

**STATISTICS OF THE
FISHERIES OF THE
SOUTH ATLANTIC
STATES; PP.171-227**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649309818

Statistics of the fisheries of the South Atlantic states; pp.171-227 by C. H. Townsend

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Cover @ 2017

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C. H. TOWNSEND

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U. S. COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES,
GEORGE M. BOWERS, Commissioner.

STATISTICS

OF THE

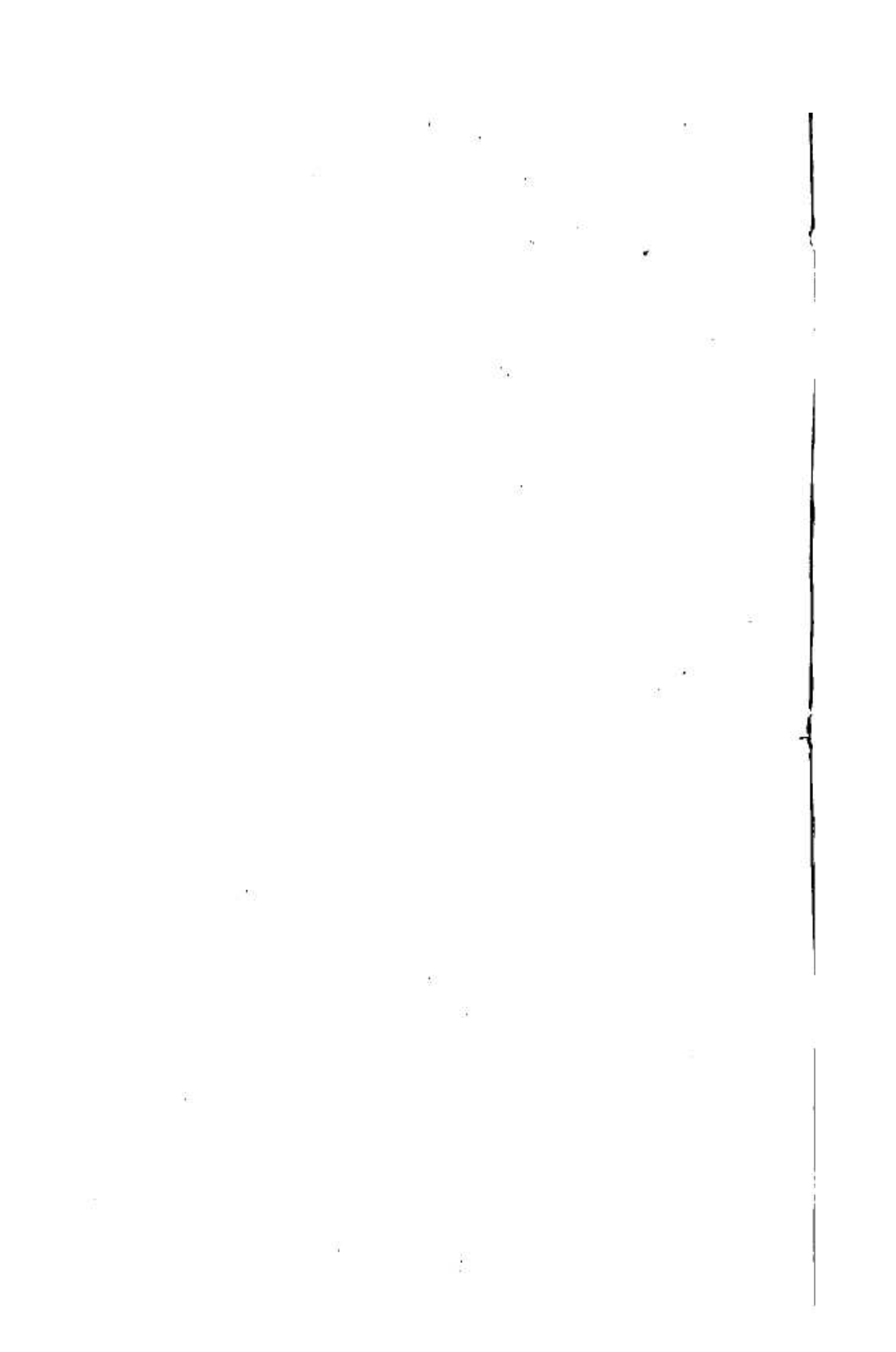
FISHERIES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES.

PREPARED IN THE
DIVISION OF STATISTICS AND METHODS OF THE FISHERIES,
UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION.

C. H. TOWNSEND,
Assistant in Charge.

Extracted from U. S. Fish Commission Report for 1899. Pages 171 to 227.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1899.



OCT 28 1902

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The accompanying statistical report on the fisheries of the South Atlantic States is based on investigations made by agents of the United States Fish Commission in 1898, the information relating to the year 1897. The general results of this work were made public in the report of the Division of Fisheries for 1898, and were also presented earlier and in more condensed form in Statistical Bulletin No. 9. Single sheet statistical bulletins are usually issued upon the completion of field work, and distributed in the fishery region to which they refer, in advance of the regular reports of the Commission. The information collected during this canvass is here presented in full, the results having been tabulated and the various features of the fisheries shown in detail.

The report has been prepared under the direction of Mr. C. H. Townsend, assistant in charge of the Division of Fisheries. The field inquiries were conducted by Messrs. W. A. Wilcox, T. M. Cogswell, and John N. Cobb, agents of the division, to whom should be credited the explanatory notes relating to the States in which they worked. The fisheries of North Carolina were canvassed by Messrs. Cogswell and Cobb; those of South Carolina and Georgia by Mr. Wilcox, and of eastern Florida by Mr. Cobb.

The assistant in charge has had the constant aid of Mr. S. Le R. Pritchard and other members of the office force of the division in the preparation of the tables.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

STATISTICS OF THE FISHERIES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES.

GENERAL NOTES AND STATISTICS.

The condition of the commercial fisheries of this region, as shown in the following report, has not changed to any marked degree since they were canvassed in 1890. Although there has been a general increase in respect to persons employed, capital invested, and value of products, the development of the fisheries is not yet proportionate to the important fishery resources of the States considered. The region, as a whole, with its numerous rivers and extensive sounds, is destined to maintain greater fishery industries.

The investigations were confined to the coastal waters and to the lower courses of the rivers as far inland as commercial fisheries are maintained.

The table on pp. 176-177 gives general comparisons with former canvasses made in 1880 and 1890. Comparisons in detail may be made by consulting previous statistical publications* of the United States Fish Commission on this subject.

The tables on pp. 174-175 show, by States, the condition of the fisheries of the South Atlantic States in 1897. The capital invested in the fisheries of this region amounted to \$1,828,832. Of this amount \$1,218,459 is credited to North Carolina, \$174,354 to South Carolina, \$284,864 to Georgia, and \$151,155 to eastern Florida.

The total number of persons employed was 17,185, of which number 14,449 were fishermen and 2,736 shoresmen. In the North Carolina fisheries alone 12,045 were employed; in South Carolina, 2,139; and in Georgia, 1,869. The fishermen of the eastern coast of Florida numbered 1,132.

The total number of vessels employed was 243, having a tonnage of 2,790.83, and valued, with their outfit, at \$200,280. The total number

*The Fishery Industries of the United States, section II, Geographical Review of the Fisheries for 1880.

The Fishery Industries of the United States, section V, History and Methods of the Fisheries.

Report on the Fisheries of the South Atlantic States, by Hugh M. Smith, M. D. Bull. U. S. Fish Com., 1891, pp. 267-356.

The Fish and Fisheries of the Coastal Waters of Florida. U. S. Fish Commission Report for 1896, pp. 263-342.

Report on the Fisheries of Indian River, Florida. U. S. Fish Commission Report for 1896, pp. 223-262.

Notes on the Extent and Condition of the Alewife Fisheries of the United States in 1896, by Hugh M. Smith. Report U. S. Fish Commission for 1898, pp. 31-43.

The Shad Fisheries of the Atlantic Coast of the United States, by Charles H. Stevenson. Report U. S. Fish Commission, 1898, pp. 101-269.

of boats in this region was 6,691, valued at \$276,866. The apparatus of capture had a value of \$492,596, and other accessory property \$531,290.

Gill nets have been the most important form of apparatus employed, and were valued at \$243,482, pound nets ranking next in importance, with a value of \$137,175. The value of seines is placed at \$95,340, all other forms of apparatus being of minor importance.

The products of the fisheries amount to 80,390,465 pounds, with a value of \$1,833,155. The products of the fisheries of North Carolina were valued at \$1,316,017; those of South Carolina, \$210,456; of Georgia, \$170,605; and of eastern Florida, \$136,077. The most important item with respect to product is shad, which is valued at \$478,784, oysters ranking next, with a value of \$384,934. Mullet is third and is valued at \$115,465. Alewives and squeteague follow with values of \$118,124 and \$112,578, respectively.

Shad and oysters are by far the most important products of the fisheries of North Carolina; oysters, whiting, shad, and sea bass of South Carolina and Georgia, while in eastern Florida the leading fishery products are shad, mullet, pompano, and squeteague.

Since the last canvass of this region, which was in 1890, there has been an increase in the fisheries of all these States except eastern Florida. Taking the region as a whole, there has been an increase in products of 13,205,847 pounds, having a value of \$259,451. There has been an increase in capital invested of \$140,546. North Carolina is the only State where the investment has decreased, the amount of this decrease being \$25,529. Since 1890 the value of the yield of the more important fishes, such as shad, mullet, and alewives, has been nearly stationary, while that of oysters has increased about one-third.

Table showing the number and value of vessels, boats, apparatus, and shore property employed in the fisheries of the South Atlantic States in 1897.

Items.	North Carolina.		South Carolina.		Georgia.		Florida.		Total.		
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	
Vessels.....	174	\$151,375	10	\$15,742	51	\$26,833	2	\$4,530	243	\$200,280	
Tonnage.....	1,879.23	252.93	1,058	34,080	841.80	20,277	16.87	19,800	2,790.83	6,991	276,866
Boats.....	4,428	82,185	83	2,045	86	2,305	44	2,735	1,243	95,240	
Seines.....	89,686	179,190	403	22,840	424	11,906	487	28,517	68,007	249,482	
Gill nets.....	1,832	139,375			4	800			1,836	137,175	
Pound nets.....	23	244							23	244	
Fyke nets.....	(*)		138	875	82	386	30	105	235	1,183	
Cast nets.....							37	280	37	280	
Turtle nets.....	1,238	885							1,233	885	
Pots.....		247		1,425		205		46		1,923	
Lines.....	70	1,050							70	1,050	
Wheels.....	28	855			5	50			31	905	
Dredges.....	1,491	3,330	246	1,692	547	2,133	51	397	2,335	7,545	
Tonga, rakes, and grabs.....		2,320		80		25				2,405	
Other apparatus.....											
Shore and accessory property.....		315,164		45,455		106,356		64,715		531,290	
Cash capital.....		138,400		48,800		111,500		29,100		327,800	
Total.....		1,218,459		174,254		284,864		151,155		1,828,522	

* Shown in other apparatus.

Number of persons employed in the fisheries of the South Atlantic States in 1897.

States.	Fishermen.	Shoremen.	Total.
North Carolina.....	10,120	1,925	12,045
South Carolina.....	1,904	205	2,109
Georgia.....	1,404	485	1,889
Florida.....	991	141	1,132
Total.....	14,419	2,756	17,175

Table showing the quantity and value of products taken in the fisheries of the South Atlantic States in 1897.

Species.	North Carolina.		South Carolina.		Georgia.		Florida.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
Alewives, fresh.....	5,694,291	\$48,766	2,000	\$40	25,000	\$500	33,912	\$404
Alewives, salted.....	10,090,226	78,299					5,000	125
Black bass.....	535,842	23,811	1,000	30	4,800	323	52,516	2,184
Blue-fish, fresh.....	1,482,375	41,808	40,000	1,800			46,431	1,121
Blue-fish, salted.....	212,890	5,144						
Bonito.....	2,250	85						
Butter-fish.....	94,769	1,756						
Cat-fish.....	192,211	4,646	28,500	835	157,800	2,794	124,066	2,720
Channel bass or rod-fish, fresh.....	64,550	830	110,000	2,500	20,800	1,190	225,782	2,642
Channel bass or rod-fish, salted.....	40,200	804						
Drum.....	51,469	1,073	210,000	1,375	14,300	592	17,000	175
Eels.....	96,709	4,651			5,000	100		
Flounders.....	173,975	3,199			0,500	290		
Groupers.....			35,000	1,178				
Hickory shad.....	280,478	7,588	62,800	1,616				
King-fish.....	358,070	7,428			7,775	202		
Menhaden.....	11,210,000	19,700						
Mullet, fresh.....	797,425	18,787	46,000	885	56,000	1,210	2,341,957	21,156
Mullet, salted.....	2,612,160	73,541	10,000	200			71,400	1,578
Perch.....	806,873	24,044	2,000	40	3,600	140		
Pig-fish.....	412,307	10,285						
Pike.....	100,420	2,655						
Pin-fish.....	61,800	1,084						
Pompano.....	52,173	1,728	5,000	300			196,344	13,083
Porgy.....	39,910	473						
Sailor's choice.....	39,000	973	5,200	440	600	80		
Sead or round robin.....	3,100	46						
Sea bass.....	189,225	5,561	652,400	26,350			5,570	210
Shad.....	2,963,483	362,811	506,125	27,696	787,550	46,705	1,011,180	41,572
Sharks.....			20,000	300				
Sheepshead.....	271,208	9,243	36,200	1,460	25,000	1,250	390,164	5,908
Snappers.....	34,460	860	54,000	1,260				
Spanish mackerel.....	390,840	18,917	10,000	1,900	18,100	605	3,450	160
Spotted croakers, fresh.....	1,962,750	23,384	49,000	730			23,133	772
Spots and croakers, salted.....	185,249	4,749						
Squeteague, fresh.....	9,006,758	32,393	80,000	2,930	54,650	2,512	516,370	12,817
Squeteague, salted.....	89,496	2,226						
Strawberry bass.....	21,725	860						
Striped bass.....	645,123	58,035	10,100	556	9,000	530		
Sturgeon.....	371,625	18,625	411,300	7,325	147,700	4,000		
Suckers.....	125,230	3,037						
Sun-fish.....	38,210	1,069			3,900	195	248,989	6,827
Tautog.....	14,123	293						
Warmouth bass.....	6,950	948						
Whiting.....	45,306	1,133	638,500	29,405	45,700	2,100	8,000	266
Other fish.....							162,340	2,856
Shrimp.....	146,496	5,885	374,500	18,395	67,600	2,538	88,025	1,497
Crabs, soft.....	982,720	3,092						
Crabs, hard.....	40,000	1,000	110,000	2,240	74,660	1,864	3,700	175
Craw-fish.....							4,000	80
Terrapins.....	17,179	3,815	40,916	9,035	34,785	11,234	10,350	1,425
Turtles.....	24,000	1,220			1,000	20	25,856	1,751
Frogs.....	1,800	450						
Oysters.....	6,013,728	341,999	1,504,300	45,830	3,406,440	88,709	882,892	11,768
Clams.....	937,898	62,762	185,400	8,952	2,540	185	4,800	300
Scallops.....	118,223	6,853						
Caviar.....	82,500	11,163	69,800	17,525	9,800	2,581		
Squeteague sounds.....	691	104						
Refuse.....	3,882,200	4,828						
Total.....	64,234,257	1,316,017	5,280,446	210,456	4,993,100	170,605	5,862,662	186,077