

## FISH AND OYSTER NOTES.

The value of the oyster output of Delaware during the last year was \$163,610, not a tenth of Virginia's output.

For the first time in thirty years a survey and examination of the James river oyster grounds is being made. The Baylor survey fifteen years ago was without examination.

Mr. T. I. Ratcliffe brought up from Corrotomon river a cluster of 30 large oysters, which had formed on the bottom of an iron skillet. The oysters are about two years old and measure about four inches.—Free Lance.

Lack of demand for oysters is keeping down the prices of the bivalves and causing many dealers here to hesitate ordering as frequently as heretofore at this season of the year. The warm weather is given as the cause of the lack of demand for bivalves.—Richmond News Leader.

Suffolk, Va., is to have a fish plant. The Lloyd Holland Co. have sold to an outside firm of capitalists about 150 feet of river front on the Nansemond and this will be used as the site for the buildings of the concern. It is not known just when the construction of the plant will begin.

Reports from Southern Maryland say that the present oyster season, which, on account of an abundance of oysters of good quality, gave promise at the beginning of the season of being a banner one, has proved to be so far the most disastrous for packer and tonger alike that has been known in this vicinity for a decade. No demand and low markets are the cause.

Easton has been overrun this week with discharged oyster dredgers. The indications are that this season will be the most disastrous the county has known. There is absolutely no demand here for oysters, and packers refuse absolutely to buy from tongers and dredgers for more than nine cents a bushel.—Easton, Md., dispatch in Baltimore News.

### POLICE BOAT SAXIS.

The police boat Saxis, of the Oyster Navy, which is in charge of Captain John R. Drewer, the well known oyster inspector of Saxis, is the fastest boat of the fleet. Captain Drewer besides making perhaps the largest return in taxes of any inspector in the state is also doing most effective work in policing and protecting the waters of his district—Tangier, Pocomoke Sound, the Thoroughfare and Saxis. His work stands out as a strong argument in favor of the Commission of Fisheries and its work.—Hampton Monitor.

### A PLEA FOR THE FISH.

When removing an undersized trout, or other fish that it is desired to keep alive, from your hook, always moisten your hand before grasping the fish; otherwise the dry hand will remove the slime from the back of the trout, when it is only a question of time until fungus sets in and the fish will die.

Always kill your fish that are large enough to keep, as soon as taken from the hook. This can be done by giving it a stroke with a stick on the head, back of the eyes. It will avoid all suffering, and make your fish far better for table use.

### OYSTERS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Speaker R. E. Byrd, who is probably, from his prominent position the most powerful man in this Virginia Legislature, makes announcement in the Times-Dispatch of the leading topics for consideration by that body at its session to convene shortly after the holidays.

One of the subjects is fish and oysters. On this he says: "It is my belief that the oyster and fish situation will be taken up in a diligent and comprehensive manner, and that the best judgment and ability of the General Assembly will be employed upon the solution of a problem which is difficult to deal with, but which cannot any longer be ignored except by the surrender on the part of the General Assembly of very grave government duties."