

## V. DISTRIBUTION OF FISH OVA BY THE ICE DRIFT.

IT will not escape notice that the same ice drift which brings the "slime" and the myriads of crustaceans must also carry with it minute codfish spawn. The never-failing stream of bergs and floes sailing so grandly past the numerous cod banks on the Greenland coast, and crossing with semi-circular sweep to the American side of Davis Straits and then to the Labrador, can scarcely fail to *convoy* innumerable cod ova, together with the original diatom source of the food of young fish, and of adults after multitudinous transformations.

Cod ova appears to find the *coldest surface water* most suitable for their development, for the spawn is shed during the coldest months of the year in those waters where ice does not prevail to ensure the requisite degree of coldness. On the coast of Nova Scotia in October.\* On the well-known George's Bank off New England, in February and March.† In November and December in the Bay of Fundy.‡ Probably, however, the season of each local school is determined to a greater or less extent by the coldest mean temperature of the surface water near its *habitat*—a home, as long as new ice does not interfere. Every drop of surface sea water as it cools descends, and in the fall of the year the surface water is the warmest, the coldest stratum being at the bottom. This as is well known is not the case with fresh water, below a temperature of forty degrees.

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\* Revd. T. Ambrose—"Some observations on the Fishing Grounds and Fish of St. Margaret's Bay," N. S. Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sci. 1866.

† T. F. Whiteaves—Canadian Naturalist, Vol. VII.

‡ Ibid.