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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FISHING WITH A THERMOMETER

It is said that Sir Francis Chantry, a sculptor who was fond of fishing, always carried a thermometer with him and forecast his probable luck from the relative temperatures of air and water. It appears that warm water and cool air furnish the best combination for catching fish that feed on flies. Warm water keeps the fish active; cool air makes the insects scarce. When the natural food supply is scanty, the bait becomes especially attractive. The warmest water and the coolest air come the first cool, cloudy day after a warm sunny period.

For other reasons, the herring fisheries near the British Isles are interested in the changing surface temperatures of the sea. The herring are said to vary in abundance according to "the strength and direction of the warm currents which bring their food supply." The importance of sea temperatures in fisheries in our north-eastern waters is becoming more and more recognized. In fact, during the past 15 years extensive observations of sea temperatures have been made in relation to the distribution of the different species of fish and other marine life.

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