

As customary at the beginning of the fishery, the so called "nightlines" (deep-sea lines) were the only gear used.

From the middle of January until Easter there blew a succession of easterly winds, with alternate clear and frosty days and snow storms, which greatly retarded the arrival of the fishing population from the south; towards the middle of February, however, nearly the usual number had reached the fishing grounds.

They repaired, this year, in preference, to the grounds as Henningsvær and to the eastward, where nearly all the stations were crowded, while but little more than 500 boats were engaged on the banks to the westward.

Towards the end of March, when the Finmark fishing commences, a large number of the men leave the Loffodens to proceed thither, and about the 14th of April the remainder generally depart, not indeed from decrease of fish, but more from custom, and the fact that they are under farm contracts on land, where their services are required for the labours of the field and other domestic purposes.

The fish remained, this winter, a longer time than usual under the land, at the western stations in the Ostnæsjord, and later in the season, for some time, at Gimsostrommen, where they appeared in great quantities. It was unfortunate, therefore, that the western stations, this year, were so little frequented, for although the total catch exceeds that of an average year, it would have been very considerable, had the fishermen not gone, in such large numbers, to the eastern stations, where the fish, comparatively, were not abundant.

According to the 11th section of the law regulating this fishery, and at the request of the men themselves, the sea was, in many cases, portioned out by the Inspectors into parallels or lines, between the net and line fishers; this was, nevertheless, not done to the same extent as last year.

From the following table will be seen the number of fishermen employed, as well as the description of the gear used, and in what districts:—

Districts.	With Nets.				With Lines.			With Deep Sea Lines.			Totals			
	Fishermen.	Crews.	Boats.	Number of Nets per Man. Nets combined with Lines.	Fishermen.	Crews.	Boats.	Fishermen.	Boats with Lines.	Boats without Lines.	Fishermen.	Crews.	Boats.	
Bergen.....								2		1	2	1	1	
Christiansand.....								3		1	3	1	1	
Province of S. Drontheim, ..	115	23	24	.....	9	3	3	350	2	116	474	144	145	
Province of N. Drontheim, ..	164	28	28	.....	1	31	7	7	355	6	147	550	188	188
Nordland.....	7,726	1,331	1,690	.....	319	5,855	1,521	1,740	1,521	95	570	18,102	3,517	4,095
Finmark.....	2,345	391	596	.....	84	1,723	436	474	656	173	50	4,724	1,050	1,293
	10,350	1,773	2,338	.....	404	7,618	1,976	2,224	2,887	276	885	20,555	4,901	5,723

From this it will be seen that there were 25,756 men and 5,723 boats engaged in this year's fishery at Loffoden alone, exclusive of the numerous driers and salters, &c., on shore (whose number may be estimated at 7,000), engaged in preparing the cod for exportation and home consumption.

It may not be without interest to know how many men and boats were employed in the Loffoden fishery on a given day; I therefore include the following table, which shows the actual number engaged on the 16th of March this year, as well as the districts they belong to, and the tonnage and crews of their crafts:—