

FISH AND OYSTER NOTES.

New rope may be made pliable without impairing its strength by boiling it for an hour or two in water.

The man—even a disgruntled one—who says oysters in Virginia are not more plentiful than formerly is either designing, ignorant or a poor catcher.

Police boat "James River" which was cut in two and lengthened twelve feet at Messick's railway left yesterday morning for duty on the Potomac.

Reports from over on Saxis Island indicate that the oystermen are catching more oysters and doing better than for fifteen years. They are good and bringing fairly good prices.—Eastern Shore Herald.

Says the Hampton Monitor: "The week just closed found the oyster industry in Hampton booming. About 1,500 bushels are handled daily." That's pretty good—for Hampton. Here three to four thousand bushels per day do not glut our market.

A New York crab picker, doing business in Hampton—old "crab-town"—is importing his New York catch and having them picked along with the Virginia product. Two reasons for this: labor is cheaper here, and, too, the Virginia labeled crab, like our oyster, is a better seller—a confidence restorer.

The largest "fat backs" ever caught, as well as some of the biggest catches known here, were to be seen along Beaufort's waterfront during the past week. The air that is breathed hereabout is evidence that all the fish oil and scrap factories are busy—disgustingly busy.—Beaufort, N. C., Look Out.

A charter has been granted the Menhaden Fisheries Corporation, Harveys Wharf, Northumberland county. Incorporators: M. S. Stringfellow, president, Brandy Station, Va.; H. St. George Tucker, vice-president, Lexington, Va.; A. Brooke Taylor, treasurer, Norfolk, Va.; Ro. W. Shultice, secretary, Norfolk, Va. Capital stock: Maximum, \$100,000, minimum, \$50,000. Objects and purposes: Fish and fertilizer business.

BIG MONEY ON POTOMAC.

With a revival of good market the dredge boats on the upper Potomac last week did better than for years. Boats with crews of eight or ten men report having sold their catch for \$300 and over.

NEW DEAL FOR JAMES RIVER OYSTERMEN.

Tired of tonging and to gather the shekels while the opportunity lasts, scores of tongers around Isle of Wight have gone into the haul-seine business. Mud shad are showing up in the small tributaries of the James in greater abundance than before. Three tons of these fish were landed and shipped in one day last week from Battery Park.

JAMES RIVER IS YET QUIET.

Through a misapprehension and overhearing a careless threat, a newspaper reporter announced last week that oyster unions on the James were condemning Commissioner Lee for calling off the survey during bad weather. A visit to the union proved that no such talk or action had been taken by any of them, as went the rounds of the press.

EXTRA EARLY RUN OF FISH.

The Ridgely (Md.) Sun reports: "A few herrings were caught this week in the Broadkln river at Milton, Del., something unusual for this time of year."

Thousands of shad are at the head of the Great Wicomico river, in Northumberland county, and the resident fishermen are catching large quantities of them. Over four thousand were caught at one hauling of a seine by two men one day this week. The shad are in search of fresh water at the head of the river.

A "VARMINT" OF THE DEEP.

Suppose Virginia watermen were to land such a creature as this, would they know it to be a lobster (not of the two-legged "lobster" variety we find walking the streets)? This deep sea fellow was caught off Nova Scotia and shipped to New York. From the tip of one claw to the tip of another the measurement was forty-five inches, and from the tail to the tip of the claws the distance was thirty-three inches. The big fellow weighed twenty-one and three-quarter pounds, and, according to an expert, the lobster must have been at least one hundred years of age or more.