

At these, the ocean is still divided into parallels or districts, corresponding with the different stations on shore, and the fishermen belonging to the one are forbidden to fish in those belonging to the adjacent station. No one is allowed to proceed singly to sea, but all must put off at a certain signal given by the inspector at each shore station, who decides "according to the weather," whether the fishing shall be carried on that day or not. Many other repressive rules are enforced, which it would be too long to enumerate in this Report.

The result of the labours of the Commissioners appointed, in 1853, by Her Majesty's Government, to investigate and report on the deep-sea fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland, has been read with much interest in this country, and the conclusion they have come to, that all existing restrictions should be removed, will, I doubt not, have considerable influence in modifying these mediæval enactments, when the contemplated revision of the laws on the Norwegian salt-water fisheries takes place.

The Finmark fishery begins in April, and generally continues until July or August.

It is called the "Lodde" or capelin fishery, from the fact that the appearance of this little fish (*Mallotus arcticus*) off the land is the signal of the near approach of the cod, which eagerly pursues and devours it.

It was unusually productive this year, the catch having been equal to an average year at the Loffodens, viz., 15 millions of fish.

The collective result of the cod fisheries will be, at Loffoden, 21 millions; in Finmark, 15 millions; in Romsdal, 4 millions; or about 40 millions as the total fishing for the year 1866, and which, computed at the current prices at the fishing grounds, represent about one million sterling.

The following table gives the returns of the fishings since 1860 :—

Years.	Loffoden.	Finmark.	Romsdal.	Total Catch.
1861	20,000,000	5,000,000	3,500,000	28,500,000
1862	11,500,000	8,000,000	6,000,000	25,500,000
1863	17,500,000	3,000,000	4,000,000	24,500,000
1864	10,000,000	11,500,000	5,500,000	27,000,000
1865	19,000,000	9,000,000	9,500,000	37,500,000
1866	21,000,000	15,000,000	3,900,000	39,900,000

I am unable to obtain accurate information as to the fishings of any number of the previous years, but I annex a table showing the extent of the export of cod fish and its products for 51 years—1815-65—which may serve as a guide to ascertain the quantities fished in each of these years :—

Years.	Stockfish.	Clipfish.	Liver Oil.	Roes.
	lbs.	lbs.	Barrels.	Barrels.
1815-19	17,363,560	3,264,000	19,193	8,545
1820-24	22,847,360	9,690,210	27,265	
1825-29	34,688,720	12,851,200	40,458	22,146
1830-35	36,301,440	14,887,480	27,468	21,742
1836-40	32,555,040	22,513,760	38,564	21,356
1841-45	27,315,560	18,505,960	49,004	22,863
1846	35,089,760	26,070,320	60,504	21,149
1847	33,315,400	24,047,480	53,932	21,583
18 8	30,324,720	20,591,720	55,500	25,657
1849	36,365,560	26,214,120	59,910	23,957
1850	33,719,520	26,244,000	54,730	21,262
1851	42,676,240	32,468,160	39,609	31,233