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All the herrings of the open coast belong to one and the same race or type. By far the greatest number of native individuals of this race aggregate during the fall off the coast of Romsdal (see chart fig. 13), where they are called "large" herring



Fig. 13.

and caught by drift-nets in great quantities. The genital organs are then developing, and this developing condition or ripening continues during the winter months, when the spawning shoals aggregate at the west coast, where they are caught in gill-nets and seines as spring herring.

The young fry undergoing development in the ova laid on the sandy bottom of the inshore banks off the west coast escape soon from the eggs and are then carried northward along the coast by the current, which off the whole west coast has a marked northerly direction (the so-called Gulf Stream). They spread as if sown all along the extensive range of the coast, and everywhere these small fish undergo further development, without question, in northern waters. In the autumn when these small fry are 8 to 10 centimetres (below 4 inches), and two-thirds of a year old, they begin to make their appearance in the seines. Next year they reach a size of 12 to 15 centimetres (5 to 6 inches). These are the small herring which are caught along the whole coast (see table above).

In the third year they develop an abundance of fat, and remain in this state (mainly in the summer and fall) till the genital organs develop, which, as stated above, begins from the third, but mostly at the fourth or fifth year in the south, and mostly at the fifth and sixth year in the north.

The mature individuals then leave the fat herring shoals and begin to migrate southwards along the coast till they reach the large shoals of mature large herring, with which they intermingle