

very friendly. They bunk together in the same cabin; they work together at the hand lines or long lines; and they all share in the profits. The crew receive half the price of the fish they catch; the captain, a larger share than any of the crew. Thus a common interest binds them together and forces them to maintain good discipline on board.

Next to the captain or skipper, the most important man is the cook, or doctor, as he is called. He has to prepare the four or five meals required by the men; and, next to the captain, he receives the largest share of the profits. Oftentimes many relations will ship together for the Banks; and, in such circumstances, if the vessel is lost, great sorrow and suffering are brought to the family, as all the strong and able-bodied men have been taken from its support.

When a schooner reaches the Banks, the crew must begin work at once, if the weather is at all suitable. The reason for this haste is that the bait will keep fresh for only ten or twelve days. After that time the fish will refuse it. First the anchors are thrown overboard, and then the crew bait the hooks and play out the hand lines. In hand fishing, each man keeps an account of the number of fish he catches by cutting out the tongues. At the close of the day he presents these tongues to the skipper, who credits him with the proper number of fish.

There is a strong spirit of rivalry among the vessels of the fishing fleet. Each vessel tries to outdo the others by catching the greatest number of fish, and so to win for its captain the title of "high-line." I think