

Along the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia shores of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the basse make their appearance in large schulls, in the early part of September. They keep around the islands, and between the outer bar and the beach in the lagoons, where they are often taken in nets, and also at night with torch and spear. As the season advances, and the weather becomes colder, they penetrate into bays, and arms of the sea, and even ascend the rivers some distance, where they spend the winter resting on the mud, in a half torpid state. The places which they frequent are easily discovered, the fish being seen through the clear ice when it first makes; large holes are cut in the ice, and the fish are lifted out with a circular net on a strong wooden bow, called a dip-net. All the fish in each locality, of whatever size, are thus taken; and in many of the northern rivers, especially the Richibucto, and North West Miramichi, where they were formerly very abundant, they are now quite scarce, and only found of small size.

The basse will frequently take the same artificial fly, (scarlet ibis and gold,) as is used in salt water, for the white or sea trout. From the avidity with which it seizes a hook baited with a piece of the flesh of a lobster, or with clams, and the smaller crustacea, it is probable that these form no inconsiderable portion of its food. The smelt is also a good bait for basse. A long line is requisite in basse fishing, as it is what sportsmen call, "a runaway fish." At the end of a hundred yards of line it affords great sport, being fierce, vigorous, and very active, not yielding until after a long and violent struggle with its captor. After the salmon family, it is unquestionably the most sporting fish of America. Its geographical range is from the Capes of the Delaware to the River Saint Lawrence.

The body of the basse is cylindrical and tapering, covered with large adhesive scales; lateral line obvious, running through the fourth stripe, and nearly straight. Altogether, it is very beautiful; and besides being one of the most sporting of American game fish, the basse is excellent food, the flesh being very firm, white, and well-flavoured.

Species 2.—*Labrax pallidus*—The little white Basse.

This diminutive basse is best known by its popular name of "white perch." It abounds in many of the lakes and streams connected with the River Saint John, but it is always found in localities where there is very little current, if any, and upon a soft bottom, in the vicinity of aquatic plants and weeds. The ordinary weight of the "white perch," is from 4 to 6 ounces; in September, they are often taken above half a pound in weight; the largest seen, weighed a pound. They are a very fine fish for the table, when in season.