

XXXII.—NOTES ON THE NORWEGIAN FISHERIES OF 1885.

[Abstract from a Compilation of A. N. Kiær.*]

Cod fisheries.—The yield of the cod fisheries in 1885 was larger than in any of the four preceding years; while it was considerably less than in 1880, which was the most productive year since 1866, when somewhat complete statistics of these fisheries were first taken. The amount of cod taken in 1885 was above the average, while the value was somewhat below it, owing to a decided fall in prices. A comparison of the results of 1884† and 1885 may easily be made by referring to the following table:

Year.	No. of fish.	Liver.	Roe.	Value.	Average price per 100 round fish.
1884.....	50,435,500	<i>Hectoliters.</i> 90,636	<i>Hectoliters.</i> 47,765	\$4,163,732.68	\$8.25
1885.....	58,798,000	117,989	53,005	2,951,275.23	6.02

The amounts for 1885 are owing partly to the Lofodén fisheries and partly to the spring fisheries in Finmark, which gave a regular and average yield. The Lofoden fisheries, which had such poor yields in 1883 and 1884, improved very much, and in the Lofoden district proper during the fishing season 26,530,000 codfish were taken. If to this are added the number of fish caught after April 14 and those caught near Værøe and Röst and near the outer group of islands (in all 7,480,000 fish, 500,000 of which were caught in the Lofoden district proper after April 14), the total yield of these fisheries is brought up to 34,010,000, while in 1884 it was only 23,354,000.

* From the *Norges Officielle Statistik*, 3d series, No. 29, Christiania, Norway, 1886. Compiled by A. N. Kiær. Mr. H. Jacobson has assisted in the translation and Mr. H. P. Jerrell in preparing and reducing the tables.

Throughout this article reductions are made to dollars and pounds, by considering the crown as worth \$0.268, and the kilogram equal to 2.2046 pounds. The hectoliter contains nearly 26½ gallons, wine measure, or about 2½ bushels.

† For the statistics for 1884, with comparative tables covering the five preceding years and other details, see the U. S. Fish Commission Report for 1885, p. 313.

The Romsdal fisheries in 1885 yielded the following quantities:

	Number.
Söndmöre	2,011,500
Romsdal	265,500
Nordmöre	1,306,800
Total	3,583,800

These figures are below those of 1884 in each instance, and considerably less than the average for several years back.

In the Tromsöe district the cod fisheries have been on the increase during the last few years, giving in 1885 1,433,800 fish as against 1,241,800 in 1884. On the other hand, the Fosen (or South Trondhjem) fisheries were not so productive as in former years, falling from an average of about 1,000,000, and from 1,766,000 in 1884 to 689,400 in 1885. The Namdalen fisheries yielded 618,400 in 1885, against 424,000 in 1884.

The quality of the fish was about the same in 1885 as in 1884. They were fat and plump, but the Lofoden fish were very small. But the fish were not so fat nor did they contain so much liver as in average years, when one hectoliter of liver may generally be obtained from 350 fish, while in 1885 it took 506 fish to yield one hectoliter.

The average prices paid at the fishing stations were much below those of 1884, especially in the case of round fish and roe. The inspector of the Lofoden fisheries said in his report that with reference to roe the fall in price could be attributed only to accidental circumstances. Regarding the price of the fish, however, he thought the cause a different one. In 1880 and 1881 the price was lower in the Lofodens than in 1885, but he considered it doubtful whether it would again rise as rapidly, as the competition in the codfish trade is considerable, owing to the increase in the French cod fisheries near Iceland and Newfoundland.

Fat-herring fisheries.—The yield of these fisheries in 1885 was nearly twice as great as in 1884; but the value was not much greater, owing to the low prices. The principal fat-herring fisheries were, as usual, carried on in the Nordland district, where the quantity caught was 498,570 hectoliters, or nearly five-sixths of the entire quantity. A comparison of 1884 and 1885 is afforded by the following table:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hectoliter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
1884	344,000	\$685,076.34	\$1.99
1885	619,347	801,823.84	1.29

Spring-herring fisheries.—The following table shows the yield, value, and average price for 1884 and 1885:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hectoliter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
1884	261,981	\$387,396.95	\$1.48
1885	209,246	203,048.86	.97

Sprat and other small herring fisheries.—The following table affords a comparison between the quantities taken, the values, and the average prices for 1884 and 1885:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hectoliter.
1884	<i>Hectoliters.</i> 157,471	\$78,005.74	\$0.50
1885	121,267	57,586.77	.47

Mackerel fisheries.—The comparison of the mackerel fisheries for 1884 and 1885 is shown by the following table:

Year.	Number.	Value.	Average price per 100 fish.
1884	5,348,700	\$107,094.43	\$3.69
1885	6,111,960	209,562.60	3.43

Summer fisheries for ling, coal-fish, torsk, etc.—The total quantity of these fish taken could not be ascertained; but their value in 1885 was \$653,593.57, while in 1884 it was \$776,960.41, thus showing a considerable decrease in value.

Salmon-trout and sea-trout fisheries.—These fisheries yielded much better results in 1885 than in 1884, though that year was better than any of the five preceding years. The yield was particularly good in the districts of South Trondhjem, Lister, Mandal, and Stavanger. A comparison of the years 1884 and 1885 is shown in the following table:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per pound.
1884	<i>Pounds.</i> 1,082,789	\$132,707.97	\$0.12
1885	1,287,006	158,056.22	.12

Lobster fisheries.—The number of lobsters taken was smaller than usual, while, owing to the high prices, the value was about the average. A comparison for the two years is as follows:

Year.	Number.	Value.	Average price per 100.
1884	1,000,828	\$111,022.15	\$10.18
1885	1,007,871	106,661.05	10.58

Oyster fisheries.—The comparative total statistics of these fisheries for 1884 and 1885 are shown in the following table:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per he. to liter.
1884.....	<i>Hectoliters.</i> 230	\$1, 091. 78	\$8. 66
1885.....	153	1, 299. 27	8. 49

The total value of the Norwegian coast fisheries in 1885 was \$5,142,907.41, as against \$6,535,488.45 for 1884, showing a considerable falling off for 1885. This small total value, which was less than for any of at least the six preceding years, was due principally to the low prices of the products of the cod fisheries. A comparative table showing the value of the coast fisheries according to the kinds of fish caught is as follows:

Fisheries.	1884.		1885.	
	Total value.	Per cent.	Total value.	Per cent.
Cod fisheries.....	\$4, 163, 732. 68	63. 7	\$2, 951, 275. 23	57. 4
Fat-herring fisheries.....	685, 076. 34	10. 4	801, 823. 84	15. 6
Spring-herring fisheries.....	387, 396. 95	5. 9	203, 648. 86	3. 9
Sprat, etc., fisheries.....	78, 605. 74	1. 2	57, 586. 77	1. 1
Mackerel fisheries.....	197, 094. 43	3. 0	209, 562. 60	4. 1
Summer fisheries.....	776, 060. 41	11. 8	653, 593. 67	12. 7
Salmon-trout, etc., fisheries.....	132, 707. 97	2. 3	158, 056. 22	3. 1
Lobster fisheries.....	111, 922. 15	1. 7	108, 661. 05	2. 1
Oyster fisheries.....	1, 091. 78	1, 299. 27
Total.....	6, 535, 488. 45	100	5, 142, 907. 41	100

Storeggen Bank fisheries.—The results of the fisheries, which were especially for ling and torsk, were not very favorable in 1885, owing chiefly to the stormy weather.

The fisheries on the banks near Stordy Bet were comparatively more successful, being carried on simultaneously with the Storeggen fisheries.

The following table gives the statistics for 1885, and affords a partial comparison with the figures for 1884:

Year.	Storeggen.			Stordy bet.				Total value.
	Vessels.	Men.	Value.	Steamer.	Boats.	Vessels.	Value.	
1884.....	25	308	\$28, 056. 38					
1885.....	26	310	20, 038. 36	1	20	90	\$48, 240	\$68, 278. 30

Shark fisheries in Finmark.—These employed 14 boats, 25 vessels, and 174 men. The total value of the livers obtained (4,078 hectoliters) was \$13,742.77. The quantity obtained was less than for several years

and the low prices of the oil caused the value of these fisheries to decline.

Other Polar Sea fisheries.—These fisheries employed 45 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,933, and 453 men. They yielded 10,654 seals, 721 walruses, 177 white-fish, 12 bottle-noses, 623 hectoliters of sharks' livers, and 40 hectoliters of whale fat. The total value in 1885 was \$54,603.66, against \$80,145.40 in 1884. Besides the above, a vessel from Vardøe brought 204 seals and 6 walruses, valued at \$1,447.20.

Whale fisheries in Finmark.—These fisheries yielded 1,269 whales, valued at \$320,883.64. This result is a great increase over 1884 and the catch for many years previously.

Seal fisheries.—These fisheries near Jan-Mayen and in the sea between Iceland and Greenland employed 18 steamers, with a tonnage of 4,527, and 993 men, 148 of whom were hunters. They yielded 58,028 seal skins and 10,625 hectoliters of fat and oil, having a total value of \$174,200.

Bottle-nose fisheries.—These employed 20 vessels (5 being steamers), with a tonnage of 2,255, and yielded about 800 bottle-noses, producing about 7 800 barrels of oil, valued at \$83,616.

Total value of Norwegian salt water fisheries in 1885.

Coast fisheries.....	\$5, 142, 907. 41
Bank fisheries.....	68, 278. 36
Shark fisheries.....	13, 742. 77
Other Polar Sea fisheries.....	54, 603. 66
Whale fisheries.....	320, 883. 64
Seal fisheries.....	174, 200. 00
Bottle-nose fisheries.....	83, 616. 00
Total.....	5, 858, 231. 84

The following twelve tables give more full details in regard to the coast fisheries in 1885:

TABLE I.—*Number of fishermen engaged in the cod, fat-herring, and mackerel fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Cod fisheries.	Fat-herring fisheries.	Mack-erel fisheries.	Total.
Smaalenee.....			132	132
Akershus.....			125	125
Buskorud.....			30	30
Jarlsberg and Laurvig.....			937	937
Bratsberg.....			79	79
Nodensu.....			232	232
Lister and Mandal.....			1, 286	1, 286
Stavanger.....	475	114	1, 202	1, 891
South Bergenhus.....	660	2, 130	24	2, 804
North Bergenhus.....	60	1, 494		1, 554
Romsdal.....	15, 626	2, 830		18, 456
South Trondhjem.....	3, 162	5, 161		8, 323
North Trondhjem.....	2, 029	2, 090		4, 119
Nordland.....	34, 810	16, 002		50, 812
Tromsøe.....	2, 381	3, 187		5, 568
Finmark.....	17, 311			17, 311
Total.....	76, 504	33, 008	4, 147	113, 659

TABLE II.—*Value of the coast fisheries in 1885.**

District.	Cod.	Fat herring.	Sprat and other small herring.	Spring herring.	Mackorel.
Smaaløene			\$1,404	\$29,507	\$4,744
Akershus			2,900	134	1,454
Buskerud			1,769		603
Jarlsberg and Laurvig			947	19,106	48,529
Bratsberg				5,215	3,175
Nedenæs				12,917	8,280
Lister and Mandal			509		87,735
Stavanger	\$1,415	\$5,186	8,748	89,968	54,853
South Bergenhus	1,020	21,606	16,213	32,605	187
North Bergenhus	500	5,065	6,626	2,037	
Romsdal	223,068	25,063	9,700	11,560	
South Trondhjem	39,057	37,438	5,028		
North Trondhjem	35,417	32,374	858		
Nordland	1,896,559	635,792	1,745		
Tromsøe	72,961	39,300	482		
Finnmark	681,271				
Total	2, 1, 275	801, 824	57, 587	203, 049	209, 563

District.	Summer fisheries for ling, coal fish, etc.	Salmon-trout and sea-trout.	Lobsters.	Oysters.	Total.
Smaaløene	\$4,837	\$1,544	\$5,070	\$214	\$47,320
Akershus	1,745	1,616	80	9	7,998
Buskerud	5,146	2,624	51	40	10,236
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	19,307	4,615	0,301	454	102,250
Bratsberg	6,046	2,352	3,537		20,325
Nedenæs	6,579	4,326	12,543		44,645
Lister and Mandal	9,097	22,238	20,756		150,235
Stavanger	7,697	21,445	26,287		215,600
South Bergenhus	29,010	16,453	14,120		131,220
North Bergenhus	8,001	12,213	4,198	111	38,751
Romsdal	21,663	8,966	1,700	129	301,847
South Trondhjem	21,799	38,085		288	142,295
North Trondhjem	16,880	14,387		54	99,970
Nordland	139,433	3,839			2,677,068
Tromsøe	74,847	2,304			189,894
Finnmark	280,607	1,049			962,927
Total	653, 594	158, 056	106, 661	1, 299	5, 142, 908

* The figures in this table are given in even dollars.

TABLE III.—*Details of the cod fisheries in 1885, showing the number of fishermen and boats.*

District.	Total number of fishermen.	Fishermen using—			
		Nets only.	Night-lines only.	Lines only.	Two or more of these.
Stavanger	475				475
South Bergenhus	650			650	
North Bergenhus	60				60
Romsdal	15,026	1,723	2,940	1,562	9,395
South Trondhjem	3,162	661		1,272	1,229
North Trondhjem	2,029	302	30	313	1,384
Nordland	34,810	12,072	19,442	1,590	1,796
Tromsøe	2,381	50	1,305	75	951
Finnmark	17,311	25	3,506	3,693	10,027
Total	76, 504	14, 833	27, 280	9, 065	25, 317

TABLE III.—*Details of the cod fisheries in 1885, etc.—Continued.*

District.	Total number of boats.	Boats equipped with—			
		Nets only.	Night-lines only.	Lines only.	Two or more of these.
Stavanger.....	125				125
South Bergenhus.....	250			250	
North Bergenhus.....	10				10
Romsdal.....	2,688	233	516	289	1,048
South Trondhjem.....	787	150		382	255
North Trondhjem.....	514	57	15	93	349
Nordland.....	8,157	2,000	5,250	501	408
Tromsøe.....	828	16	452	33	327
Finmark.....	4,959	8	1,122	869	2,960
Total.....	18,316	2,464	7,355	2,417	6,080

TABLE IV.—*Quantity of codfish caught in 1885.*

District.	Number of cod taken.	Liver.	Roe.	Number of fish-heads sold.
		<i>Hectoliters.</i>	<i>Hectoliters.</i>	
Stavanger.....	22,000	37	29	22,000
South Bergenhus.....	15,000	25	20	7,500
North Bergenhus.....	6,500	18	15	6,500
Romsdal.....	3,583,800	5,961	5,373	2,291,800
South Trondhjem.....	689,400	1,360	1,440	470,000
North Trondhjem.....	629,400	954	745	300,000
Nordland.....	34,888,400	62,555	44,118	22,399,000
Tromsøe.....	1,433,800	2,860	932	115,000
Finmark.....	17,529,700	44,210	393	13,790,800
Total.....	58,798,000	117,989	53,065	39,402,600

TABLE V.—*Value of the cod fisheries in 1885 and the average prices paid.*

District.	Value of the different products.				
	Fish without liver and roe.	Liver.	Roe.	Fish-heads sold.	Total value.
Stavanger.....	\$1,179.20	\$99.16	\$77.72	\$58.06	\$1,415.04
South Bergenhus.....	837.50	107.20	64.32	20.10	1,029.12
North Bergenhus.....	349.74	77.18	55.48	17.42	499.82
Romsdal.....	175,152.74	24,258.83	17,244.46	6,410.02	223,066.05
South Trondhjem.....	28,291.15	5,252.80	4,031.04	881.72	39,056.71
North Trondhjem.....	28,834.11	4,055.38	1,064.98	562.80	35,417.27
Nordland.....	1,426,171.65	294,952.23	125,649.30	19,786.17	1,806,559.35
Tromsøe.....	58,763.83	10,318.00	3,747.71	131.32	72,960.86
Finmark.....	530,684.22	138,945.41	1,140.07	10,501.31	681,271.01
Total.....	2,250,264.14	478,066.19	184,575.68	38,369.82	2,951,275.23

TABLE V.—*Value of the cod fisheries in 1895, etc.*—Continued.

District.	Average prices.				Estimated price per 100 with liver, roe, and heads.
	Without liver and roe, per 100.	Liver, per hectoliter.	Roe, per hectoliter.	Fish-heads, per 100.	
Stavanger	\$5.26	\$2.68	\$2.68	\$0.27	\$6.43
South Bergenhus	5.58	4.20	3.22	.27	6.80
North Bergenhus	5.38	4.29	3.70	.27	7.69
Romsdal	4.89	4.07	3.21	.28	6.22
South Trondhjem	4.10	3.86	3.22	.19	5.67
North Trondhjem	4.56	4.25	2.64	.19	5.63
Nordland	4.09	4.71	3.53	.09	5.44
Tromsøe	4.10	3.61	4.02	.12	5.09
Finnmark	3.03	3.14	2.90	.08	3.89
General average	3.83	4.05	3.48	0.10	5.02

TABLE VI.—*Details of the fat-herring fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Total number of fishermen.	Fishermen using nets.	Fishermen using seines.	Net-boats used.	Seines used.
Stavanger	114	14	100	1	5
South Bergenhus	2,130	25	2,105	10	146
North Bergenhus	1,494	400	1,094	50	87
Romsdal	2,830	672	2,158	309	140
South Trondhjem	5,161	1,164	3,997	556	248
North Trondhjem	2,090	245	1,845	110	107
Nordland	16,002	8,600	7,402	3,046	435
Tromsøe	3,187	2,675	512	1,026	50
Total	33,008	13,705	19,213	5,108	1,218

District.	Total quantity caught.	Caught with nets.	Caught with seines.	Value.	Average price per hectoliter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>	<i>Hectoliters.</i>	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
Stavanger	1,350	1,050	300	\$5,185.80	\$3.81
South Bergenhus	6,708	232	6,476	21,605.62	3.22
North Bergenhus	3,840	300	3,540	5,065.20	1.32
Romsdal	29,370	2,178	27,192	26,063.30	.85
South Trondhjem	15,109	2,700	12,349	37,437.99	2.48
North Trondhjem	18,300	1,400	16,900	32,374.40	1.77
Nordland	494,670	95,010	402,960	636,791.95	1.28
Tromsøe	46,100	16,800	29,300	89,299.52	.85
Total	619,347	120,330	499,017	801,823.84	1.29

TABLE VII.—*Details of the mackerel fisheries in 1885*

District.	Total number of fishermen.	Fishermen using drift-nets.	Boats having drift-nets.	Total number of fish caught.	Fish caught with drift-nets.	Value of fish caught.	Average price per 100.
Smaaleneo	132	132	44	88,500	77,000	\$4,743.60	\$5.36
Akershus	125			28,100		1,453.90	5.18
Buskerud	30			19,500		603.00	3.11
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	937	937	254	1,211,769	1,171,269	48,529.44	4.00
Bratsberg	79	71	24	80,750	72,500	3,174.46	3.93
Nedenes	232	204	76	188,025	176,425	8,279.59	4.40
Lister and Mandal	1,286	1,270	346	2,826,310	2,813,030	87,735.16	3.10
Stavanger	1,302	1,152	300	1,663,995	1,644,800	54,855.85	3.30
South Bergenhus	24	24	8	5,000	5,000	187.00	3.75
Total	4,147	3,700	1,052	6,111,909	5,960,084	209,502.00	3.43

TABLE VIII.—*Details of the sprat and other small-herring fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hecto-liter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
Smaalenene	2, 280	\$1, 403. 78	\$0. 02
Akershus	888	2, 900. 33	3. 33
Buskerud	1, 100	1, 768. 80	1. 61
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	1, 095	946. 58	. 87
Lister and Mandal	800	500. 20	. 64
Stavanger	20, 778	8, 746. 18	. 42
South Bergenhus	46, 170	16, 212. 66	. 35
North Bergenhus	10, 468	0, 626. 03	. 63
Romsdal	19, 963	0, 700. 53	. 49
South Trondhjem	11, 000	5, 628. 00	. 51
North Trondhjem	1, 100	857. 60	. 78
Nordland	4, 825	1, 744. 68	. 35
Tromsøe	700	482. 40	. 69
Total	121, 207	57, 586. 77	. 47

TABLE IX.—*Details of the spring-herring fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hecto-liter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
Smaalenene	60, 080	\$20, 506. 80	\$0. 49
Akershus	50	134. 00	2. 68
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	20, 840	19, 105. 72	. 92
Bratsberg	3, 100	5, 215. 28	1. 68
Nedenæs	11, 760	12, 917. 60	1. 10
Stavanger	67, 650	80, 967. 60	1. 33
South Bergenhus	34, 050	32, 004. 88	. 96
North Bergenhus	891	2, 036. 80	2. 29
Romsdal	10, 825	11, 560. 18	1. 07
Total	209, 246	203, 048. 86	. 97

TABLE X.—*Details of the salmon-trout and sea-trout fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per pound.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		
Smaalenene	7, 910	\$1, 543. 05	\$0. 20
Akershus	8, 827	1, 615. 77	. 18
Buskerud	15, 388	2, 024. 52	. 17
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	26, 640	4, 615. 50	. 17
Bratsberg	12, 787	2, 351. 70	. 18
Nedenæs	32, 518	4, 825. 52	. 18
Lister and Mandal	177, 779	22, 238. 37	. 13
Stavanger	166, 337	21, 444. 82	. 13
South Bergenhus	133, 224	16, 453. 06	. 12
North Bergenhus	92, 853	12, 212. 76	. 13
Romsdal	82, 613	8, 966. 94	. 11
South Trondhjem	321, 856	38, 084. 68	. 12
North Trondhjem	123, 250	14, 386. 78	. 12
Nordland	38, 257	3, 830. 37	. 10
Tromsøe	32, 902	2, 304. 26	. 07
Finmark	13, 856	1, 049. 22	. 08
Total	1, 287, 006	158, 056. 22	. 12

TABLE XI.—*Details of the lobster fisheries in 1885.*

District	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per 100.
	<i>Number.</i>		
Smaalenene	61,000	\$5,078.60	\$8.33
Akershus	1,000	80.40	8.04
Buskorud	500	53.60	10.72
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	99,890	9,300.67	9.31
Bratsberg	33,000	3,537.60	10.72
Nedeimus	128,547	12,543.21	9.76
Lister and Mandal	233,770	29,756.04	12.73
Stavanger	232,305	26,286.78	11.32
South Bergenhus	155,049	14,126.28	9.11
North Bergenhus	46,950	4,197.68	8.94
Romsdal	15,860	1,700.19	10.72
Total	1,007,871	106,661.05	10.58

TABLE XII.—*Details of the oyster fisheries in 1885.*

District.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price per hectoliter.
	<i>Hectoliters.</i>		
Smaalenene	20	\$214.40	\$10.72
Akershus	1	8.58	8.58
Buskorud	5	40.20	8.04
Jarlsberg and Laurvig	39	454.20	11.66
North Bergenhus	24	111.40	4.64
Romsdal	11	128.64	11.70
South Trondhjem	45	288.10	6.40
North Trondhjem	8	53.60	6.70
Total	153	1,290.27	8.40

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY, *October 23, 1886.*