler, Capt. Mansfield Conrad, stocked \$1787 and the crew shared \$35 on the recent haddocking trip.