

§ GEORGE V, A. 1916

herring spawning season seems everywhere in the gulf of St. Lawrence to be in May, that is about two months later than the year class on the Norwegian west coast. In the summer some fishing is going on in the bay. The catch consists, according to information obtained through conversation with fishermen, of smaller herring, which are used as bait only. The fall fishing is a very important one, large herring schools approaching the coast and entering the bays. This herring is large, with the sexual organs developing. They correspond thus entirely to the "large" herring, which are caught in Norway late in the fall.

TABLE No. 8.—Sample of Herring from Newfoundland (West Coast) about beginning of November, 1914.

Percentage of Different Ages in the Sample.									
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
0.9	0.9		8.0	24.8	44.2	15.8	2.7	0.9	1.8

TABLE No. 9.—Sample of Herring from Newfoundland (West Coast) about beginning of November, 1914.

Percentage of Different Ages in the Samples.															
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3.1	2.1	8.3	2.1	3.1	18.8	43.8	5.2	2.1	1.0	2.1	5.2	1.0	1.0	..	1.0

The two tables 8 and 9 give the results of the analysis of two samples of herring from the west coast of Newfoundland, one sample (table 8) was taken in the spring, another (table 9) in the fall of the year 1914; in all, the ages of several hundred herrings have been determined from this part of the gulf. A comparison of samples will first of all reveal the important fact that very few of the younger year-classes have been caught. This is especially the case in the samples taken in the spring (table 8), where practically no herring under 8 years are found. In the fall a little admixture of 5, 6 and 7-year old fish was found in two of the three samples (table 9).

This fact may be explained in one of two ways: either the spawning shoals of the west coast of Newfoundland, in the year 1914, consisted only of the older year-classes represented in the samples, or the younger year-classes were present but not caught by the large meshes of the fishermen's gill-nets. Which of these two explanations may be the right one cannot be decided with any definite certainty. For my own part, I am mostly inclined to the belief that the younger year-classes in the year 1914 were not very plentiful. I base this belief, which I do not wish to be regarded as anything more than a suggestion, on the fact that some of the samples contain individuals of the younger year-classes, but in small numbers; further, on my inspection of the fishermen's nets, which varied very much with regard to size of the meshes; and, in addition, the fishermen's statement, that there were but few herrings of smaller size this year, 1914. In the discussion of this question, a great need is felt of investigations as to the age when the Newfoundland herring first