

The Whale fisheries are chiefly carried on in the Gulph and River St. Lawrence, as far up as Green Island. The Seal fishery is principally carried on on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, and at the Magdalen Islands. The Cod fisheries (not including those of the Banks) are carried on at Gaspé and the Bay of Chaleurs to a great extent, and along the Banks of the St. Lawrence within the Inferior District of Gaspé, and upwards, on the same shore, to Great and Little Mitis, as well as at some places lower down than the Seven Islands, on the North Shore, and at the Magdalen Islands. The principal Salmon fishery is at the River Ristigouche, at the head of the Bay des Chaleurs; there are others in the different Rivers falling into the Bays of Chaleurs and Gaspé, and at most of the Rivers from thence up along the St. Lawrence to the South River, which empties into the St. Lawrence at St. Thomas, on the South Shore; and on the North Shore, from Malbaie downwards, at every considerable river. The Herring fishery is carried on throughout the District of Gaspé, and along the South Shore of the St. Lawrence as far up as Kamouraska, and at the Magdalen Islands. That of the Porpoise is chiefly in the River St. Lawrence, between the River Ouelle and the River du Loup, and at Murray Bay, or thereabout.

The places to which the fish are for the most part exported, are as follows:

Cod-fish to Europe and the West Indies, a part to the United States, by the Inland Navigation, and to Upper-Canada.

Salmon is exported principally to Europe and the West Indies. Herring also to the West Indies. A great part of the product of these fisheries is consumed in the different parts of the Province, including the Eastern Townships. The Oils are chiefly consumed in this Province, the Exports being very inconsiderable. Cod-fish is also brought into this Province from New-Brunswick, Newfoundland, the Labrador, and sometimes from Nova-Scotia.

These fisheries (the Whale fisheries excepted, which are of recent date, and, with a little encouragement from the Legislature, might become of great importance to the export Trade) were much more considerable and successful formerly than at present; their falling off may be attributed to the following, among other causes:

1st. The great destruction of fish, resulting from the want of sufficient regulations, and the disregard shown to the existing Laws, and to Treaties actually in force.

2dly. To the inattention to the fisheries, principally arising from the discredit of our fish in foreign markets, owing to the total want of regulations, with respect to inspection previous to their shipment; in consequence of which fish of all qualities are indiscriminately sent abroad without controul.

Your Committee have satisfactorily ascertained that the commerce in fish is susceptible of great extension, and may become one of the most considerable and profitable branches of the trade of this