

SNAPPER FISHERY IN THE SOUTH

NETTERS HAPPY-- HADDOCK STRIKE

"Gillers" Had 70,000 Pounds Mixed Fish for Two Days' Fishing.

Red snapper is one of the most common in the Gulf of Mexico, ranging in weight from two to 35 pounds. Its home is confined strictly to the salt waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where it lives at the bottom, at a depth of 60 to 250 feet. Its life is spent among the coral reefs and chooses its food among the various species of smaller fish. In consequence of living on food of this character, the flesh of the red snapper is absolutely pure, firm and sweet.

The red snapper is caught altogether with hook and line. They are located by scounding lines with baited hooks attached. When schools of fish are thus found, the vessels are either anchored or a buoy is put out to mark the spot and the vessels drift back and forth while the fishermen play their lines as rapidly as possible, each man handling a single line with two hooks and a lead ranging in weight from two and a half to three and three-quarter pounds.

The principal red snapper fishing grounds of the Northern Gulf lie between Mobile Bay and Cedar Keys, Fla., and on the Southern Gulf, a radius of 500 miles on the Mexican coast, commonly known as the "Campeachee Banks."

On account of the scarcity of the red snapper in the Northern Gulf, it has been necessary to engage larger and more expensive vessels that are capable of weathering the frequent gulf storms, these vessels, of which we now have a fleet of 30-odd, ranging in cost from \$6,000 to \$10,000 each, fully equipped with cork insulated ice boxes, in which fish are iced as soon as caught, enabling us to have a constant supply of fresh stock.

The distance of the red snapper banks on the Northern Gulf Coast ranges from 20 to 200 miles. The distance of the great "Campeachee Banks" on the Mexican coast is from 400 to 600 miles, which usually take from two to three weeks for a trip. Hence, you can readily see to what great expense the producer is taxed in the equipment for the catching of the celebrated red beauties.

Instruct Italian Fishermen.

The Italian fishermen operating power dories in Boston harbor will be given a course of instruction in power boat regulations by customs officials. The first of the series was held yesterday in the big guard room of the customs guard at the end of Long wharf.

About 25 Italians, all of whom own power boats, were present and listened with respectful attention to Lieut. Edward F. Dowd, of the customs guard, who explained the requirements of the Government motor boat regulations. The lecture was in the nature of an experiment, but it was so well attended that similar lectures will probably be arranged for the future. The idea originated with Capt. Charles R. Tuckett and was approved by Surveyor Joseph A. Maynard.

The much looked for haddock have struck in and Saturday and yesterday three of the gill netters brought in good trips as a result, steamer Robert and Edwin being especially fortunate, securing two trips.

The fish are the first of the season. Last year the haddock struck March 10 and 11, and several of the boats did well while the fish were in.

Some of the good trips were steamers Robert and Edwin with 3600 pounds, Saturday and 3500 pounds, Sunday; Water Witch from the eastward, 14,000 pounds pollock; Ethel, 8000 pollock, Sunday and 4000 pounds Saturday; Orion, 5000 pollock, Saturday and 3500 Sunday; sch. Little Fannie from down east, 6000 pounds.

In all, the gill netters had about 70,000 pounds, the best two days' fishing for many weeks.

No vessel arrivals were reported up to noon. The harbor front is a busy scene of activity, quite a fleet of crafts having come from their winter moorings, to paint and slick up for the southern spring mackerel cruise.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Sch. Morning Star, via Boston.
- Sch. Eva L. Spurling, shore.
- Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.
- Sch. Leonora Silveira, shore.
- Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.

Sunday's Gill Netting Fares.

- Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting, 1300 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Orion, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Ethel, gill netting, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Water Witch gill netting, 14,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Saturday's Gill Netting Fares.

- Str. Lorena, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 1400 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Orion, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

- Str. Ethel, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Little Fannie, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Enterprise, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 3600 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quartette, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Julia May, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

- Sch. Mary F. Sears, haddocking.
- Sch. Lillian, haddocking.
- Sch. Eva and Mildred, haddocking.
- Sch. Jorgina, haddocking.
- Sch. Harriett, Boston.
- Sch. Rose Dorothea, Boston.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

- Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, 3.
- Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25.
- Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$3.
- Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.50.
- Hake, \$1.50.
- Haddock, \$1.75.
- Pollock, \$1.50.
- Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk, \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

Fresh Fish.

- Splitting prices:
- Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.
- Western cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
- Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
- All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than above.
- Hake, \$1.25.
- Cusk, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.15; snappers, 50c.
- Pollock, round, 80c; dressed, 90c.
- Fresh halibut 13 1-2c for white and 9 1-2c for grays.
- Newfoundland frozen herring, 3c per lb.

SALT BANKER DRAGS ASHORE

Sch. Maxine Elliott, Capt. Stanley B. Hines, one of the salt banking fleet, dragged ashore on Black Reef, Argyle Harbor, N. S., recently. She was subsequently floated off without assistance, leaking slightly. She was brought to Yarmouth to go on the marine railway, before resuming her trip.

Handline Chaps Did Well.

Sch. Catherine Burke, Capt. Jerome McDonald, stocked \$2869.83 on her recent halibuting trip, the crew of 22 men making an average share of \$60 clear to a man. There was considerable handline fish, the high line share being \$111.05.

NOVA SCOTIA MARKET REVIEW

The Halifax Maritime Merchants' review of the fish market and industry, says:

There is a weaker feeling in dried fish export trade, owing to continuation of slack demand from the West Indies. Prices, however, have not been affected, as stocks undoubtedly short. It is now thought that there is sufficient fish on hand in Halifax and Lunenburg to meet demands until new cure is ready. Porto Rico demand for United States fish has been materially reduced, owing to large shipments from Gloucester, and it would appear that Gloucester has considerable quantities of fish on hand for export.

Lunenburg bank fish is now practically all in second hands, the last having been made at \$6.85 ex vessel. Lunenburg. The fleet is now getting ready for the spring trip, several vessels having already gone out. About 30 to 40 vessels will sail to the Bay between the date of this writing and the time it appears, for those which have not already started are about ready to take their departure. This year's fleet is being baited with frozen herring supplied by the Lockport Storage Co. The quality of the fish is said to be above the average. usual, the spring catch will entirely depend upon weather conditions. ordinary luck there should be a large catch with the prospect of continuation of the present high price. This means that the optimistic pervades Lunenburg County.

The demand from the West Indies outside of Porto Rico, has been at the average. It is estimated that about two-thirds of the usual demand exists, but whatever fish is going forward is being sold at a fair margin profit. The northern Brazil market continues very strong; in fact, offerings are readily taken at average prices. The supplies of fish for Northern Brazil are pretty well exhausted so far as Halifax is concerned. We hear, however, that a cargo being got ready to go forward by Annie L. Warren, which sails April 1st. This will be the last to go forward this season.

There has been a fair activity in demand for pickled fish for Europe, with the exception of herring, which are fully ample to meet all demands. The prospects are that there will be good demand for herring during the coming season, it having been thought that the free entry into American market makes it possible for exporters to place a very large quantity of fish in the United States, and at that compare favorably with the India quotations.

The European markets are weaker, owing chiefly to bad conditions. Nova Scotia exports are not particularly interested, as suitable for Europe were some time ago.

TRAWLERS GET GOOD PRICES

Business Started Off Lively at Boston Fish Piers This Morning.

The week at Boston started off with dozen fares at the new pier and two at T wharf. There were no large trips, however, the largest trip being brought in by the beam trawler breaker.

Trade was good and prices stood up at the opening of the markets. Wholesale paid \$4 to \$5 a hundred for haddock, \$5 for large cod, \$3 for market cod, \$3 to \$6 for hake, \$3 for pollock and \$1.50 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

ARRIVALS AT BOSTON FISH PIER.

- Str. Breaker, 32,000 haddock, 7000 cod.
- Sch. Waltham, 700 haddock, 4000 cod, 9000 pollock.
- Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 500 haddock, 1000 cod, 13,000 hake, 2500 cusk, 3000 pollock.
- Sch. Angelina C. Nunan, 1600 haddock, 4500 cod, 19,000 hake, 6000 cusk, 2800 pollock.
- Sch. Adeline, 5000 haddock, 1500 cod, 3000 hake.
- Sch. Harriett, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
- Sch. Russell, 5500 haddock, 800 cod, 5000 hake.
- Sch. Manomet, 2000 haddock, 1700 cod, 2000 hake, 2000 cusk.
- Sch. Laura Enos, 700 cod.
- Sch. Marion, 700 cod.
- Sch. Mabel E. Leavitt, 5000 flat fish.

ARRIVALS AT T WHARF.

- Sch. Mary T. Fallon, 19,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 800 pollock.
- Sch. Flavilla, 2000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 pollock.
- Haddock, \$4 to \$5 per cwt.; large cod, \$5; market cod, \$3; hake, \$3 to \$6; pollock, \$3; cusk, \$1.50.

TWINERS NOW FITTING AWAY

Many of the fleet of southern mackerel seiners will begin early this week to fit for their annual spring trip. While the final work of bending the sails, overhauling the seines and putting aboard the ice and "grub" will not begin until Thursday, some of the vessels which have just come off the ways are being overhauled today by the hammers and scrapers and "lumpers," getting them ready for the crews. The fleet will leave here in time to reach the grounds for the dark nights the first of April.

PLANS KETCH RIGGED CRAFT

Designer Alden Models New Style Fisherman to be Built at Essex.

John G. Alden of Boston is working on the plans of a new type of fishing craft for the local fleet, which is to be built by Tarr & James at Essex for Boston parties. Practically all the vessels of the Massachusetts Bay fleet used for offshore fishing are one of two types—either schooners or steam trawlers.

Many of the English fishing craft that work over the banks of the North Sea are ketch rigged, and this is the rig that will be used on the new boat that is soon to be started at Essex. The new vessel will not depend upon the breeze to reach the market and therefore will have a short rig and a rather large power plant.

As designed, the ketch will be one of the largest vessels engaged in fishing from Boston or Gloucester, as she will be 124 feet overall, 110 feet waterline, 25 feet beam, and 12 feet draft. For auxiliary power the ketch will have two 100 horsepower automatic engines, with Galusha gas producer.

SEND MORE BAIT TO NEWFOUNDLAND

Sch. Olga, Capt. Isaac Evans, sailed for Newfoundland Saturday with the second load of squid shipped from this port for the fishermen of that province. The first cargo was shipped in the British sch. Meteor, the last of January. For the past few days the Olga has been at Provincetown loading a cargo. She arrived here Friday from that port and sailed Saturday for Newfoundland.

More Good Haddock Money.

Some of the recent stocks and shares of the haddock fleet are as follows: Sch. Gov. Foss, Capt. Fred Thompson, stocked \$1350 and the crew shared \$24.

Sch. Commonwealth, Capt. Frank Watts, stocked \$1500 and the crew shared \$34.

Sch. Conqueror, Capt. Robertson Giffin, stocked \$1785 and the crew shared \$33.40.

Sch. A. Piatt Andrew, Capt. Wallace Bruce, shared \$42.

Nova Scotia Catches.

Shelburne County's total catch of fish for January amounted to \$60,828, and Yarmouth's \$60,419.—Liverpool Advance.

TAKE MOST FISH ON HOME BANKS

Of One Year's Arrivals Here and Boston Only 615 of the 7598 Fares Are Caught West of 66 Longitude.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries has compiled and will shortly issue its annual statistical bulletins showing in considerable detail the extent and value of the fisheries centering at Boston and Gloucester, during the calendar year 1914. The bulletins will disclose the important fact that of 7598 fares landed at Boston and Gloucester, but 615 were caught on grounds lying off British possessions; that is east of parallel 66 of west longitude.

By means of local agents who are permanently maintained at these two important fishing ports accurate figures are obtained from all vessels landing fish there, and in the aggregate these operations cover from three-fourths to seven-eighths of the offshore vessel fisheries of New England. The data thus presented afford the best basis for determining the condition of the fish supply and the trend of the fisheries.

The Boston and Gloucester fleets in 1914 numbered 393 vessels of all classes. They brought in 7598 fares or trips of fish, aggregating 162,589,220 pounds, for which the fishermen received \$4,395,030. The catch of the principal fishes as landed in a fresh, frozen, or salted condition was as follows:

Species.	Pounds	Value
Cod	47,529,625	\$1,359,416
Haddock	57,754,128	1,381,156
Hake	12,752,971	242,503
Pollock	12,454,725	199,736
Cusk	5,858,990	102,779
Halibut	3,379,585	276,350
Herring	10,748,847	227,213
Mackerel	6,688,850	354,725
Swordfish	1,499,844	177,669
All others	3,921,657	73,483

Practically the entire catch of the vessels discharging at Boston, consisting of fresh fish which were sold in that condition, while about two-fifths of the receipts at Gloucester were salted, and a large part of those brought in fresh were subsequently salted before sale.

One of the bulletins exhibits the fisheries by months, while the other shows the actual and relative importance of the various fishing grounds resorted to by these vessels. Of the 3389 fares of fish brought into Boston, only 259 came from the grounds lying off the British possessions, that is, east of the 66th degree of west longitude;

while of the 4209 fares landed at Gloucester only 396 were from the eastern grounds. This arbitrary division of the fishing grounds has some actual significance because of the dependence of American vessels on Canadian and Newfoundland harbors for bait, shelter, etc.

SHY OF POLLOCK AT PORTO RICO

Says the Fishing Gazette: Salt fish factors should note the market summary of Porto Rico in this week's issue. Large cod from Lunenburg is now changing hands at \$34.50. An attempt is being made to sell medium cod at \$32.50, though success has not attended the effort as yet. The market in Uncle Sam's insular possession is now under pressure of more liberal supplies insofar as codfish is concerned. But another tale is to be told with respect to pollock and haddock. Supplies of both are almost nil; next arrivals are bound to realize \$25 per drum and upwards. An optimistic outlook truly to the salt fish merchant who has lived in hopes and now sees his hopes realized. A leading New York handler of cod has released several carloads of that specie for Porto Rico recently. All these consignments have probably gone into consumption ere this.

LIKE PRICE HERE-- MACKEREL NEXT

The spring mackerel season is officially opened. The genial "Ike" Price of New York has arrived, on business and pleasure bent and is being pleasantly greeted by his many friends. He will look over the local fleet of seiners and skippers before returning to Fulton market.