

AD. S. JENSEN. On the Fishery of the Greenlanders. Meddelelser fra Kommissionen for Havundersøgelser. Serie Fiskeri. Bind VII. Nr. 7. Copenhagen, 1925.

When, about a year ago, Dr. JOHS. SCHMIDT prevailed on Prof. AD. S. JENSEN to give a brief account of his experiences at Greenland, a signal service was rendered to the fishing industry and to the literature of fisheries. The Danish Government in its solicitude for the well-being of the Eskimos has caused this vast colony to be virtually a closed book to travellers. This, doubtless, goes far towards explaining the limited knowledge the outside world has possessed of fish life in Greenland waters during an era when commercial fishing has been pushing further and further into northern seas. In consequence of this isolation there have been times when most extravagant rumours have gone about in fishing circles concerning Greenland, especially respecting the abundance of halibut.

Now from Prof. JENSEN's fluent and excellently illustrated report "On the Fishery of the Greenlanders" we are enabled to begin to make actual comparison of the fish wealth of Davis Strait with that of better known Arctic Waters.

The first feature which comes prominently under notice is the different composition of the fish fauna as compared with, say, the well-known neighbouring banks round Iceland.

Among the fishes generally marketable in Europe are recorded:

Halibut.	Norway Haddock.
Greenland Halibut.	Cod.
Catfish (3 species).	Salmon.
Herring.	Char.

Notable among those missing are:

Plaice.	Haddock.	Ling.
Dab.	Whiting.	Coalfish.

The Greenland Eskimos have interest in several fish generally regarded unmarketable in most countries. These are:

Greenland shark.	Lumpsucker.
Polar cod (2 species).	Capelan.
Long rough dab.	Sea scorpions (several species).

From the material collected during the cruises of the "Tjalfe" in 1908 and 1909 sufficient is set out by Professor JENSEN to cause his readers to look forward to the series of monographs now in the course of preparation. To the life history of several species some entirely new contributions have been made.

From the practical point of view the object of the expedition can be regarded as attained, for more than one new industry came into existence out of the findings of the scientists who took part in it. The last

mentioned outcome of the investigations must have been a great source of satisfaction to Professor JENSEN, who has recently re-visited the scenes of his earlier labours. Separate sections of his report deal with the development since 1909 of each of the undermentioned fisheries:

Greenland halibut.	Uvak (fiord cod).
Halibut.	Greenland shark.
Cod.	Salmon.

Space does not permit reviewing these developments here, but the service rendered to Greenland can be gathered from the fact that the export of Greenland halibut has grown from 702 barrels in 1910—11 to 2758 barrels in 1922—23. The export of cod has gone up from 23,500 kilos in 1912 to 681,000 kilos in 1923. It is, it seems, in the cod fishery that the Greenlanders must seek the basis of a great export fishery and it is interesting to find that the authorities are making provision so that the fishing population shall accustom itself to move from point to point along the coast with the fish. To this end curing facilities and transport are to be available at suitable spots. Some other European countries with their ready markets and better refrigerating facilities will have an eye to the halibut, the abundance of which at some spots is remarkable. Prof. JENSEN records how, when he offered the extremely low price of 4 öre per kilo ($\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb) for Greenland halibut taken from Agdluitsok Fiord, from which no halibut had previously been exported, 2,753 fish weighing $14\frac{1}{4}$ tons were brought to him in 17 days. And these had been caught by the natives in 198 fathoms on primitive fishing gear largely made up of old nails and hoop iron!

By studying Professor JENSEN's report those who seek these highly prized fish will surmount some of the difficulties which might otherwise be encountered. For example, clear proof is given that a deep sea thermometer can serve fishermen as faithfully in Davis Strait as the lead does in better known fishing regions. When in early summer the temperature of the water on the fishing banks was below freezing point there were no halibut: a very slight increase in water warmth and the fish appeared in their summer haunts. The cod are similarly affected. Many fishing skippers who trawled for plaice off the Murman Coast in May and June 1908, when fishing conditions there were little known, can recall a long spell of fruitless work for which there are now adequate explanations.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that following up the success of some Norwegian vessels in Greenland waters in 1924, there was quite an invasion in the succeeding year. A large Norwegian fleet of line vessels was joined by trawlers from England and France. There were some successes and some sad disappointments. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the closed seasons enforced by ice on the sea surface, and areas closed to trawling by the glacial boulders strewn on the sea bed, we must subscribe to the faith the Danish scientists have in the future of their fisheries in Greenland.

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