

Gloucester and Provincetown. I am not specially interested in the mackerel fishery, but I am largely in the menhaden.

There were an enormous body of herring on the coast about the first week of September. Great schools of them were seen in Ipswich Bay, and from Cape Ann to Portland. I had no information about them to the westward of Cape Cod.

NEW BEDFORD, *October 13, 1882.*

121.—WHY THE CATCHING OF MENHADEN WITH SEINES, ETC. SHOULD BE RESTRICTED.

By DAVID F. VAIL.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I have observed that the fish come in the spring at about the same time regardless of weather, and that there are large schools of spawning fish. They come for that purpose and ought to be protected if possible. If there is not some law passed to prohibit the catching of these fish on this coast with purse nets, pounds, and other traps, during the months of April and May, it will be only a few years before the menhaden will be annihilated as completely as they have been on the coast of Maine.

I know a good many of my brother manufacturers will not agree with me; but the reason is that they have steamers that can go down the coast during the months of April and May and catch up these spawning fish before they get to their spawning grounds. It is my belief that if the fish could be left until the spawning season is over, they would catch just as many fish and leave the spawn to grow up and make fishing good for years to come. I am the oldest person in the business, except one, that I know of. I have been engaged in it the last 20 years, and have watched it from year to year.

RIVERHEAD, N. Y., *February 20, 1883.*

122.—OCCURRENCE OF BALISTES CAPRISCUS GMELIN (LEATHER-JACKET OR FILE-FISH) AT NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

BY THOMAS R. LUCE.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

The fish which I send by express was caught to-day in the waters of this place near Round Hills. I was fishing in about 2 fathoms of water, with lobster bait, for tautog, and succeeded in catching three of these, much about the same time. I therefore think they must have run in schools. Please inform me of its name.

NO. 127 CEDAR STREET, NEW BEDFORD, MASS.,

September 25, 1883.