XXII.—REPORT OF OPERATIONS AT THE SHAD-HATCHING STA-TION ON BATTERY ISLAND, NEAR HAVRE DE GRACE, MD., DURING THE SEASON OF 1886.

By L. R. GRABILL.

The first run of shad was perceived on April 18, and 35 ripe shad Were taken on April 19. This run continued for a week, and was larger in number than had been known for 20 years. Both shad and herring came in enormous quantities. It was impossible to obtain the catch of shad at the seines during this run. The catch of Mr. Osmond's seine in shad for one day alone was more than 5,000.

The collection of spawn for the station was done by men and boys bired temporarily for the purpose. As many as 40 men and boys in addition to the station's ordinary force were employed. These were paid monthly wages, each being allowed \$10 a month for subsistence. It was endeavored to station men permanently at all the seines, and to attend to as many gill-nets as possible. The men were graded as first and second class spawn-takers, and apprentices. Besides these, boys were used merely as oarsmen.

Experience shows, however, that it will be better in the future to employ 3 men to every boat, 2 of whom are apprentices; these 2 to take nightly turns at receiving instruction. Boys, unless quite large and strong, cannot care for boats in a squall. Large as was the collecting force it could not attend to more than one half of the gilling boats on nights when all of the fishermen were out. As a rule it was found more profitable to attend gill-nets than seines.

Collection was continued from April 19 to June 10, the total number of eggs collected being 60,766,000. Of this number there were received from the steamer Fish Hawk 2,099,000, and from the steamer Lookout 2,433,000, the total received from other sources thus being 4,532,000.

The Commission's gill-nets were put in use during the latter part of the season, there being no scarcity of male fish during the first part. Notwithstanding the smaller mesh of the net, it was not noticed that there was a large difference from other nets in the proportion of male fish caught. The largest roe fish seen during the season was caught in one of the Commission's small-mesh gill-nets. On a few occasions these nets served a good purpose in supplying male fish for impregnating eggs, but they did not supply these male fish nearly so often as they Were supplied from ordinary nets near at hand. The Commission's gillnets, being fished by expert fishermen, caught about as many fish, both male and female, as most of the gill-nets fishing in the same locality.

At the beginning of the season the hatching department was not prepared to do the work that was forced upon it by the early and immense

[7]

run of shad. The connections for the hatching apparatus and for the water supply were inadequate to the demand, and the supply of hatching apparatus on hand was insufficient. To increase the hatching room an addition, covered with canvas, was made, accommodating 2 tables additional with 50 McDonald jars. The store-room used for the seine was furnished with sky-lights, and 28 hatching cones were placed in it, and about 30 cones in all conditions of repair were hastily fitted up outside of all shelter. Notwithstanding the increase thus made, the cones and jars constantly carried twice as many eggs as they should have done, and much loss was the result. But by far the greater loss was caused by being obliged to allow eggs brought in to stand in buckets, &c., until room could be made for them. In many cases eggs nearly hatched were compelled to be placed in the river to make room for new ones. About 170 McDonald jars and 58 cones were in constant use, supplemented by wire-gauze cylinders, buckets, pans, and all kinds of arrangements for hatching.

Three experts were employed during most of the season in the hatching-house. Three apprentices were also employed most of the time as assistants. These men received and cared for all eggs, cared for the fish when hatched, filled the cans for shipment, and loaded them in the launch or scow.

Notwithstanding the losses, the number of shad fry hatched was 45,231,000. These numbers are based on the measurement of the perfectly cleaned eggs in the jars just before hatching in every case, and are as nearly accurate as these figures can be made. It is believed that this is rather under than over the actual result. The percentage of hatching during the season was 74.4. The total number of fry shipped and receipted for by messengers was 43,776,000. The total loss of fish was 1,455,000. Three tables are appended to this report, which give details concerning the collection of the eggs, the shipments of the fry, and meteorological observations during most of the season.

The collecting force was entirely disbanded after June 10, when gilling is no longer permitted by Maryland laws. On June 13 all the eggs on hand had hatched, and the hatching department was then closed. But few eggs, however, were taken after June 1, the date on which the greater part of the force was discharged. After the close of the hatching season the time of the small number remaining was given to storing the equipment, and in work upon a drive-well, which was begun with the hope of finding an artesian water supply. This well was carried to a depth of about 150 feet by July 1.

There is little doubt but that the area of 4 or 5 square miles immediately surrounding Battery Station is as large as any, if not the largest, spawning ground for shad on the coast. The station is well located for reaching every part of this ground. The possibilities of the station are almost unlimited. Fishermen and fishing boats cover the bay during the season, and every ripe egg taken in fish in the nets would be

lost if it was not taken by the collectors of the station, impregnated, and hatched. One need only to see the bay studded with the lights of the fishing boats on a night in May to convince him that but for the Commission's work very few fish could come from eggs naturally deposited. But, large as was the Commission's force last year, I am satisfied that not over one-half of the ripe fish taken in the bay by fishermen were stripped by its collectors, as they could not possibly attend to all.

It is fairly demonstrated by this season's work that collecting from gillers produces a better result than hauling the Commission's seine. Two or 3 men can secure as many ripe fish from gillers in a day as 30 men would secure if employed in hauling the seine. Moreover, hauling the seine by the employees of the station necessarily involves the Fish Commission in the care and disposal of the fish taken, while it seems to antagonize the fishermen, and is an unnecessary cost. With a good run of fish in the coming year, if the collecting force is doubled and their work thoroughly systematized, perhaps double the number of eggs secured last season can be obtained during 1887. The collection of eggs in 1886 was stimulated also by giving small rewards to those gathering the greatest amount of good spawn.

Penning shad.—Out of a large number of shad full of roe, but not ripe at the time of introduction, which were placed in the pool and kept for a space of time ranging from a few days to 2 weeks, not one ever broduced eggs that would hatch, though apparently ripe when stripped. It would seem that possibly the fright at being taken in the net, or of confinement in the pool, prevents the eggs from further development. All of the fish placed in the pool become more or less diseased after a short time, which may be due partly to the muddy bottom. This interesting experiment has hitherto met with such small success as to warrant its being dropped hereafter.

Herring.—Herring were taken continually and sometimes in such quantities as to retard the hauling of the seines. No account was kept of them, as they were considered valueless in most cases, and they were shoveled back dead into the river or allowed to escape through the large meshes before completely hauling in the seine.

ROCKFISH OR STRIPED BASS.—Experiments were made in hatching the eggs of the rockfish, the greatest success being obtained by swinging a cylinder with gauze ends in a sluice-way through which a current, caused by the tide, constantly flowed. It appears, however, that even with very fine gauze the eggs in a certain state are forced through. Owing to want of time, caused by pressure of other matters, sufficient attention could not be devoted to these experiments, and most of the eggs taken were lost. In all, 600,000 rockfish eggs were taken, and 75,000 fry were shipped to Lake Ontario, near Oswego, N. Y.*

Washington, D. C., December 20, 1886.

For notice of their successful planting, see F. C. Bulletin for 1886, p. 137.

TABLE I.—Record of the shad-hatching operations conducted at Battery Station, Maryland, from April 19 to June 13, 1886, under direction of L. R. Grabill, superintendent.

Date	i.	Fish obtai	ned from—		by haul. 163.t	Taken by gill-nets.	Ripe	shad.		L	099.		Fish de-	Fish de-
Day of week.	Day of month.	Length of Length hand-seines of gill-nets visited.*		Shad.	Rockfish.	Shad.	Males.	Eggs obtained.		Egga	Fish.	Fish hatched.;	posited in local waters.	posited in other waters.
Thursday Friday Saturday	Apr. 20 Apr. 21 Apr. 22 Apr. 23 Apr. 25 Apr. 25 Apr. 27 Apr. 28 Apr. 30 May 1 May 2 May 3 May 4 May 5 May 5 May 8	Fathoms. 2, 500 2, 200 2, 700 2, 500 1, 800 803 1, 500 2, 900 1, 500 2, 900 1, 500 1, 700 2, 300 2, 300 1, 800 1, 800	Fathoms. 2, 190 1, 955 3, 200 6, 425 4, 582 1, 625 4, 150 5, 725 5, 429 5, 505 4, 87 6, 150 11, 390 8, 625 8, 550 9, 510 2, 700	3,557 2,168 2,600 1,700 1,500 1,000 484 108 191 1,056 1,199 175 2,437 1,315 1,650 1,325 450	Pounds. 400 300 500 800 500 200	2,811 1,954 894	20 35 45 90 56 10 20 20 20 20 20	39 71 91 145 119 17 36 6 28 50 47 80 23 22 19 123 210 100 108 31	1, 040, 000 1, 013, 000 1, 179, 000 13, 670, 000 3, 594, 000 5, 648, 000 4, 046, 000 3, 295, 000 944, 000	7763, 600 *375, 600 *122, 000 *369, 600	\$277, 000 1250, 000 20, 000 10, 000 10, 000	1, 327, 040 2, 119, 000 2, 431, 000 1, 000, 000 1, 177, 040 200, 640 771, 040 1, 500, 000) 1, 1500, 000 1, 1814, 000 1, 163, 000 689, 000	25, 000 1, 421, 000 2, 431, 000 860, 000 1, 055, 000 50, 000 1 ³ 1, 952, 000 804, 600 503, 000 742, 000	(°) 71,500,000 101,430,000 1,200,000 1,621,000
Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday	May 10 May 11 May 12 May 13 May 14 May 15 May 16 May 17 May 18 May 18 May 19 May 20 May 21 May 22	1,100 2,600 2,600 1,800 2,500 2,800 1,600 2,800 3,600 2,900 1,100 2,300 1,100	2, 250 1, 950 4, 200 4, 550 1, 525 9, 100 600 5, 850 7, 150 11, 785 8, 425 6, 400 4, 035 1, 650	200 .334 413 .135 .243 .333 .230 .502 .400 .40	200 600 50 100 150 100 250 75 100	40 41 99 21 238 12 148 152 377 240 198		5 1 26 6 10 43 61 50 41	112,000 132,000 181,127,000 193,000 248,000 265,000 1,469,000 1,710,000 1,544,000 1,317,000	66,000 33,000 50,000 138,000 482,000 295,000 269,000	10,000 50,000 40,000 30,000 6,000 20,000 20,000 30,000 30,000	414, 000 130, 000 200, 000 300, 000 700, 000	1, 500, 000 370, 000	450, 000 300, 000 1, 050, 000 990, 000

Monday	May	24	1,300	8, 150	50	19150	211		.] 25)	895, 000	-
Tuesday							24	1	. 4	60,000	45,000		1			1
Wednesday					,		20						1,000,000		2, 838, 000	<u>, 1</u>
Thursday							4					30,000				
Friday			1,300	780	60	19150	16	,	4	158,000	31,000	20,000	1,000,000			
Satorday	May	29	1, 300	1, 100	23	19100						. ,				Ç0
Sanday	May	30							5	112,000	21,000	10,000			200, 000	H
Monday	May	31	•••••	1,350	,		134		22	508,000	96,000	20,000	499,000		550, 000	\triangleright
Tuesday	June	1	,	1,750			99		14	259, 600		20,000				Ħ
Wednesday	June	2	·····	1, 100			61		22	545,000						Ţ,
Thursday	June	3		1, 150			31		8							Ψ.
Priday	Jupe	4		1,250		********	18		6					[,.,,		Þ
Satorday	June	5		700			28		3	82,000		10,000	177,000		**********	H
Sunday	June	6	.,,,,,,,,,,	200			5		3	78,000	,					Ω
Monday	Jape	7		1,100] 19]	476,000		20,000	312,000			描
Tuesday	June	8	***********	1,750			111		16	371,000			151,000			H
Wednesday	Jone	9	.,,,,,,,,,,,	400	ļ		3	ļ.i,				20,000	147,000			4
Thorsday	Jupe	10	**********	200			2					10,000	78,000	21298,000	,	¥
Friday	June	11		,,									403, COO			m
Saturday													256,000	21481,000		Ĥ
Sunday	Jane	13	.,,,,,,,,,,,,								, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	_ 10,000			*****	Þ
•			*********		,,.	,.,,		,,,,,,,,,,		.,		234 3, 000	,,			H
																Ĭ
Total	• • • • • • •	•••	65, 800	185,777	26,754	5, 050	20, 611	401	1,783	60, 766, 000	3,888,000	1,455,000	45, 231, 000	14,727,000	29, 049, 000	ÿ
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>							<u></u>			<u> </u>		4

*Records for the haul-seines are very incomplete. No hanling of soines is allowed by Maryland law after June 1.

f Herring were taken in great numbers, but no account of them was kept.

174.4 per cent of all eggs taken were hatched.

Kept too long in buckets.

No room for them in hatching house.

*Kept on shore all night.

4 Not good.

Put on trays in refrigerator because hatching-house was full.

Fifty thousand eggs sent to H. C. Mercer, to be put into Danube River. Sept to car No. 1.

*Righty thousand hatched from 200,000 eggs in refrigerator, and died in a few hours; 69,000 lost by overflow of aquarinme.

Lost by overflow of aquariams. 16 Shipped by car No. 1.

11 From steamer Fish Hawk, 2,099,000.

19 On account of lack of water,

"Eggs nearly hatched and put overboard to make TOOM.

14 Also 585,000 eggs in best condition received this day.

"Also received 600,000 rockfish eggs.

16 From steamer Lookout, 992,000.

Also shipped 75,000 rockfish to Oswego, N. Y.
 Two hundred pounds of other fish taken.

19 Pive hundred pounds of other fish taken. nOver mature.

n Deposited in Snequebanna River, for want of means of removal.

2 Not assignable to particular date or dates.

Table II.—Record of meteorological observations made at Batlery Station, Maryland, from May 1 to June 12, 1886, by William P. Sauerhoff and D. W. Kenty.

Date.	Te tur	empe e of	ra- air.	Tempera- ture of sur- face water.				emp re of tom	bot	Direction of wind			Int	ensity of w	rind.	Co	Condition of sky.			State of tic		de.	
	7 a.m.	4 p. m.	11 p. m.	7 4. 110.	4 p. m.	11 p. m.	7 8. 20.	4 p.m.	11 p.m.	7 8. 70.	4 p. m.	11 р. ш.	7 a.m.	4 p. m.	11 p. m.	7 P. m.	4 p. m.	11 р. ш.	Condition of water.	7 a. m.	4 p. m.	11 p. m.	
1 2 2 2 3 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	57 60 67 62 65 63 55 55 60 59 55 55 57 58 57 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58 58	0 59 66 66 70 68 63 59 60 63 74 72 74 66 59 62 67 71 72 78 68	0 59 61 66 65 67 64 66 65 67 68 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69 69	0 61 57 60 64 64 63 62 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65	0 60 62 64 64 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65	0 59 60 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64 64	0 6157 60 64 64 63 62 55 60 55 55 55 55 55 55 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60	60 62 64 64 65 65 65 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60	61 61 62 66 69 65	N.	N. S.	N. SE. SW. SE. NV. S. SE. NV. SV. NV. NV. NV. NV. NV. NV. NV. NV. NV. N	Strong Fresh Light do do Light Light do Light do do do Light do do do do do do Light Light light do do Brish Light Brisk	do do Fresh do	Light. do do do do do Light. Calm Light. Strong. Light. do Fresh. Light. Light. Light. Strong. Light. do Strong. Strong. Strong. Strong. Strong. Strong. Strong. Strong.	Clear do Cloudy do Cloudy do Clear do Clear	dodododododododo	do Cleardo Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy do do do Cloudy do do Cloudy do Clear do Cloudy do Cloudy do Clear do Cloudy do do Cloudy do do do Cloudy do	do	do	Ebb do d	Ebb. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Cow. Ebb. Do. Do. Do. Do. Ebb. Do. Do. Ebb. Flood Ebb. Flood Ebb. Flood Ebb. Flood Ebb. Flood	

6 720 8 921 1022	68 65 73 69 71	77 70] 75 71 76	65 70 72 72 77	68 69 71 73 72	71 74 73 76	73 73 75	68 69 71 73 72	69 71 74 73 76	68 70 73 73	SE. N. S. N.W.	SE. N. SE. SV.	S. S.V. N.	Very l't	Light do Fresh Light	do do do	do do Cloudy .	do Cloudy . Clear	do do do do do	do do do	do do do	do do do Flood	Do. Do. Do. Ebb.
------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------	----------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------	----------	-------------------------------	----------------	----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	----------------	----------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

1 Tide very low; no water in tank from 2 a.m. to 3.18

2 Rain from 4 a. m. to 6.30 a. m.

Rain at 11 a.m. ARain; etopped at 4 p.m.

Water very muddy.

Rain from 10.20 p. m. to 11 p. m. ⁷ Rain from 6.30 a.m. to 9.15 p. m.

Rain from 6.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Strong wind and current, making ebb run over its

10 Water began to clear at 4 p. m. ; current falling fast. 11 Rain at 11 p.m.
12 Stopped raining at 9 a.m.

11 Rain from 4 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. 14 Rain from 1.15 a. m. to 3.45 a. m.

16 Rain from 11.50 a, m. to 2 p. m. 16 Rain from 8.45 a. m. to 11.45 a. m. Day rather warm; light drizzle in early morn-

ing. Is West wind making very high tides. Is Wind blowing northwest for several days kept

20 Rain from 1 p. m. to 2 p. m. 11 Rain from 12.50 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Began raining at 7 p.m.

Table III.—Statement of shipments of shad fry made from Battery Station, Havre de Grace, Md., in April, May, and June, 1886.

State.	Place of deposit.	Stream.	Date.	Number sent
Maryland	Near Battery Station1	Susquehanna River	Apr. 25	25, 000
Do Do	Pology Bont Donosial	do	Apr. 26	25, 000 1, 421, 000 2, 431, 000
D0	Below Port Depositi	ao	Apr. 27 Apr. 27	2, 431, 004
Maryland	Near Battery Station1	Susquehanna River Northeast, Gunpowder, and Bush Rivers.	Apr. 28 Apr. 28	(*) 860, 000 1, 500, 000
_		Bush Rivers.4	pr. 20	
Do Do Do	Near Battery Station!		Apr. 29 Apr. 30	1, 055, 000
		Gunpowder, Northeast, and Patapaco Rivers.	Apr. 30	1, 430, 000
_ Do	Harrisburg ⁴ Near Battery Station ¹ Providence	Bush and Elk Rivers	May 1	1, 200, 000
Maryland	Neur Rattery Station	Susquebanna River	May 3	1, 621, 000
		Narragansett Bay	May 3 May 5	1, 952, 000 1, 500, 000
Maryland	Near Battery Station1	•••••••••	May 5	. 804,000
Do	Below Port Deposit1	•••••	May 6	} 1, 245, 000
Do		Chester Rivers	May 7 May 8	500,000
Do		Patuxent River	May 0	650, 000
Oregon	•••••	Columbia River.	May 9	1,000,000
Maryland		Northeast Rivers Broad and Saluda Rivers	May 9 May 10	(8) 500 000
South Carolina	Columbia4	Broad and Saluda Rivers	May 10	500,000 1,500,000 600,000
Marylon(L	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Gunpowde Rivers Bush Rivers Northeast Rivers Northeast and Elk Rivers	May 11	600,000
Do		Northeast Rivers	May 11 May 11	800,000 1 500 000
Do		Northeast and Elk Rivers	May 12	1, 500, 000 600, 000
Во	••••••	Northeast River and nate on	May 12	1, 500, 000
West Virginia	Grafton ¹¹	Locust Point. ¹⁰ Monongahela River	May 12	250,000
Maryland	••••••	Brandywine and Nanticoke Rivers.6	May 13	500, 000
Do	Off Ordinary Points	Sassafras River	May 13	1, 000, 000
I	1	Withlacoochee and Ocklockonnee Rivers.	May 14	1, 500, 000
Virginia	Clifton Forge ¹¹ Near Oswego ⁶	Tamon Pinan	May 14	250, 000
New York	Near Oswegos	Lake Ontario	May 14	(12)
Maryland	Relow Port Donosit!	Sneamehanna River	May 14	600, 000 370, 000
Dolaware	Below Port Deposit1	Brandywine River	May 15 May 16	450. ULU
West Virginia	Rowlesburgh ¹¹	Lake Ontario Chester River ³ Susquehanna Rivor Brandywine River ³ Chesta River	May 17	800, 000
Maryland Delaware	Sectords	Chester River Nanticoke River	May 18 May 18	600, 000 450, 000
Maryland	Salisbury ⁶	Wicomico River	May 10	450,000
Do		Patuxent Rivers	May 10 May 19	540,000
west virginia		Wicomico River. Patuxent River ³ . Monongahela River ¹¹ . Susquehanna River.	May 21 May 24	300, 000 895, 000
Maryland	Above Port Deposits		May 25	750,000
'ennsylvania	Peach Bottom	do	May 26	UND Acq
Do Delaware	Marietta ⁴	Nanticoke River.	May 26 May 27	1, 500, 000 977, 000
	Conowingos		May 27 May 28	500,000
North Carolina	Fayetteville	Cape Fear River	May 29	500, 000 1, 100, 000
Vest Virginia	Fairmont ¹¹	Monongahela River	May 80]	200, 000 550, 000
Do	Tides Eddys	do	May 31 June 1	500,000
Maryland	Above Havre de Graces	do	Juno 2	100 000
Do	Below Havre do Grace1	do	June 5	228, 000 429, 000 472, 000
Do	Near Battery Station1	do	June 7	472, 000
Do	doi	do	June 10	298, 000
Do	do1	Cape Fear River Monongahela River Susquehanna River do	June 12 June 13	481,000 256,000
			- 0 0 0 0	
Total	1		, i	43, 776, 000

¹ By employees of station.

² Fifty thousand eggs on trays shipped to H.

C. Mercer, by ateamship Eider, for Danube River.

³ By R. H. Dana.

⁴ By N. Simmons, car No. 1.

⁵ Eggs almost hatched when put into river.

⁶ By F. L. Donnelly.

By J. F. Ellis, car No. 3.

Delivered 885,000 eggs in good order.

By steamer Lookout.

By launches Nos. 68 and 82.

By H. E. Quinn.

Seventy-five thousand rockfish.