

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
November 1, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 25, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

FISH AND WEATHER

Many traditions, some wholly fanciful and others containing a grain of truth, connect the behavior of fish and other aquatic creatures with the weather. In Brittany the notion prevails that three days before stormy weather fish quickly take the bait, but on a day when a change of the weather is to take place they will not come near the lines. The French also say that when large fish swim at the surface of the water it is a sign of wind, and that dolphins are especially lively when a storm is at hand.

In France, Scotland and Germany, according to Dr. A.S. Rappoport, it is believed that porpoises always swim toward the wind, going out to meet it. The same notion is mentioned by Bernardin de St. Pierre. Whalers tell us that the whale is agitated and jumps high before a storm; the higher it jumps, the stronger will be the wind.

When conches cling to the rocks and when crabs seize stones or go down deeply into the sand it is said to be a sign of rain and wind.

While the value of fish as weather indicators is highly problematical, and many ideas on the subject are mere superstitions, we have, on the other hand, much practical information concerning the effects of weather on fishing. The experience of about a hundred intelligent British anglers in this connection is digested in a unique book by G.F. Alflalo entitled "Fishermen's Weather," published in London in 1906.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.