

either in sailing or rowing, the fish would be kept from all risk of suffering from the sun, and if a boat-hook or boom were placed fore and aft under it, they would be protected both from rain and sea water until ready for delivery. These precautions would not only preserve the fish in prime condition till the curing process should commence, but the boat's crew would find their account in attending to them, from the great saving of time and labour which would thus be secured to them on their landing. Thus a crew which might reach the shore at six o'clock, A. M., with a large take of herrings, having their nets all shaken, and the fish ready for immediate removal, might land, spread their nets, or hang them on the drying poles, and, in ordinary circumstances, they might have their fish delivered by ten o'clock, get themselves washed, and take their victuals, and then go to bed and sleep comfortably for four or five hours, after which they would have ample time to mend their nets, and to carry them down to the boat, so as to be ready to proceed to the fishery, full of that strength, vigour, and energy necessary to prosecute it successfully, whilst other fishermen, on the contrary, who have had similar success, but who may have hauled their nets without shaking the fish out of them, have all this to do after reaching the harbour, and that with much difficulty, for it is often found to be so impossible to draw the nets from under the fish, that those on the top require to be shovelled to another part of the boat, or landed, before all the nets can be got out, the effects of all which on fish caught during the hotter months may be easily imagined. But as regards the fishermen themselves, from all these difficulties, the day is far spent before the fish are delivered, and the nets all spread out or hung up, so that before they have reached home, washed and had food, there is no time left for sleep, or for mending their nets, and the preparation for the ensuing night's fishery is begun without befitting energy. Such crews, too, often arrive so late at the fishing ground from these causes, that they cannot easily find a clear berth to shoot their nets in; and when they do obtain it, no sooner are the nets fairly out of the boat than the men are asleep, or at all events they are so fatigued from want of rest, that they have not courage to haul their nets, so as to change their ground if necessary, and to take a second shot, and therefore, they thus too often return disappointed.