

Pilchard. This is the most important of all the fishing on this coast. About thirty years since pilchards came here in such abundance that several gentlemen of the neighbourhood resolved to have a sean [*seine*] on this with every appearance of success. Adventurers from all quarters began to adopt the same plan, then it was heave and go who and who should have parts. Committees were formed to adopt the most eligible plans. Large and extensive cellars were begun to be built. Seines and other materials connected thereto ordered to an outlay of about the tune of thirty thousand pounds and all was hustle and confusion for two or three years at Port Isaac, Port Quin, and Porth Karn Hvn. Some of those seans as the ‘Good Intent’ meet with singular success having caught nearly twelve hundred Hhds [*hogsheads*] of fish the first year, and some of the other seans had minor successes and soon fish were caught for eight or ten years after, some of those seans taking from six hundred hogsheads and others of less quantities upon an average, yearly. But from that time to this the fish have scarcely visited the coast, in consequence thereof several of the seans have been cut up and sold with all boats and other materials thereunto belonging, and the cellars either sold or falling into decay. About twenty Hhds were caught this last year by the joint adventure of the following seans, ‘Union’ at Porth Karn Hvn, ‘Industry’ at Port Isaac, and ‘Fenice’ [*Venice*] at Port Quin. The fish make about £3.10s per Hhd now in the Italian market but the Neapolitan Government at present lay an import duty of eighteen shillings per hogshead, and the Tuscan about the same.

Herrings. The herring fishing was some years since very prosperous, ten or dozen of large boats coming in twice in the course of a night and shake out so that in fact the beach at Port Isaac would be almost covered with fish every morning, when the weather permitted their going out from Michaelmas to Christmas. People from the country from thirty miles around coming here for herrings. In fact they have been caught here in that abundance, at two different periods of about forty years, that they were bundled and carried off in skiffs to Bristol to be smoked for red herrings. Mrs. Wattis’ Malthouse that was, but now converted into dwellings, and the preventive boathouse by the lowermost bridge at Port Isaac, was built entirely for the above said purpose of smoking by a Mr. Scantlebury, a Quaker, about a hundred and fifty years since – but of later years very little have been caught, and this last year not more than a few dozens.

Halibut. The halibuts in general are scarce and seldom caught on this coast.

Pollack and Wrath [*Cornish dialect for Wrasse*]. In the spring of the year these fish are caught by setting what is called a tramble which is a net made in the common form of a herring net but having two others attached to it one on each side composed of a stout twine with very large meshes through which the fish go on either side and by forcing the middle net into the one opposite are caught by entangling themselves in the taut or slack part thereof but at other times they are caught from the rocks and cliffs with the hook and line with a worm that is caught in the rocks at low water for bait but this is not infrequently attended with danger as two boys named Chalk and Martyn, apprentices to Mr. Bishop of Treore were washed off a rock and drowned but a few years since.

Tubb and Gurnet [*both species of Gurnard*]. It is the best of sport when these fish are plenty to go out fishing for as fast as a person can bait two or three lines each line with two hooks attached thereunto so fast may they fish be hauled in. It has been said the first person who ever offered Gurnets for sale in this Parish was called Henry Millar but in general called Harry Dingey from Tintagell who resided at Port Isaac a short time, before which they were given away when caught more than enough for the catcher use. These fish are mostly caught all the year round but especially in the summer months in abundance and seldom or ever fail.