PART VIII.

PENNSYLVANIA AND ITS FISHERIES.

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ANALYSIS.

A.—General Review of the Fishery Interests of the State:
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PART VIII.

PENNSYLVANIA AND ITS FISHERIES.

A.—GENERAL REVIEW OF THE FISHERY INTERESTS OF THE STATE.

147. STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION.

THE VARIOUS FISHERY INTERESTS.—Pennsylvania, though consuming large quantities of fishery products, has no important fishing grounds within its borders. The principal business connected with the fisheries is the oyster industry, for, though no oysters are produced in the waters of the State, a large number of persons are engaged in transporting oysters from the southern beds to Philadelphia, and others make a business of receiving, shelling, and packing them for shipment. From this industry $187,500 is realized by the residents of the State. The sea fisheries are confined to the capture of sea-bass and other species by a fleet of eight vessels, that make occasional trips to the fishing grounds off Cape Henlopen during the summer months. Shad, sturgeon, and other less important species are taken in small quantities in the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, and lake fish of different species are caught along the coast-line bordering Lake Erie.

STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION FOR 1880.—The following statements show the extent of the fishing interests of the State:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	511
Shoremen	41
Total	552

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels ($21.99 tons)	11	$10,500
Boats	156	13,272
Fykes, pots, and baskets	2,167	4,334
Gill-nets	4,792	23,244
Drag-seines	42	8,260
Minor apparatus, including outfit	.....	4,700
Factories and other shore property	.....	52,500
Additional cash capital	.....	3,000
Total capital	.....	119,891

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Grand total for fishery products	2,933,000	$320,050
Sea fisheries.		
Blue fish	30,000	675
Oysters		187,500
Squeteague	15,000	450
All other species	555,000	34,875
Total sea products	600,000	223,500
River fisheries.		
Shad	559,600	27,980
Sturgeon	150,000	7,500
All other species	370,400	17,620
Total river products	1,080,000	53,100
Great Lake fisheries.		
Whitefish	975,000	35,150
All other species	278,000	8,300
Total lake products	1,253,000	43,450

B.—DESCRIPTION OF THE SALT-WATER FISHERIES.

148. EXTENT OF THE SALT-WATER FISHERY INTERESTS.

THE SEA FISHERY OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.—The State of Pennsylvania, though bordered in different portions by navigable waters, has no salt or brackish water within its limits. Its northwestern portion, washed by the waters of Lake Erie, has extensive fisheries for whitefish, trout, and other fresh-water species. A description of the fishing interests of that section will be found in Part XVII, D. The eastern boundary of the State is formed by the fresh water of the Delaware River, in which there are extensive shad and alewife fisheries, while other river species are taken to a greater or less extent.

THE SEA BASS FISHERY BY PHILADELPHIA VESSELS.—At Philadelphia, where the demand for marine species is large, a number of parties own small vessels, ranging from 25 to 50 tons each, for the purpose of engaging in the sea fisheries in the vicinity of the Delaware capes. These vessels fish during the summer only. At this season they make regular trips between Philadelphia and the small fishing bank lying 15 to 20 miles southeast of Cape Henlopen. The catch is composed almost exclusively of sea-bass (*S. atrarius*).

According to Mr. Charles Vezey, superintendent of the Delaware Avenue Market, at Philadelphia, to whom we are indebted for information, there are eight vessels, aggregating 280 tons, manned by ninety-seven men, engaged in this fishery. The season begins about the middle of May, and continues until late in October. The fish are taken with hand-lines from the vessel's deck, an average trip consisting of 12,000 to 15,000 pounds. The vessels are provided with ice for preserving the fish until they reach Philadelphia, where they are sold at from 5 to 8 cents per pound, according to the demand. An average trip requires about two weeks during ordinary weather; but whenever violent storms occur, the vessels are obliged to seek shelter behind the Delaware breakwater, where they are often detained for several days. Mr. Vezey estimates that fully 600,000 pounds of fish, netting the fishermen about $36,000, are landed annually by these vessels.

THE PHILADELPHIA OYSTER INDUSTRY.—Philadelphia parties are also extensively interested in the oyster fisheries of Delaware Bay, and many men and much capital are employed in the

that industry; but the vessels engaged are owned chiefly at various points in New Jersey and Delaware, and are, therefore, credited to those States.

STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION FOR 1880.—The following statement shows the extent and value of the limited salt-water fisheries proper of the State, exclusive of the oyster industry:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	97
Shoremen	4
Total	101

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels (279.99 tons)	8	$9,300
Boats	8	240
Minor apparatus including outfit		2,400
Shore property		10,000
Additional cash capital		1,500
Total capital		23,440

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Fish sold fresh	600,000	$36,000