

Dec. 9.

SIXTEEN BOATS AT BOSTON TODAY

RECEIPTS UNDER 300,000 POUNDS
—MARKET IS STRONG WITH
HIGHER PRICES.

A fleet of 16 fishing craft assembled at the Boston fish pier this morning, 16 vessels offering catches of groundfish when the opening bell rang. The receipts totalled only 295,000 pounds of groundfish and 95,700 pounds of mixed fish. There were no mackerel arrivals. Prices were higher than yesterday with haddock at \$7 to \$8.

A few small lots of mackerel were received by truck and rail. A carload of smelts from Canada and a car of swordfish from Cape Breton and 135 boxes of pollock were in the day's rail receipts.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

- The arrivals and fares in detail:
 - Str. Newton, 36,000 haddock, 2300 cod, 20,000 mixed fish.
 - Str. Holy Cross, 20,000 haddock, 5500 cod, 5600 mixed fish.
 - Str. Georgetown, 35,000 haddock, 4800 cod, 9000 mixed fish.
 - Str. Shawmut, 21,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 12,000 mixed fish.
 - Str. Osprey, 40,000 haddock, 300 cod, 3100 mixed fish.
 - Str. Foam, 8000 haddock, 2500 cod, 15,000 mixed fish.
 - Str. Winthrop, 23,000 haddock, 14,000 cod, 3000 mixed fish.
 - Sch. Mildred Silva, 13,000 haddock, 500 cod, 4500 mixed fish.
 - Sch. Mystic, 20,000 haddock, 1000 hake.
 - Sch. R. Eugene Ashley, 19,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 14,000 mixed fish.
 - Sch. Geraldine and Phyllis, 15,000 haddock, 3000 mixed fish.
 - Sch. Col. Lindbergh, 2000 haddock, 3100 mixed fish.
 - Boat Josie II., 600 haddock, 800 cod, 2300 mixed fish.
 - Boat Automatic, 500 haddock, 800 cod, 6700 mixed fish.
 - Boat Leonardo, 300 haddock, 200 cod, 1800 mixed fish.
 - Boat Annie and Josie, 1400 cod, 2600 mixed fish.
- Haddock, \$7 to \$8 per cwt.; large cod, \$11; market cod, \$5; hake, \$1 to \$5; pollock, \$1 to \$1.50; cusk, \$2.50; gray sole, 9 cents per lb.; lemon sole, 7 cents; black backs, 6 cents; yellow tails, 4 cents; dabs, 3 cents; shark, 6½ cents; catfish, 4 cents.

HUB LANDINGS LITTLE SHORT OF THREE MILLION

For the week ending December 4, there were 96 arrivals at the Boston fish pier with 2,939,175 pounds of fresh fish. In the corresponding week of 1929, there were 99 arrivals with 2,308,550 pounds.

From January 1 to date there have been 5984 arrivals and receipts of 252,107,950 pounds of fresh fish. In the same period of 1929, there were 5429 arrivals and receipts of 240,580,350 pounds.

The prices paid for groundfish during the week were the highest for a number of years. The highest price paid last year was \$13; in 1928, \$14.50; 1927, \$15.40; 1926, \$15; 1925, \$16; 1924, \$16.50. The peak last week was 16 cents.

Dec. 9.

NETTING FLEET LANDED 316,200 POUNDS MACKEREL

The mackerel netters landed 316,200 pounds of large and medium fresh mackerel last week, caught off Cape Ann. The last seiners out reported seeing plenty of fish but they were so wild it was impossible to catch them. Fresh mackerel sold last week to wholesale dealers from 11 to 13 cents per pound.

In the corresponding week last year the netters landed but a few mackerel and they sold to dealers from 22 to 25 cents per pound. In 1928 they had a catch of 391,650 pounds and sold from 12 to 14 cents.

Less in Storage.

The official statistics just received give the mackerel in cold storage in the United States on November 15, 1930, at 7,568,259 pounds as compared with 9,583,361 pounds on the same date in 1929. The Dominion of Canada reports that there were 771,499 pounds of mackerel in storage on November 1, 1930, as compared with 878,807 pounds on the same date in the previous year.

The catch of mackerel to date has been 42,796,629 pounds as compared with 42,540,295 pounds in 1929; 30,057,700 pounds in 1928; 37,941,600 pounds in 1927.

Dec. 10

Do Fish Sleep?

An editorial in The World November 25 considers the query, "Do Fish Sleep?" I think they do.

It is no uncommon thing in the New York Aquarium to see the file-fishes, blackfish, tautog, hinds and groupers lying quietly in a corner. Sometimes the hinds assume a vertical position in the rockwork. The trigger fishes often lean against the walls or lie flat on one side. Their colors at such times vary from those exhibited when active.

In these positions, which may be maintained for hours, the fishes are supported by the rocks, so that fin movements are unnecessary, and they seem to be perfectly at rest.

In the blackfish at rest upon the bottom motion may cease entirely except for the rhythmic movements of the tips of the gill covers and an occasional slight turn of the eyeball. With some fishes in this position dozing seems certain, as the leaning body may settle over farther and farther until the fish recovers itself with a start and assumes the original upright position.

A lazy blackfish may roll over on its side and lie quietly until disturbed by its fellows. There is generally enough movement of some kind in an aquarium tank to keep the fish somewhat wakeful, the eyeballs usually rolling from mere habit of alertness. Inside the half-open mouth of the blackfish at rest a rhythmic tongue motion is visible. The pectoral fins in a resting fish are thrown out as props against adjacent objects, either a stone or another fish at rest.

A fish resting partly on its side may use the under pectoral as a prop, the upper one being folded flat. A grouper stowed comfortably in a narrow crevice in the rocks comes about as near to a condition of actual rest as it is possible for a breathing fish to effect. It may remain practically without movement for a long time except for the slow action of the tips of the gill covers. The body appears to cling closely to the rocks.

Dec. 10

A red hind at rest turns very pale, the red color disappearing almost entirely; body and fins are pressed closely to the rockwork, the pectoral fins being thrown out at any angle as a prop.

The cony in a resting position has the dorsal fins lowered together. The pectoral fins, as in some other fishes at rest, are sometimes used as a prop against the tank, the fish being without motion except the tip of the gill cover.

A vertical position is often assumed by the red hinds. The color of the fish at rest is nearly always different from that when in motion. The fish may stand in the corner of the tank resting directly on the tail, the tip of which is sharply bent. Very often the movement of the jaws and eyes almost ceases.

In a puffer at rest the fins are closely folded, and the fleshy folds above and below the eyes, which have almost the form of eyelids, cause the eyes to appear closed, or nearly so. In the respiration of the fish there is practically no movement of the jaws, which are carried about half open. The body shows a slight breathing movement in unison with the slow and almost imperceptible movements of the gill covers.

There seems to be little doubt that many of these resting positions indicate sleep.—Letter to the New York World From C. H. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium.

SEES GREAT FUTURE IN N. E. OYSTER BEDS

(Special to the Times).

Washington, D. C., December 10.

The New England oyster industry could be increased from 10 to 30 times its present worth of about \$1,000,000 if proper attention were paid to the scientific collection and cultivation of seed oysters, in the opinion of Dr. P. S. Galtsoff, in charge of the commerce department's oyster fishery investigation, and co-author of "An Experimental Study in Production and Collection of Seed Oysters," just published by the Bureau of Fisheries.

In 1928, the last year for which figures are available, the value of Rhode Island's oyster fishery was placed at \$656,459; that of Massachusetts at \$365,504; that of Connecticut at \$199,174, while New Hampshire and Maine showed no returns. The value of Connecticut's public seed oyster catch was placed at \$57,807, while the private seed oyster catch was estimated to be valued at

\$44,428, and that of Rhode Island's \$40,777.

Egg Crates.

There are many thousands of acres of formerly productive bottoms along the coast of Cape Cod and in Cape Island South which are now practically depleted. Experiments conducted by Dr. Galtsoff's expedition with shell bags and "egg crates," however, show clearly that seed oysters can be collected more successfully commercially, and with better chances for the growth of the oysters than under the old methods used of throwing oyster shells back into the water to which young oysters precariously attached themselves.

Using the shell bags or egg crates, it is entirely possible that Buzzard's Bay in Massachusetts could provide all the seed oysters necessary for the stocking of the whole New England waters. It would not be necessary to buy seed oysters then from distant points, as is the practice now.

Proper conservation of the oysters is absolutely necessary in preserving this valuable source of food supply. Dr. Galtsoff said. Many of the larger firms have now definitely adopted a policy toward conservation.

LOCAL ARRIVALS ARE FEW TODAY

GILL NETTERS AND ONE DRAGGER LANDED ONLY FARES SINCE YESTERDAY.

Arrivals of fresh fish were very light again today, the only receipts since yesterday aside from the hauls of the gill netters, being 1000 pounds landed by a shore dragger. The gill netters yesterday brought in 96,000 pounds of fresh fish, most of which were shipped outside, although a few of the pollock went to split.

Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:
Boat C 1139, dragging, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Mildred Silva, via Boston.
Sch. Henrietta, shore.
Boat Geraldine and Phyllis, via Boston.

Yesterday's Gill Net Receipts.

Boat Enterprise, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Inca, 8000 fresh fish.
Boat Mary A., 12,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Phyllis A., 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Nashawena, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Serafina II., 7000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Liboria C., 5000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Alicia, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Joanna, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Naomi Bruce II., 9000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Lucretia, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Elizabeth and James, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Virginia and Joan, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Ramona, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sailed.

Sch. Irene and Helen, dragging.
Sch. Dacia, shore.
Sch. Ellen T. Marshall, shore.
Sch. Amelia M. Pereira, dragging.
Sch. Governor Al Smith, dragging.

BOSTON PRICES ARE UP AGAIN

HADDOCK ADVANCES TO \$9—RECEIPTS OF 350,000 POUNDS THIS MORNING.

Seventeen vessels made up the fleet arriving at the Boston fish pier this morning. They brought to market 280,000 pounds of groundfish and 82,000 pounds of mixed fish. All varieties were in demand and the trend was upward on all prices. Haddock sold at \$8 to \$9; large cod, \$8 to \$12; and markets, \$5 to \$7.

By rail came 123 boxes of fresh fish from Nebosia, Ill.; 1018 boxes of frozen smelts from Canada and a carload of frozen mackerel from Wiscasset, Me.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:
Str. Fabia, 46,000 haddock, 1200 cod, 11,000 mixed fish.
Str. Notre Dame, 37,000 haddock, 15,000 cod, 8000 mixed fish.
Boat New Bedford, 11,000 haddock, 17,000 mixed fish.
Sch. Ruth Lucille, 29,000 haddock, 700 mixed fish.
Boat Marisstella, 21,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 4500 mixed fish.
Boat Rainbow, 45,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 4500 mixed fish.
Sch. Vasco da Gama, 30,000 haddock.
Sch. Beauty St. Joseph, 11,000 haddock.
Sch. Natalie S., 2000 haddock, 600 cod, 300 hake, 500 pollock.
Sch. Eleanor Nickerson, 17,000 haddock, 7500 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 cusk.
Boat Olympia, 200 haddock, 1100 cod, 10,000 mixed fish.
Boat Charles Fauci, 2200 haddock, 500 cod, 1000 mixed fish.
Boat Maria D. S., 200 haddock, 1000 cod, 4900 mixed fish.
Boat Automatic, 600 cod, 3500 mixed fish.
Boat Alphonso, 700 cod, 3800 mixed fish.
Boat Lawrence Scola, 3000 mixed fish.
Boat Isabel, 10,000 mixed fish.
Haddock, \$8 to \$9 per cwt.; large cod, \$8 to \$12; market cod, \$5 to \$7; hake, \$3 to \$5; pollock, \$1.50; cusk, \$3; gray sole, 6 cents to 9 cents; lemon sole, 7 cents; black backs, 5 cents; yellow tails, 5 cents; dabs, 4 cents; sharks, 6 1-2 cents; catfish, 5 cents.

NEW DRAGGER READY TO SAIL

The new dragger, America, Capt. Gilbert Lafford, has been practically fitted for fishing, and will probably sail on her maiden trip the latter part of this week.

FARM DELEGATES SEE FISH TRAPS UNLOADED.

Business at the Boston Fish Pier yesterday during the morning hours was carried out in the presence of nearly 250 delegates of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which is now holding its annual sessions in Boston. Small groups of men and women, many of them from inland states, who have never been near the salt water before, wandered about the pier, watching the fleet unload their fares of fish and visiting the Exchange to see how business is transacted.

Our Fishing Problems.

Says the Lunenburg Progress Enterprise editorially:

The reports of fish movements and prices from the outside markets continue to be bad and show to an increasing degree the depression that is world wide and that has especially affected the countries where Lunenburg salt fish usually find a market. So that as the end of the year approaches when settlements are made and results recorded, our men and owners face the settlement period with the knowledge that the year will be what is usually called a failure in the banking fleet. We know the men will have very little to show for their summer's work and the vessels will have deficits that will be a liability against the future.

The mercantile activities of the port are fortunately, this year, not completely tied up in salt fishing. Winter and fresh fishing employ a large number of men and it is more of a cash business and not so speculative. But bank fishing is, after all the backbone, so to speak, in Lunenburg. It is the foundation industry and our business conditions are still determined by the success or failure of the fleet.

Now, we are aware that conditions are bad throughout the world. Overproduction and low prices prevail for food products as is also the case in manufacturing industries and Lunenburg is as well situated or perhaps better than most places. But we must face conditions and try to preserve our fishing business for the future and the only way to help it out just now is by lowering the cost of production. Outfits no doubt will be cheaper next year and this will help.

Insurance and compensation are bills that take a big toll of the returns and something should be done. Six hundred dollars a vessel is not in accordance with the hazard experience of the last few years and the compensation law has been so changed that owners and men are at a disadvantage. This should be carefully looked into by the government. It is a time when drastic measures are being used to stabilize and help industry throughout Canada. Where is the fishermen's share?

For the first time we have a fishermen's strike in Nova Scotia. They are a class that eke out an existence especially in the outports and you hear very few complaints. They get very little attention from any government. Fishing is a primary industry, almost a deciding factor in the progress of the province. It means life to Lunenburg and the next few months is the time for preparation to make a good start in the spring. It's too late when spring comes. Now, is the time to prepare and decide the problems that will mean much for the future.