PART IX.

DELAWARE AND ITS FISHERIES.

By JOSEPH W. COLLINS.

ANALYSIS.

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PART IX.

DELAWARE AND ITS FISHERIES.

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

149. DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIOUS FISHERY INTERESTS.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION.—For a proper understanding of the fisheries of Southern Delaware it seems desirable to give a brief sketch of the peculiar features of the coast line.

The State of Delaware, which has an area of 2,100 square miles, includes within its limits the northeast portion of the low peninsula lying between Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River and Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. The northern part of the State is slightly elevated in some localities, but the southern portion is almost a perfect level. This flat section of country is, however, somewhat relieved by a low table-land, or ridge of sand, not exceeding 60 or 70 feet in height, which extends the whole length of the State from north to south near the western boundary. Most of the small rivers which empty into the Delaware Bay, and in which a limited amount of fresh-water fishing is carried on, have their source in the swamps which abound in this table-land.

The entire length of the coast line of Delaware is about 95 miles. In the upper portion of the State, however, that section which is bordered by the Delaware River, there are no sea fisheries. The river fisheries will be described in detail in another section of this report. A brief mention will, however, be made here of the fresh-water fishing carried on in the southern portion of the State in conjunction with the sea fishery.

The most northern point in Delaware at which sea fish are taken in any considerable numbers on the shores of Delaware Bay is at Kitt's Hammock, near Dover, this fishing station being about 25 miles northwest of Cape Henlopen. The stretch of coast lying between Kitt's Hammock and the Cape is low and marshy, with scattered sand beaches or hammocks slightly elevated above the surrounding swamps; from these marshes extensive flats or outlying shoals make out into the waters of the bay.

Beyond Cape Henlopen, on the Atlantic side, the coast line runs nearly south in a straight line to Williamsville, the boundary of the State, a distance of 21 miles. This part of the Delaware coast is composed of low, narrow sand beaches, which inclose shoal bays or lagoons of considerable extent. Rehoboth Bay, which is situated 6 miles south of Cape Henlopen, is a basin of this description, and the largest in the State, being about four miles long in the direction of the shore line and having an average width of 3 miles. Just south of Rehoboth Bay, and connected with it

by a channel, is Indian River Bay, which is 6 miles long east and west and has an average breadth of 1 mile. Both of these bays are connected with the ocean by an inlet through the beach, which has sufficient depth to admit vessels with a draught of 6 feet, and through which large numbers of anadromous fish and a smaller quantity of sea fish find their way to the sheltered waters inside.

Having thus briefly outlined the principal features of the coast, it only remains to be said that the bays lying south of Cape Henlopen and the beaches bordering on Delaware Bay constitute the fishing grounds, where the operations of seining, netting, &c., are carried on, a description of which will be given in succeeding paragraphs.

IMPORTANCE OF THE FISHERIES.—Although the sea fisheries of Delaware suffer by comparison with the great commercial fisheries of the Northeastern States, they are, nevertheless, not without importance, especially if we take into consideration the benefit derived by the inhabitants of the State in being supplied with quantities of wholesome food at a price which is only nominal. In nearly all of the coast towns a portion of the inhabitants engage more or less actively in the fisheries during a part of the year—generally in the spring—though, as a rule, these men are semi-professional, depending chiefly on agricultural pursuits, the latter being the principal occupation of the people of this region.

The oyster-beds of Delaware in 1880 produced 300,000 bushels of native oysters valued at $687,725. There were also planted in the waters of this State 650,000 bushels of oysters from Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere, to be left bedded here until suitable for market. In addition there were 184,500 bushels of oysters received from other States and packed in the cannery at Seaford. Little Creek Landing is the headquarters for the native oyster business. The southern oysters are planted on beds at several places along the shore, but chiefly opposite the villages of Little Creek Landing and Mahon's Ditch, and are raised mostly for the Philadelphia trade, the beds and planting being largely controlled by the dealers of that city. Mr. Ingersoll fully discusses this subject in the census report on the oyster industry. The capital invested in the industry in Delaware is given at $145,500, which includes sixty-five vessels at $50,000; three hundred boats, $12,000; gear and outfit, $10,000; shore property, $73,500. The number of oyster fishermen is 820 and of shoremen 245.

THE FISHERY GROUNDS.—The most important sea fishery is carried on along the shores of Delaware Bay, where the trout (*Cynoscion regale*) and the spot (*Liostomus xanthurus*) are the principal species taken, or at least occur in the greatest abundance. The other species of salt-water fish which frequent the shores of the bay are less plenty, some kinds being quite rare.

SHIPMENTS OF FISH AND SOFT CRABS.—The following statistics of the shipments of fish and soft crabs from some of the railroad stations south of Cape Henlopen may be of interest as giving a general idea of the commercial status of the fisheries in that section of the State of Delaware. The figures here given have been obtained from the books at the different railroad stations through the kindness of the agents in charge. In 1880 the following quantities were shipped: Selbyville, 129,450 pounds of fish; Frankford, 8,260 pounds of fish and 9,125 pounds of crabs; Dagsborough, 9,556 pounds of fish and 29,970 pounds of crabs; Millsborough, 3,707 pounds of fish and 69,220 pounds of crabs.

150. STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION FOR 1880.

STATISTICS FOR 1880.—The following tables show the extent of the commercial fishery interests of Delaware:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	1,662
Shoremen	102
Factory hands	215
Total	1,979

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels (1,226 tons)	69	$51,600
Boats	839	33,227
Fykes, pots, and baskets	1,831	1,831
Gill-nets	1,457	27,793
Drag-seines	245	21,330
Minor apparatus, including outfit for vessels and boats		19,370
Factories and other shore property		105,080
Additional cash capital		8,000
Total		268,231

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds taken.	Value to fishermen.
Grand total	11,918,203	$997,695
Sea fisheries.		
Bluefish	45,800	1,030
Clams (hard)	5,544	347
Clams (soft)		
Cod		
Crabs	84,951	8,389
Lobsters	150	6
Menhaden	*a* 522,900	1,114
Oysters	*b* 2,100,000	*g* 687,725
Squeteague	2,618,500	78,555
All other species	*c* 2,245,108	73,413
Total	7,622,953	850,579
River fisheries.		
Alewives (commonly called herring)	*d* 1,800,000	26,000
Shad	1,050,000	52,500
Sturgeon	*e* 450,000	22,500
All other species	*f* 995,250	46,116
Total	4,295,250	147,116

a Including 23,000 pounds of menhaden, valued at $173, used for food.

b An allowance of 7 pounds of meats is made for each bushel of oysters.

c This quantity includes 596,700 pounds of alewives, 25,000 pounds of croakers, 137,500 pounds of drum, 124,000 pounds of eels, 16,500 pounds of flounders, 3,500 pounds of king-fish, 54,700 pounds of mullet, 326,500 pounds of perch, 1,200 pounds of sea-bass, 5,900 pounds of sheepshead, 649,100 pounds of spot, 147,900 pounds of striped bass, 120,000 pounds of sturgeon, 5,000 pounds of tautog, 30,708 pounds of terrapin, and 900 pounds of mixed fish.

d In addition, 596,700 pounds of alewives, valued at $4,475, were taken by the sea fishermen.

e In addition, 120,000 pounds of sturgeon, valued at $4,500, were taken by the sea fishermen.

f Including 196,200 pounds of catfish, 150,000 pounds of perch, 100,000 pounds of striped bass, 15,300 pounds of turtle, and 533,750 pounds of mixed fish.

g Includes $362,725, the enhancement in value of oysters from other States transplanted or canned in Delaware.

B.—DESCRIPTION OF THE FISHERIES BY TOWNS.

151. DOVER AND ADJACENT TOWNS.

THE FISHERIES OF DOVER.—Dover, the capital of Delaware, is situated on the line of the Delaware Railroad, in Kent County, about six miles from the shore of Delaware Bay. Although a very limited amount of sea fish are occasionally taken higher up the bay, Dover is nevertheless the most northern town in Delaware in which any fishermen are employed in the sea fisheries. Eighty-five men, residents of Dover, are engaged in the fisheries, twenty-five of these being professional fishermen, following this industry whenever any fish can be obtained, while the remainder engage in fishing more irregularly, depending largely for their subsistence on obtaining employment in the large fruit-canning establishments of this section of the country and as laborers on the farms at times when the fisheries are not at their height. The same may be said of the fishermen who reside in the small towns in this part of the State. All of the men engage to a greater or less extent in the sea fisheries, resorting for this purpose to Kitt's Hammock, Bower's Beach, and other favorite fishing stations along the shore of the bay. Some of the men, however, divide their time between fishing for the species taken in the salt water and those which may be caught in the fresh-water streams and ponds in the immediate neighborhood of their homes.

Twenty-one boats valued at $360, twenty gill-nets worth $125, and twelve haul-seines valued at $600, are employed in the fisheries of Dover. The products of the fisheries are 1,346,700 pounds of sea fish and anadromous species, 2,400 pounds of fresh-water fish, 300 terrapin in number, 50,000 clams in number, and 7,200 crabs. The most important fishery is that for trout or weakfish (*Cynoscion regale*); next to which is that for shad, herring, and perch; and third, that for sturgeon. Of the trout 792,000 pounds were estimated by competent authority to have been taken in 1880; 31,500 pounds of shad, 180,000 pounds of herring, 120,000 pounds of perch, and 120,000 pounds of sturgeon were also caught in 1880 by the fishermen of Dover.

For the accommodation of the Dover fishermen who resort to Kitt's Hammock to prosecute their labors in the spring, five rough dwellings or shanties have been constructed, the total value of which is $150.

THE FISHERIES OF LEBANON.—Proceeding in a southeasterly direction from Dover, about 3½ miles, we come to the small hamlet of Lebanon. Bordering this place is Jones' Creek, which also runs near Dover. Lebanon has twenty fishermen, who divide their time between fishing in the creek and in the waters of Delaware Bay. Fifteen boats, valued at $300, and five seines, worth $300, are employed in the fisheries of this place. The boats in use are bateaux, built on the pattern of the sharpy, which is the ordinary type employed by all the fishermen along the shores of the Delaware Bay, their average value being $20 each. Most of the fishing is carried on in Jones' Creek for shad, trout, herring, perch, &c., and here have been built five fish-houses, one at each of the several seining stations, these buildings being valued at the total sum of $150. There are taken in all 168,950 pounds of salt-water and anadromous fish, 2,000 pounds of fresh-water fish, 72 terrapin, 30,000 clams, and 3,600 crabs. A large portion of the catch is sold in Dover and to the farmers of the interior of the State, who often go from 30 to 40 miles to secure fish to supply their wants.

THE FISHERIES OF MAGNOLIA.—Magnolia is another small hamlet, similar to Lebanon, and a little less than 4 miles by the road from the latter, and about the same distance from the fishing

station at Bowers' Beach, on the shore of Delaware Bay. Sixteen men from this place engage in the fisheries, employing themselves both in the capture of salt and fresh water species at various seasons of the year, though the principal part of the work is done in the spring and summer. Magnolia has ten boats, valued at $200, and four seines, valued at $400, employed in the fisheries. The catch, according to the estimates of the most intelligent fishermen of this locality, is 252,500 pounds of sea and anadromous fish, 3,500 pounds of fresh-water fish, 72 terrapin, 30,000 clams, and 3,600 crabs.

152. FREDERICA, MILFORD, AND MILTON.

THE FISHERIES OF FREDERICA.—About 5 miles directly south of Magnolia is the village of Frederica, having between 700 and 800 inhabitants, while the town includes within its limits between 1,400 and 1,500 persons. The village of Frederica is situated on Murderkill Creek, about 7 miles from its mouth, where it empties into the Delaware Bay, on the south side of Bowers' Beach, which lies between this and Jones' Creek. Bowers' Beach, one of the principal fishing stations of Delaware Bay, and having a small resident population, is within the limits of Frederica, and its fisheries, fishermen, &c., will be considered in this connection.

Frederica has seventy-two men employed in the fisheries, to a greater or less extent. Sixty-two of these are engaged principally in the spring, thirteen of them fishing wholly in Murderkill Creek for fresh-water or anadromous species, while the other fishermen depend chiefly on catching such species as may be taken in the waters of the bay, though occasionally they may resort to the streams to fish when a favorable opportunity offers. Many of the fishermen of this section depend largely on agricultural pursuits for their livelihood, changing from fishing to farming and *vice versa*, as the prospect of making money in one pursuit exceeds that of the other. There are twelve peddlers at Frederica, who make a business of hawking fish about the villages and farming districts within a radius of 20 or 30 miles. They buy their stock from the fishermen at Bowers' Beach. According to Mr. James Wyatt, a resident of Bowers' Beach, many of the fishermen of this place are employed in catching oysters during the winter.

There are three fishing stations on Murderkill Creek where shad, herring, and other species are taken with seines, and at each of these places is a small shanty for the accommodation of the fishermen and the reception of their catch and fishing apparatus. The total value of these buildings is $90. Five small buildings have also been erected at Bowers' Beach for the same purpose, the total value of these being $150.

The residents of Frederica, as well as those of the adjacent small settlements, resort to Bowers' Beach in the spring and engage in the trout fisheries, capturing at the same time a greater or less amount of other species.

In the fisheries of Frederica are employed forty boats, valued at $800; twenty-nine gill-nets, valued at $89; fourteen haul-seines, valued at $1,315; and seven bow-nets, worth $7.

The products of the fisheries are 1,170,750 pounds of sea fish and anadromous species, 11,950 pounds of fresh-water fish, 1,000 pounds of turtle, 120 terrapin in number, and 6,000 crabs. In addition, about 600,000 pounds of horseshoe crabs for fertilizing purposes are taken by the fishermen of Frederica and the adjacent towns along the shores of Delaware Bay, between Kitt's Hammock and Lewes, an important part of the capture being made by the residents of this town.

Like Dover, the most important fishery of Frederica is for trout (*Cynoscion regale*). The quantity taken by the fishermen of this town is 1,097,250 pounds of this particular species, exceeding that of the catch of any other locality in the State. Next to the trout fishery in importance

comes that for the spot (*Liostomus xanthurus*), of which 25,000 pounds are estimated to have been taken in 1880.

MILFORD.—Milford, which is pleasantly situated on the line of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad where it crosses the Mispillion Creek, some 8 miles from its mouth in a direct line, is the next town south of Frederica, from which it is distant about 8 miles. The village proper has a population of about 3,000, though this enumeration would be considerably increased by including the residents scattered around in the farming districts in the immediate vicinity. According to Mr. J. Lowery, of this place, the principal business is ship-building and agricultural pursuits. On the banks of the Mispillion, in front of the village, are seven or eight ship-yards, while in the town are two foundries, a basket factory, and factories for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Some of the inhabitants are also engaged in the coasting-trade, fifteen or twenty vessels of this class sailing from the port.

Milford has one hundred and fifty-seven men employed in the fisheries for a portion of the year. A considerable percentage of these, however, follow fishing only in the spring and early summer, depending on other pursuits the rest of the year. Fifty-five of these men fish only for fresh-water species, while the remainder depend chiefly on catching sea fish, though they may sometimes engage in the capture of fish in the small streams which flow through the township.

Milford has employed in its fisheries fifty boats, worth $665; twenty-five gill-nets, worth $125; seventy-five haul-seines, valued at $1,700; also twelve buildings, worth $240, the latter being small roughly-constructed shanties such as have been previously described for the towns further up the bay. In addition to the fishermen employed in catching fish there are six peddlers who make a specialty of buying their stock from the fishermen and hawking it about through the adjacent towns.

There are about seventy-five men in Milford who engage in the shad and herring fisheries in the spring, using gill-nets and seines. There are six shad "fisheries" on the Mispillion River, all of which are below Milford. At these places shad and herring are taken with haul-seines. The principal fishing ground on the bay for the people of this township is Slaughter Beach, though a few of the men occasionally resort to other fishing stations further up the bay.

The products of the fisheries of Milford are 435,000 pounds of sea and anadromous fish, 22,000 pounds of fresh-water fish, 3,600 terrapin, and 6,000 crabs.

The most important fishery of Milford is that for sea-trout, of which 305,000 pounds are estimated to have been taken in 1880. Next to this comes the shad fishery, of which about 40,000 pounds were caught the same year. A large portion of the fish taken in this locality are sold at the village or to residents of the interior towns, many of whom, during the fishing season, go to the sea-shore to obtain a supply of fish which they salt for their own use.

MILTON.—Passing by the small and unimportant way stations of Lincoln and Ellendale, on the line of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, we come to the village of Milton, some 12 or 14 miles in a southeasterly direction from Milford, and the next point of interest in connection with the fisheries. The village of Milton has between 1,000 and 1,100 inhabitants. The principal industries of the place are ship-building, the pine wood trade, and farming; the fishing and oyster industries being of a secondary importance. Milton is situated on Broadkill Creek, about 7 miles in a direct line from its mouth, where it empties into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. This stream, though comparatively narrow, is nevertheless navigable to the village of Milton. In the spring and early summer, as well as to a greater or less extent in the winter, the fisheries are carried on throughout almost its entire length. Some 5 miles below Milton, and situated on the right bank of the creek, is the post-office station of Drawbridge, which is also

included in the same township as Milton. This latter place has a scattered population of one hundred and fifty persons, principally engaged in farming and fishing. There is also quite a business done at the "bridge" in shipping grain and wood on coasting vessels coming here to load. The fisheries of Drawbridge and its statistics will be included with those of Milton.

Milton has fifty-eight men employed more or less regularly in the fisheries; eighteen of these making a specialty of fishing for fresh-water species, not being employed at all in catching sea fish. There are eighteen boats, worth $160; sixty-five gill-nets, valued at $505; eleven haul-seines, worth $265; and two bow-nets, worth $4, employed in the fisheries of Milton, which has also twelve small rough board shanties for the accommodation of the fishermen, these being valued at $310.

The products of the fisheries are 162,050 pounds of anadromous and sea fish, 3,200 pounds of fresh-water fish, and 240 terrapin. By far the most important fishery of this place is that for spot (*Liostomus xanthurus*), of which it is estimated about 80,000 pounds were taken in 1880. Next to this, in quantity, is the fishery for trout (*Cynoscion regale*), of which 47,250 pounds were caught in 1880. The remainder of the fish taken are divided among the various species of fresh and salt-water species which visit this region.

153. LEWES AND ITS FISHERMEN.

LEWES.—The village of Lewes is situated at the terminus of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, about 3 miles above Cape Henlopen, and some 10 or 12 miles by the road from Milton. According to the postmaster, D. W. Brereton, esq., the village of Lewes has a population of 1,800. The inhabitants are engaged in a great variety of pursuits, among which may be mentioned as the most important, piloting, following the sea, wrecking, railroading, and Government work.

The fisheries of the place are also of considerable local importance. The principal fishing ground of Lewes is along the beach in front of the village, above Cape Henlopen, where, in their season, large quantities of the various species of sea fish are taken. The fresh-water fisheries of this place are comparatively unimportant, being confined principally to the capture of a limited amount of such species as may be taken in ponds and small streams.

Lewes has eighty fishermen, of whom twenty-five depend wholly on the fisheries, while the remainder, though procuring the chief part of their subsistence by fishing, also engage in other industries more or less regularly during a portion of the year. Besides the fishermen, who peddle their catch to a greater or less extent, there are six peddlers who make a specialty of hawking fish about this and adjacent towns, procuring their goods from the fishermen on the beach.

Employed in the fisheries of this place are twenty boats, valued at $350; two hundred and ninety-two gill-nets, worth $3,294; thirteen haul-seines, worth $395; and fifty eel-pots, valued at $25; besides which there are two small boat-houses, worth $30 each. About half of the boats used at Lewes differ somewhat from those employed by the fishermen of the towns further up the bay, some of them being of the type known as the Delaware Bay shad-boat, and others the New Jersey surf-boat, both of which are described in another section of this report.

The products of the fisheries of Lewes are 609,550 pounds of sea and anadromous fish and 1,500 pounds of fresh-water fish; 4,000 pounds of turtle; 1,500 terrapin, in number; 31,980 crabs; 100 lobsters, and a few hundred clams.

The most important fishery is that for spot, of which 311,000 pounds are estimated by competent authority to have been caught in 1880. Second to this is the fishery for trout, of which 250,000 pounds were taken in the above-named year. Comparatively speaking, the other fisheries are unimportant. This region seems to be the southern limit where lobsters are taken by the fish-

ermen, and even here there is no real fishery for them. If a man desires to obtain a few lobsters for his own table he can usually do this by setting a trap about the breakwater, and occasionally one or more of these crustaceans are hauled ashore in the drag-seines and gill-nets. Capt. W. M. Fowler, of Lewes, says that about 1873 a pound was built for the capture of the Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) just below where the wooden pier now stands. This, however, did not prove a success, for though large quantities of other fish were taken, but few Spanish mackerel were caught, and after being kept up for about two seasons the net was removed and no pounds have since been constructed in this locality.

154. THE FISHING TOWNS SOUTH OF CAPE HENLOPEN.

REHOBOTH BEACH.—Rehoboth Beach, 6½ miles distant from Lewes in a southeasterly direction, is a small watering-place facing the Atlantic Ocean on the one side and Rehoboth Bay on the other. Here have been constructed about twenty-five cottages and two hotels for the accommodation of summer residents, many of whom come to this place to attend camp-meeting as well as to be benefited by the ocean breezes. The resident population is about sixty, all of whom depend mainly on farming and mechanical pursuits, as well as upon catering to the wants of the summer residents. There is, properly speaking, no fishing carried on by the men of this place, though occasionally the fishermen of Lewes resort to this locality to fish in the waters of Rehoboth Bay. The statistics, therefore, of the catch, as well as of the men and apparatus employed, have been incorporated with those of Lewes.

ANGOLA.—The next town south of Lewes, at which any fisheries are carried on, is Angola, situated on the west side of Rehoboth Bay, and having a scattered population of about 500. It is about 9 miles distant in a southerly direction from Lewes, lying nearly midway between the latter town and Millsbourough, on Indian River. The principal occupation of the people is farming, though a considerable number of the men engage in fishing during the spring and winter months, following their agricultural pursuits at other times. There are fifty-five men in this town employed in the fisheries, two of whom depend wholly upon this industry for a livelihood. The apparatus includes sixteen boats, valued at $320; eight gill-nets, worth $40; fourteen haul-seines, worth $420; and one hundred and twenty eel-pots, valued at $60.

The fisheries are carried on in the waters of Rehoboth Bay and the streams which empty into it. The products of this fishery are 135,300 pounds of anadromous and sea fish, 3,000 pounds of fresh-water fish, 108 terrapin, and 4,992 crabs. The most important fishery in regard to the amount of fish taken is that for herring, of which 50,000 pounds were caught in 1880, but in point of value this is exceeded both by the fishery for rock and perch, of each of which it is estimated 28,000 pounds were taken in the same year. A portion of this catch is shipped by rail to Philadelphia and other markets. A large percentage of the fish taken are consumed locally or sold to farmers from the interior towns.

MILLSBOROUGH.—The village of Millsborough, situated on Indian River, is 8 or 10 miles distant in a southwesterly direction from Angola, and has a population of about 300. As a rule people depend largely on agricultural pursuits; though, owing to the fact of the railroad passing through this village, and its convenience to the excellent fishing grounds of Indian River and Bay, it is a center of a considerable fishery, the most important to be found in the State south of Cape Henlopen. There are one hundred and eighty-eight fishermen employed here, ten of them depending wholly on the fisheries for a livelihood, while the remainder divide their time between fishing and farming. An important feature of this place is the number of people employed in the summer season in catching soft crabs, which are shipped to the markets of New York and Phila-

delphia. The skiffs employed in this fishery are constructed especially for the purpose, and are described under the head of apparatus as the Delaware crab-skiff; these are let out to the fishermen, many of whom are boys, who sell their catch to the owners of the skiffs for a stated sum. There are employed in the fisheries here two hundred and twenty-two boats, valued at $776; twenty gill-nets, worth $100; twenty-two haul-seines, worth $660; and three hundred eel-pots, valued at $150.

The products of the fisheries are 397,300 pounds of anadromous and sea fish, 111,500 pounds of fresh-water fish, 500 pounds of turtle, 1,200 terrapin in number, 50,000 clams, and 180,000 crabs. The most important fishery in the matter of quantity is that for herring or alewives, of which, in the spring of 1880, it was estimated 105,000 pounds were caught. Some 70,000 pounds of menhaden are taken, about one-sixth of which are sold for food, and the remainder used as a fertilizer. The fishery for soft crabs, which is of considerable importance, as has been mentioned above, began about 1873, when two men, belonging at Long Branch, New Jersey, came to this section and engaged in the business. Since that time, however, this industry has been followed by the residents of the place, the more enterprising of whom have had a large number of boats built for this purpose, which they furnish to men employed to fish for them, buying the catch at the rate of 12 cents a dozen.

DAGSBOROUGH.—The little village of Dagsborough, with a population of about 200, is situated on the line of the Breakwater and Frankford Railroad, some 4½ miles in a southwesterly direction from Millsborough. The residents of this place depend mainly on agricultural pursuits, though in the spring, summer, and autumn they engage more or less regularly in the fisheries. There are employed in this pursuit forty-two fishermen; twenty-eight boats, valued at $130; ten gill-nets, worth $50, and eight haul-seines, valued at $240. A portion of the boats, like those used at Millsborough, though in a far less degree, are used in the capture of soft crabs in their season; the greater part, however, are built on the style of the ordinary batteau, and are used in the various branches of the fisheries, including seining and gill-netting. The fishing grounds resorted to are Indian River and Bay, where essentially the same species are taken as are caught by the residents of Millsborough.

The products of the fisheries are 71,100 pounds of sea fish and anadromous species, 13,700 pounds of fresh-water fish, 100 pounds of turtle, 204 terrapin, 15,000 clams, and 78,000 crabs.

FRANKFORD.—Three miles south of Dagsborough is the village of Frankford, on the line of the Breakwater and Frankford Railroad. This place, though having no fisheries, may be mentioned from the fact that a quantity of the products of the fisheries are shipped from here. About 8,200 pounds of fish and 9,125 pounds of soft crabs were shipped by rail to Philadelphia and other markets in 1880.

BLACKWATER.—Some 6 miles in an easterly direction from Frankford brings us to the post-office of Blackwater. This place has a scattering population of between 100 and 200, depending chiefly on farming. There are, however, eighteen men here employed in the fisheries; four of them depending wholly on catching fish for a livelihood, while the remainder are employed more or less regularly as fishermen, chiefly in the spring. These fishermen make use of twenty-two boats, worth $110; forty gill-nets, worth $200, and two haul-seines, valued at $80.

The products of the fisheries of Blackwater are 71,300 pounds of sea and anadromous fish, of which 36,000 pounds are menhaden, used principally for fertilizing purposes; 3,000 pounds of fresh-water fish, 500 pounds of turtle, 192 terrapin, and 186,000 crabs.

OCEAN VIEW.—The little hamlet of Ocean View, composed of a dozen or fifteen dwelling houses and stores, is six miles distant by the road from Blackwater in an easterly direction,