

# Notes on the Herring, Long-Line, and Pilchard Fisheries of Plymouth (continued).

By **William Roach,**

Associate Member.

## I.—Herring.

Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	No. of boats.	Catch per boat.	Price per 100.	Locality.	Remarks.
1890 Nov. 7	Flood	N.W.	Squally	—	300 and under	8/0	Cawsand Bay	A few nets were put down in Cawsand Bay on the 4th inst. and overhauled on the 5th inst., and it was found that a few herrings had arrived. A great many are getting their boats and nets in readiness for the approaching season.
14	—	—	—	4	100—200	4/0	Duke Rock	If the weather continues fine, with not much rain, there will soon be an increase in the fishing.
18	Spring	S.W.	Dull	1	300	4/6	Rum Bay to E. end of Breakwater	—
19	Ebb	S.W.	Mild	9	Very few	—		
20	„	W.S.W.	Threatening	16	2000 dn.	4/5—4/9	Rum Bay to Duke Rock	Large fish.
21	Neap	S.W.	Fine	25	2000	3/1—3/5	Ditto	—
25	Ebb in Sound, flood outside	N. by E.	Moderate	80	500	3/4—3/8	E. end of Breakwater to the Cobbler Buoy	—
26	Ebb in Sound, flood at sea	E. by N.	Stormy	8	800	3/4—3/6	N.W. of Staddon Heights, East Channel	Twelve boats with no fish.
28	Flood	S.E.	Wet	2	200	—	—	Sixty boats went to sea; but owing to the bright moon only two boats took fish.
Dec. 2	Ebb	E.	Gloomy	10	100	3/6—3/8	Taken W. of Staddon Heights	Herrings fallen off considerably.
3	Ebb at sea, slack water in Sound	N.	„	30	500	3/0—3/6	In East Channel and the Sound	—
4	Ebb outside, slack water in Sound	N. Fresh	„	30	800	2/9—3/0	Different stations in Sound	—
5	Ebb	—	—	40	600	2/5	Outside Breakwater	—
				20 Sound boats	700	—	Melampus Buoy and Breakwater Fort	Cawsand boats only taking a few hundred in their moored nets in Cawsand Bay, took them up and put

6	"	E. by S.	Wet	—	12,000	2/8-2/10	—	them in Whitsand Bay, and hauled them next day, taking from 10,000 to 12,000.
8	—	—	—	3	10,000	3/0	Whitsand Bay	—
9	Flood	E.	Gloomy	16 Drift,	10,000	1/8-2/0	S. of Mothecombe	—
				9 Looe,	30,000	1/3	Whitsand Bay	—
				20 Sound	8000	3/0-3/9	Between Melampus and Drake's Island	Fifty boats with only a few fish.
10	"	E.	Fresh	20	10,000	1/6	East Bay	—
				8	30,000	1/3	West Bay	This lot of herrings in the Sound was taken at 8 o'clock, during low water. Little boats almost sinking with fish.
				—	8000	2/0	Sound	
11	"	E.	"	20	20,000	1/3-1/9	5 to 6 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	Sound fishery fallen off considerably. Boats still working, but taking no fish.
12	"	E.	Gloomy	3 Drift	30,000	1/3	S. of Mothecombe, 5 to 6 miles	—
13	"	E.	Fine	15 "	40,000	10/0 per down 1000	Ditto	—
15	—	—	—	6 "	10,000	1/6-2/3	S.W. of Bolt Head, from there up and down	—
16	Flood	N.	Wet	12 "	—	2/0-2/4	5 to 6 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	—
17	Ebb	E.	Gloomy	20 "	20,000	1/6-3/0	Various stations	—
18	—	E.	Threatening	30 "	30,000	1/1-1/4	Between Mothecombe and the Bolt Head, 4 to 5 miles off land	—
20	Ebb	E.	Gloomy	25 "	20,000	1/0	Off Stoke Point	—
22	Slack water outside	E.	"	10 "	15,000	1/3	Off Stoke Point, Breakwater Light, S. of Mewstone	—
23	Ebb	E.	Fine	40 "	10,000	0/8-1/0	Various localities	—
24	"	E.	Gloomy	8 "	5000	0/8	Off Stoke Point	—
25	"	E.	"	5 "	2000	1/0	Ditto	—
26	Flood	E.	"	10	10,000	£2 10s. to £3 per last	6 miles S.E. of Stoke Point	—
27	"	E.	Very cold	8	5000	3/0	4 to 5 miles S. of Stoke Point	70 per cent. shotten (spent).
29	—	—	—	6	3000	2/10	2 to 3 miles off Stoke Point	The herrings have made no appearance in Sound this year.
30	Ebb	E.	Very cold	50	20,000	2/0-3/0	2 to 3 miles S. of Salcombe	—
31	"	E., blowing half a gale	Threatening for snow	80	30,000	2/8-2/10	Ditto	Two boats lost half their fleet of nets on account of heavy takes.

Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	No. of boats.	Catch per boat.	Price per 100.	Locality.	Remarks.
1891 Jan. 1	Ebb	E.	Threat- ening	5	12,000	Full 3/0, shotten 1/1-2/0	Off Mothecombe	60 per cent. shotten.
2	"	E.	Fine	30	20,000	2/6-3/6	Off Mothecombe, Break- water Light, between the Mewstone and land	—
3	"	E.	Gloomy	10	10,000	Full 3/1, shotten 2/0	Same as 2nd inst.	—
6	Slack water outside, 3 hours ebb in Sound	E.	Moderate	40	40,000	Full 3/0-3/6, shotten 1/6-2/0	Between Stoke Point and Bolt Head, 4 to 8 miles off land	—
7	1st hour flood	N.E.	Cold	30	25,000	1/8-2/3	Ditto	70 to 80 per cent. shotten.
8	2nd hour flood	S.	Threat- ening	20	15,000	Full 2/0, shotten 1/6	From Whitsand Bay to Bolt Head	One or two shoals travelling west.
10	Flood	N.E.	Fine	20	20,000	1/8-2/3	Between Stoke Point and Bolt Head, 1 to 2 miles off land	—
12	"	N.	Gloomy	10	20,000dn.	1/6-2/4	Ditto	—
13	"	N.	"	30	15,000	1/4-2/2	Same as 12th inst.	—
14	"	N.	Bright	10	20,000	1/5-1/11	1½ miles E. of Stoke Point	It is many years ago since such numbers of herrings have appeared in the East Bay.
15	Slack water	E.	"	30	30,000	1/5-2/0	1 to 3 miles S. of Stoke Point, from there to Bolt Head	—
16	Ebb	E.	"	15	10,000	1/8-2/0	1 to 3 miles S. of Stoke Point	—
17	"	E.	"	10	10,000	2/0-3/0	Ditto	—
20	"	S.W.	Stormy	6	1000	2/0	8 to 9 miles outside the Eddystone	—
26	—	—	—	20	400	1/6	In East Bay	—

## II.—Long-Line.

The "Remarks" show very clearly how much difficulty is experienced in procuring suitable bait, and how this branch of the fishing industry is paralysed for want of it. The conclusion might also be drawn that salted pilchard makes but an indifferent bait.

Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	Bait.	Locality.	No. of boats.	Conger.	Ling.	Rays and skates.	Cod.	Pollack.	Other fish.	Remarks.
1890 Oct. 21	Ebb	N.W.	Fine	Squid	$\frac{3}{4}$ mile W. of the Eddystone	1	cwt. 3	12	Dozen. 3	—	1 doz.	3 doz. bream	—
22	"	E.	"	"	6 miles S.E. of the Mewstone	1	"	6	3	2	"	—	—
"	—	—	—	Pilchard	6 miles outside the Eddystone	1	—	700-800 spur	dog-fish	—	—	—	Nothing but spur dogs ( <i>Acanthias</i> ) taken.
29	Flood	W.	Wet	Squid	1 mile N.W. of the Eddystone	1	5	12	1 doz.	2	2 doz.	2 doz. bream	—
31	"	W.	Squally	"	3 to 4 miles S.W. of the Bolt Head	3	5	5 to 6	1 to 2	2 to 3	1 to 2 doz.	1 doz. bream	Weather extremely bad for long-line fishing.
Nov. 5	—	—	—	Squid	$\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.E. of the Eddystone	3	4	10 to 12	2 to 3	3 to 4	1 doz.	—	—
14	Flood	S.	Wet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	"	S., moderate	Dull	Squid	5 to 6 miles S.E. of Stoke Point	3	3	7 to 8	2 to 4	3 to 4	5 to 6	—	—
19	Ebb	S.W.	Mild	—	On East Reites	1	2	12	2	—	—	—	—
21	—	—	—	—	Outside the Eddystone	2	—	—	3 to 4	—	—	—	Caught 100 spur dog-fish. There are a great number on the coast just now.
28	Flood	N.E.	Very cold	—	—	3	3	6	1 to 2	6	—	—	These boats only shot half their gear owing to strong wind.
Dec. 1	—	—	—	Squid	7 to 8 miles S. of Bolt Head	2	14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—	—
						1	5	6	2 to 3	6	—	—	4 to 5 hand-liners, which use 4 lines, landed 4 cwt. each.
						1	4						
3	Ebb	N.	Gloomy	"	7 to 8 miles off the Bolt Head	4	8	12	2 to 4	12	—	—	—
4	"	N.	"	"	"	2	4 to 6	2	2 to 4	12	—	—	—

Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	Bait.	Locality.	No. of boats.	Conger.	Ling.	Rays and skates.	Cod.	Pollack.	Other fish.	Remarks.
Dec. 16	—	—	—	—	8 to 10 miles S.W. of Falmouth Outside the Eddystone Off Bolt Head	1	ewt. 9	Dozen. 9	4	12	—	—	—
						1	5	—	2	—	—	—	Lost half their gear.
						1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
29	Flood	E.	Gloomy	Squid	4 to 5 miles S. of Stoke Point	2	4 to 5	3 to 4 1/6 ach	—	—	—	Owing to the strong east wind and strong tides, these boats had to shoot their long lines near home. All the conger run from only 4 to 12 lbs. in weight.	
1891 Jan. 5	Ebb	E.	Fine	Squid and pilchard	6 to 8 miles S. of the Bolt Head	6	10½ down	12	7 to 8	—	—	—	The boat which had the largest catch had 900 hooks baited with squid and 500 with pilchard. It is very difficult for long-liners to shoot now, owing to the drift-net fishery, which is carried on all the week excepting Saturday night.
						1	1½	—	4	—	—	1000 dog-fish.	
12	Flood	N.	Gloomy	—	15 miles S.W. of Eddystone Between Start Point and Bolt Head, 6 to 7 miles off land	5	—	—	4	—	—	—	The men say the reason why they took no fish was owing to the extreme cold and the strong tides. One boat lost all its long line. This is owing to the drift-nets becoming entangled in the buoys attached to the long lines.
Feb. 4	—	—	—	Half squid half pilchard	8 to 10 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	2	5	6	5 to 6	3	—	—	—
					1½ miles E., W., and S. of the Eddystone	5	3	£2 worth of rays, skates, ling, and cod	—	—	—	—	
					14 miles S.W. of Eddystone	1	2½	—	Rays £1	—	—	—	—

				Pilchard	Off Falmouth, 7 miles S. of Mewstone	1	No conger	—	5	—	—	—	—
9	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	12	3 to 5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	Pilchard	½ mile N.W. of Eddystone	5	2	—	3 to 4	—	—	—	—
11	—	—	—	„	4 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	5	5	12 to 24	5 to 6	—	—	—	These boats have been successful in obtaining plenty of pilchard bait (which realised 18/0 per 1000).
14	Ebb	S., light	Bright	Squid	5 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	10	5	12	6	—	—	—	—
16	„	S. by W.	Fine	„	5 to 6 miles S.W. of Bolt Head	4	10	12	3 to 4	5 to 6	—	—	Each boat spent 10/0 for bait.
19	„	E., strong	Gloomy	Pilchard	„	15	3	—	3 to 4	6 to 7	6 to 7	—	Pilchard sold this day for bait by auction realised 35/0 per 1000, then there was not enough for all the boats, weather being so fine and fish making good prices.
26	Flood	E.	Bright	Squid	25 miles S.W. of Eddystone	1	1½	12	9	—	—	—	The bait used had been salted a week. All other long-liners been in harbour for want of bait.
Mar. 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Long-liners received pilchard bait from Falmouth this evening at 6 o'clock at a cost of from 25/0 to 30/0 per 1000, caught in moored nets. These boats have been in harbour for a week waiting for bait, and now they have it the weather is setting in stormy. The bait was salted.
23	—	—	—	Pilchard and squid	12 to 15 miles S.W. of Start Point	6	1	5 to 6	7	—	—	—	Bait been in salt for a fortnight.
24	—	—	—	Salt pilchard and squid	10 miles S. of the Deadman	3	1 conger	24	8	—	—	—	Other boats never saw a conger, only having a few rays.
25	—	—	—	Fresh squid	E. side of the Eddystone	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
				„ Salt squid 14 days old	—	1	2½	—	2	—	—	—	—

III.—*Pilchards.*

If, from the data supplied by Mr. Roach, we make an estimate of the fish landed in each of the four months, the totals come to be—  
In Oct. 322,750; in Nov. 923,500; in Dec. 4,128,500; in Jan. 2,795,000. These figures give a total for the season of 8,169,750 pilchards.

Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	No. of boats.	Catch per boat.	Price per 1000.	Locality.	Remarks.
1890 Oct. 8	—	S.W.	—	30	4000 to 5000	11/0	—	—
15	—	S.	Foggy	12	10,000	11/0	—	—
16	—	N.W., strong	—	—	No pilchards	—	—	Too much wind for net-fishing.
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Ebb	N.W.	Fine	15	2000 to 3000	13/0-15/0	6 to 8 miles W. of the Eddystone	—
22	„	E.	„	20	1000 and under	19/0	6 to 8 miles S.W. of Rame Head	—
23	„	E.	„	—	500	/0 per 100	Ditto	—
24	„	W.	„	20	2000	16/0	6 to 12 miles W. of the Eddystone	—
31	Flood	W.	Squally	12	1000	15/0	10 to 15 miles W. of the Eddystone	—
Nov. 10	„	S.W.	Bright	3	15,000	21/0	5 to 6 miles S.S.W. of the Rame Head	Very large fish.
14	„	S.	Wet	50	4000	20/0	4 to 6 miles S. and S.W. of Penlee Point	Each boat had a few herrings; also several hundred of half-grown mackerel.
17	Strong	S.E., moderate	Dull	20	2000	14/0	3 to 4 miles S.S.W. of the Eddystone	—
19	Ebb	S.W.	Mild	10	10,000	13/0	1½ miles N.W. of Eddy- stone, from there up and down	—
20	Ebb	W.S.W.	Threat- ening	20	20,000	11/0-11/6	5 miles S.W. of Rame Head, from there inside the Eddystone	—

21	Neap	S.W.	Fine	20	10,000	11/0-12/0	2 miles inside the Eddystone	—
22	Flood	W.	Moderate	5	50,000	11/0-12/0	3 miles S.S.W. of Rame Head	Taken at 1 o'clock in the morning, after the moon went down.
25	Ebb in Sound, flood outside	N. by E.	„	15	10,000	13/0	Between Rame Head and Eddystone	—
26	Ebb in Sound, flood at sea	E. by N.	Stormy	10	5000	12/6-13/0	Ditto	Fifty boats without fish.
28	Flood for a short time	N.E.	Very cold	20	5000 and under	13/0	Between Penlee and Eddystone	Large quantity of boats only a few hundred fish. They were sold to the pilchard curers, and sent by vessels to Cornwall.
29	Flood	E., showers of small sleet	„	10	2000 to 3000	13/0	Ditto	Several boats came back again owing to the strong wind.
Dec. 1	—	—	—	5	5000 to 6000	12/0	Ditto	The west country buyers will not take these fish because they were caught on Sunday.
5	—	—	—	60	—	13/0-14/0	Ditto	Owing to there being no seine pilchards in the west, there is a good demand for the drift pilchards here at present. All large boats came back again.
9	Flood	E.	Gloomy	7	30,000	14/0-15/0	10 miles outside the Eddystone	—
10	„	E.	„	20	10,000	16/0	8 to 10 miles S. of Plymouth	Owing to the strong east wind fish going to deeper water; largest catches outside the Eddystone.
11	„	E.	„	20	20,000	12/0	5 to 6 miles S.E. of Eddystone	—
12	„	E.	„	30	10,000	11/6-12/0	7 to 8 miles S. of Mewstone, from there in and outside the Eddystone	—
13	„	E.	Fine	20	10,000	11/0	7 to 8 miles S. of Mewstone	These boats have taken 60,000 to 70,000 small mackerel in their pilchard and herring nets.
16	„	N.W.	Wet	40	20,000	10/0-12/0	N.W. of the Eddystone	—
17	Ebb	E.	Threatening	12	20,000	12/0	Various localities	4000 to 5000 small mackerel in their pilchard-nets.
18	„	E.	Gloomy	40	30,000	—	7 to 8 miles S. of Mewstone, from there S. and W.	—
23	Slack water outside	E.	Fine	10	10,000	12/0	N.E. of Eddystone	—



Date.	Tide.	Wind.	Weather.	No. of boats.	Catch per boat.	Price per 1000.	Locality.	Remarks.
Dec. 24	Ebb	E.	Gloomy	6	2000 to 3000	12/0	2 to 3 miles inside the Eddystone	—
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Owing to the prevailing east wind, the pilchards have fallen off considerably during the last few months.
1891 Jan. 2	Ebb	E.	Fine	20	25,000	10/0-12/0	4 to 8 miles S.E. of Eddystone	—
3	„	E.	Gloomy	15	25,000	6/0-8/0	Ditto	—
6	Slack water outside, 3 hours ebb in Sound	E.	Moderate	20	70,000	6/0-10/0	6 to 10 miles S.E. of Eddystone	—
7	1st hour flood	N.E.	Cold	7	20,000	10/0	Ditto	A large quantity of small mackerel taken in the pilchard- nets (but none in herring-nets), 4000 to 5000 down; sold at 2/0 to 3/0 per 100.
8	2nd hour flood	S.	Threat- ening	8	20,000	10/0	15 to 20 miles S. of P. H. Harbour	Almost all boats in harbour.
10	Flood	N.E.	Fine	10	10,000	8/0-10/0	8 to 10 miles S.E. of Eddystone	Some of these boats, having 2000 to 6000 small mackerel, sold at 2/0 to 2/6 per 100.
13	—	N.	Gloomy	5	6000	12/0	Ditto	2000 to 4000 small mackerel, sold at 3/0 per 100. There were never so many small mackerel taken before in this locality.
14	Flood	N.	Bright	5	6000	11/0	8 to 10 miles S.S.E. of Eddystone	One boat, 10,000 small mackerel, sold at 3/0 to 5/0 per 100.
15	Slack water	E.	„	8	5000	12/0	8 to 9 miles S.S.E. of Eddystone	Several thousands of small mackerel, sold at 2/0 per 100.
16	Ebb	E.	„	5	4000	12/6	Ditto	—
26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Pilchard season is now finished, and the buyers have stopped curing. There are two or three boats trying still. They catch bait for long-liners. Not nearly so many pilchards taken this year as last.
28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Both pilchard and herring boats now commence fishing mackerel.