

C.S.

CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY [flag illustration]

REPORT.

OF THE

ICHTHYOLOGICAL.

DEPARTMENT.

1880.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Mount Desert Island Historical Society

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Date: November 1, 1880

Description: Champlain Society Report of the Ichthyological Department

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R EPORT
O F T H E

I CHTHYOLOGICAL
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C AMBRIDGE
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CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY

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DEPARTMENT.

Cambridge
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To the President of the Champlain Society:

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to submit here—
with the Report of the Ichthyolog-
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Society for the Summer of 1880

Respectfully yours

Edward L. Rand.

Sup. Ichth. Depart.

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In the carp family - cyprinidae - I feel that my list is very deficient. I know of several additional species that, though they exist on the island, I have not put down because they require a careful study that I was unable to give them during the summer of 1880. In the same way I have omitted several salt water fish that I had no opportunity of studying.

There are a great many fish on the island, especially in its numerous ponds and lakes that have never been subjected to scientific analysis, or scientifically identified. There is, for example, a small fish in Eagle Lake that is called by the local name of fresh water smelt. This fish seems to inhabit the deep waters of the Lake, and furnishes food to the larger trout in such plenty that the trout very rarely take any kind of bait. Whether this fish is identical

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with the smelt of Jamaica Pond is an interesting question. There are also fishes of the carp family in Bubble Pond, Duck Brook, and elsewhere that are only known by the loose names of chub and shiner. These fish as well as the salt and fresh water minnows I have had no time to identify.

I should like here to express my thanks to Messrs. deWindt, Townsend, Slade, and Thaxter for the aid they have given me in collecting specimens.

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The scientific names used in this list are, unless otherwise specified, in conformity with those used by D. H. Storer in his "Fishes of Mass."

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List of Fishes

Class I Osseous Fishes

Order I Acanthopterygii (spine-rayed)

Percidae

Labrax rufus - - - - White perch
Pomotis vulgaris - - - - Bream
Grystes nigricans (Ag) *Centrarchus Fasciatus*
(Dek) - - - - - Black bass.

Triglididae

Acanthocottus variabilis - - Greenland sculpin
Acanthocottus Virginianus - - Common "
Hemitripterus Acadianus - - Deep water "

Scombridae

Scomber vernalis - - - Mackerel
Thynnus secundo-dorsalis - - Horse mackerel
Temnodon saltator - - Blue fish

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Gobidae

Gunnellus Mucronatus Butter fish
Anarrhicas Vomerinus vel lupus Wolf fish

Lophidae

Lophius Americanus American angler, monk
or goose fish.

Labridae

Ctenolabrus ceruleus Cunner, conner, sea-
perch

Order II

Malacopterygii (soft rayed)

Cyprinidae

Catostomus Bostoniensis - Sucker

Salmonidae.

Salmo fontinalis Brook trout
Osmerus viridescens Smelt.

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Clupeidae

Clupea elongata Herring
Alosa menhaden Pogy, pogy, menhaden.

Gadidae.

Morrhua Americana Cod
Morrhua Pruinosa Tom cod
Morrhua Aeglefinus Haddock
Merlangus Purpureus Pollock, pollack
Phycis Americanus White hake.

Planidae

Hippoglossus vulgaris Halibut
Platessa plana Flounder
Platessa glabra American plaice

Cyclopteridae

Lumpus Anglorum Lump fish.

Anguillidae

Anguilla Bostoniensis common eel.

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(Cartilaginous fishes.)

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Squalidae

Lamna punctata Mackerel shark.
Acanthias Americanus Dog fish.

Raiidae

Raia laevis Skate.

No. of species found = 31

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III Percidae - *Grystes nigricans* (Ag.) Black bass
This excellent game fish has been introduced into the Pond of Witch Hollow near the mouth of Duck Brook. One weighing over a pound was caught there in 1879.

+ IV Triglidae - *Acanthocottus variabilis* - Greenland sculpin. Often caught in the deep water of the bays, and outside of the southern islands.

+ V Triglidae. *Acanthocottus Virginianus*. Common sculpin. Common in salt water everywhere.

+ VI Triglidae *Hemitripterus Acadianus* - Deep water sculpin. Quite common in deep water; sometimes taken near the shore.

+ VII Scombridae *Scomber vernalis* - Mackerel. I have followed Storer in assuming that *Scomber vernalis* and *Scomber grex* are one and the same fish. Common on W. and S. shores, rarer on E. shore; at times very plentiful everywhere round the Island. Very plentiful round Mt. Desert Rock.

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+ IX Scombridae, *Temnodon saltator* - Bluefish. A very rare fish in these waters. I have seen fish taken in herring nets in Frenchman's Bay.

+ X Gobidae, *Gunnellus mucronatus* - Butterfish. A common fish. It is found beneath stones and sea weed near dead low water mark. I have often seen these fish swimming round the wharves.

+ XI Gobidae, *Anarrhicas vomerinus* vel *lupus* - Wolf fish. A ferocious fish - the terror of fishermen. Caught on the cod and haddock grounds. I have seen one taken off the steamboat wharf at Bar Harbor.

+ XII Lophidae, *Lophius Americanus* - American angler, monk, or goosefish. This ugly and stupid fish is not very common in these waters. Often they are caught in the herring weirs; I have heard of several that were taken in the Bar Island weir.

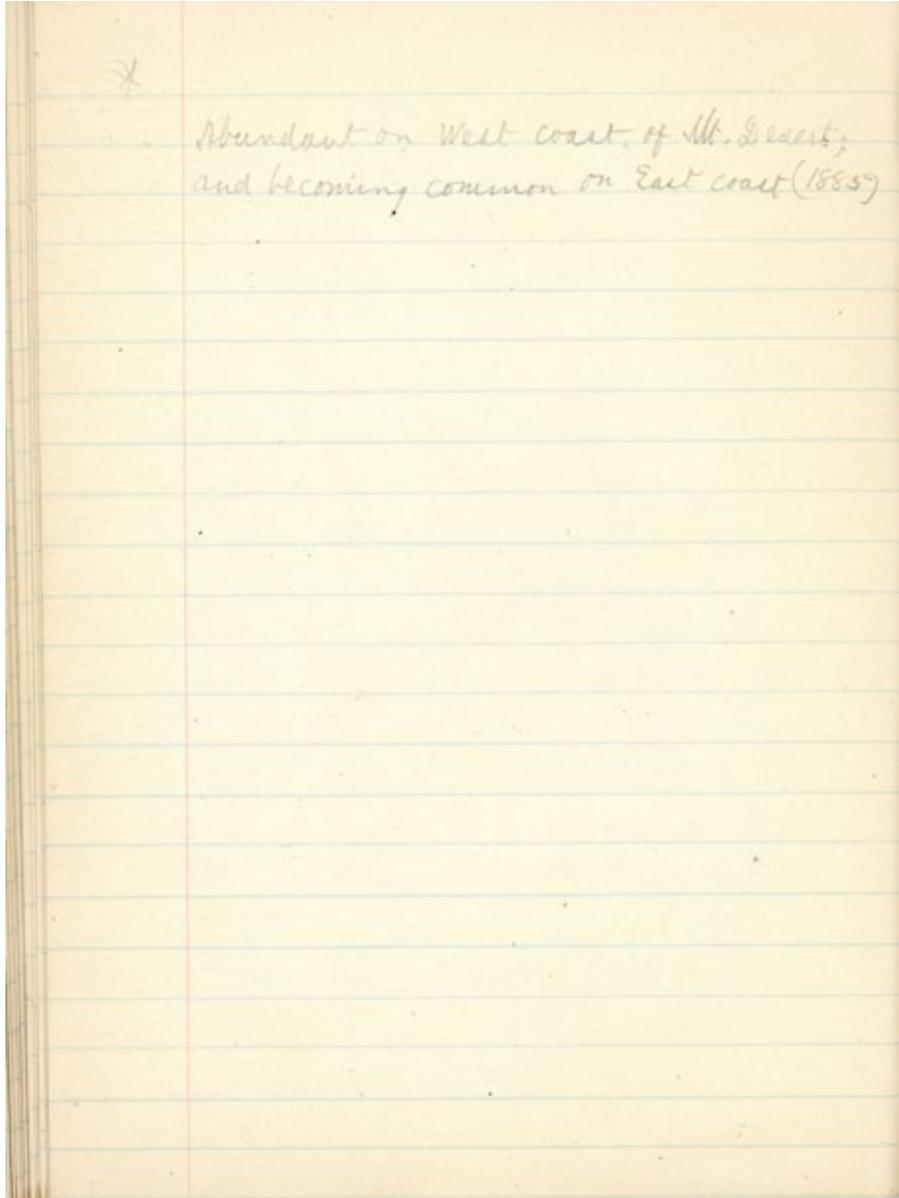
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x

Abundant on West coast of Mt. Desert,
And becoming common on East coast (1885)

*
+ VIII Labridae ctenolabrus ceruleus - Cunner, sea perch
A rare fish in Mt. Desert waters. I have seen several
taken off the wharves at Bar Harbor, weighing
between one and two pounds. I never saw or
heard of one smaller than one pound.

XIV Cyprinidae. Catostomus Bostoniense -
Sucker. This fish appears to be abundant in the
neighborhood of Somerville.

XV Salmonidae. Salmo fontinalis - Brook trout.
Formerly abundant in all the brooks and
ponds of the Island, but within the last ten
years this beautiful fish has been nearly extermin-
ated by reckless fishermen. Though I
cannot prove it as yet I have assumed
that the trout of the Lakes are all varieties
of brook trout; they certainly do not resemble
any species that I have seen catalogued,
and if not brook trout, must be a new species.
The trout in Bubble and Jordan's Ponds are
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weight - one pound. Trout have been caught
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- + XVI Salmonidae, *Osmerus viridescens* - Smelt.
This beautiful little fish is very plentiful in these waters. In the Fall great numbers are caught in the mouths of the brooks and inlets. Owing to the low temperature of the water they are also caught during the whole Summer though only in small numbers.
- + XVII Clupeidae, *Clupea elongata* - Herring.
A very common fish. The herring fishery is one of the important industries of the Island. Of late years, however, the fish have diminished in numbers, owing to the wanton destruction of the young fish.
- + XVIII Clupeidae, *Alosa menhaden* - Pogy, menhaden.
This valuable fish is a variable visitor in these waters as elsewhere along the coast. Its oil has been extracted on this Island long before the wholesale fishery by steamboats was dreamt of. Of late years the visits of this fish have become more variable than ever.

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+ XIX Gadidae. *Morrhua Americana* - Cod.

This well known fish is found in company with the haddock on the fishing grounds of Mt. Desert. The cod caught are generally small, but large ones are sometimes taken. The largest one that I have seen taken here weighed nearly 50 lbs. The red variety known as rock cod is not very common.

+ XX Gadidae. *Morrhua Pruinosa* - Tomcod, or frost fish. This fish is caught in great numbers during the Winter by fishing through the ice. It is also caught at times during the Summer in the shallow water of the coves and inlets.

+ XXI Gadidae. *Morrhua aeglefinus* - Haddock. A very common fish of the deeper water. It is much more abundant than the cod - the proportion being about 6 to 1.

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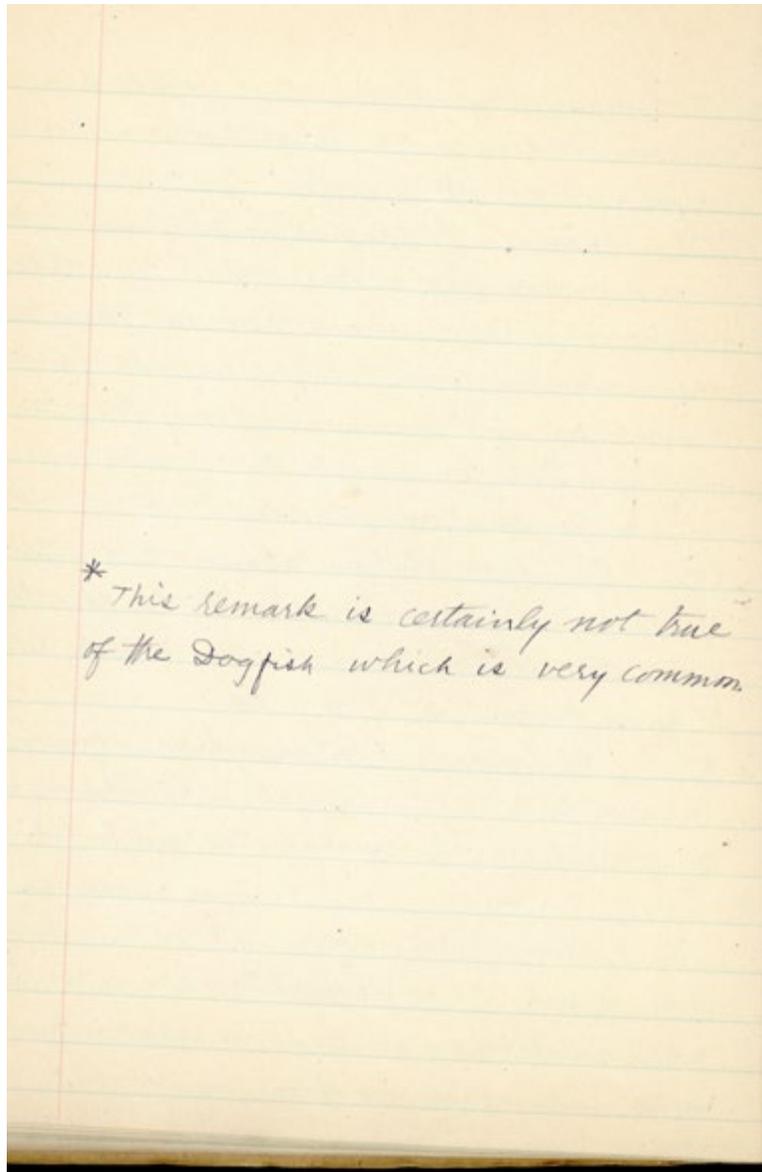
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- + XXIII Gadidae. *Phycis Americanus* - White hake.
Common in deep water. Caught by handlines at night and by set trawls.
- + XXIV Planidae. *Hippoglossus vulgaris* - Halibut.
An uncommon fish in these waters. Very seldom caught on inshore fishing grounds. I have taken one weighing seven to eight pounds off the Thumbcap in Frenchman's Bay. They are more commonly taken off Otter Creek, and outside the southern islands.
- + XXV Planidae. *Platessa plana* - Flounder.
This is a very common fish in the shallow water all round the Island. It never seems to grow larger than 1½ to 2 lbs.
- + XXVI Planidae. *Platessa glabra* - American plaice.
A rarer fish. Often caught in company with the flounder as it inhabits the same localities.
- + XXVII Cyclopteridae. *Lumpus Anglorum* - Lumpfish.
This curious fish is abundant in the waters of Mt. Desert. It is frequently seen, especially when small, swimming very near the surface of the water. It is also often found attached

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*This remark is certainly not true of the Dogfish which is very common.

to seaweed. Common weight from three to twelve pounds. It is not often taken with the hook.

XXVIII Anguillidae. *Anguilla Bostoniensis* - eel.

Eels abound in most of the ponds of the Island; I have also seen them in some of the larger brooks. I have seen eels weighing as much as four or five pounds taken in Eagle Lake; the eels in Bubble and Jordan's Ponds average about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb.

- + XXIX { Squalidae. *Lamna punctata* - Mackerel shark
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* I am inclined to think that both these sharks are rare in these waters. The dogfish that I saw was taken in the weir at Bar Island; the mackerel shark I only heard of from old fishermen who said that they had taken them on lines. However this may be, both species are uncommon.

- + XXXI Raiidae - *Raia laevis*. Skate

This ugly fish is common in the deep water, but often comes into shallow water in search of food. It is frequently caught by fishermen when fishing for cod, and is a great nuisance to them.

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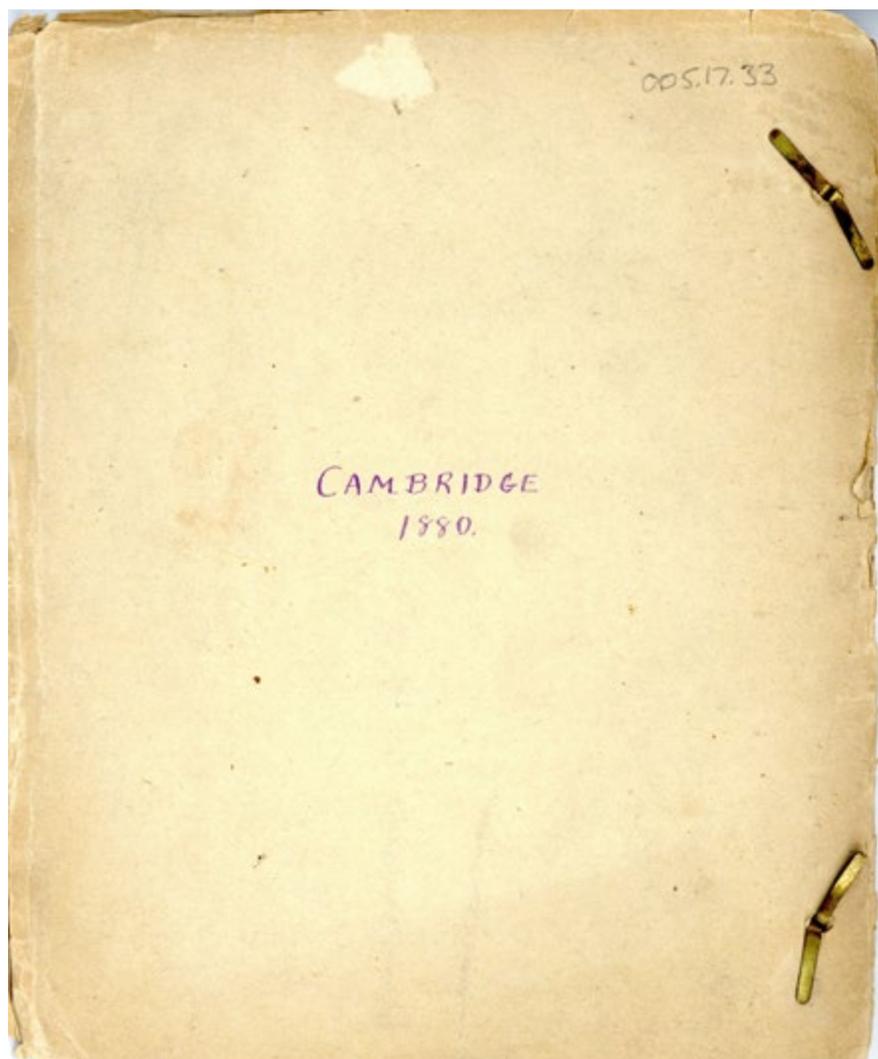
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