

## NEVER FAILING SEA FISHING

North Carolina's Fifteen Hundred Miles of Shore Line Furnishes It

Average Fifty Million Pounds Catch Includes Most Everything From Shrimp to Porpoises



AMONG the most interesting of recent visitors was a guest from Chowan County who discussed the States Fisheries interestingly the other evening. "It seems to be a surprise to many," he said, "to learn that North Carolina has fifteen hundred miles of shore line, and that every mile of it is never failing fishing ground. These coast fisheries give constant employment to more than ten thousand persons and the annual marketed fish catch averages more than fifty million pounds and includes fifty varieties of fresh and salt water fishes besides oysters, scallops, clams, crabs and terrapin. We run the whole range of almost every kind of fish you can think of, from shrimps to porpoises; and with the exception of the menhaden fishermen none of our fishers go down to the sea in ships, and even the menhaden boats don't go far away. Besides salt water fishes, some of these sounds contain many varieties of fresh water fishes, a remarkable circumstance; among them black bass, white perch, bullheads, pike, strawberry bass and others. Albermarle Sound, owing to its uniform depth, which is 20 feet, its remarkably level bottom and entire absence of currents and tides, is the ideal water for seine fisheries, and no body of water of the same size in the world has more extensive fisheries or yields more fish. And yet no fish that has its constant home in salt water ever comes into Albermarle or Currituck Sound to tarry. The waters of those sounds are fresh. It's curious how that came about.

"In fact Albermarle Sound is the largest body of coastal fresh water in the world. But it was not always fresh. Years ago it was as salt as the ocean, as salt as Roanoke and Croatan sounds, which join it at its eastern end, and Pamlico Sound, into which they drain its waters, are to-day. It became a fresh water body because Currituck Sound, which empties into it on the north and had been salt water until then, one time long ago turned fresh. All the sea fish that had swarmed in these sounds abandoned them—bluefish, squeteague, sheepshead, menhaden, Spanish mackerel and the rest—and now come no nearer them to tarry than into the adjoining waters of Roanoke and Croatan sounds. But their places were taken by innumerable varieties of fresh water fishes, including the game black bass, and by anadromous fishes, those that come from salt water into fresh water to spawn, chief among them the shad, which by and by sought those waters by the million on their annual journeys northward and for a hundred years the supply of which

seems not to have diminished. There are no dams to stop the shad on their way or refuse from sewers and factories to destroy them as they journey, such as they encounter nowadays in the Northern waters they enter.

"Albermarle Sound is the greatest shad fishing water in this country, and that of course means the world. From its main body and its tributary rivers more than 2,000,000 shad are taken every spring before the Northern fisheries have as yet hauled a seine. Besides seines three miles long, put out by means of steam launches and hauled in by steam stationary engines, hundreds of gill, pound and skim nets are in constant service taking the shad from the water. As many as 100,000 fish have been brought in at a single haul of a seine in the sound. Herring in vast schools run with the shad and are taken along with them by thousands of tons. Between 1,500 and 2,000 persons are employed in the shad fisheries of Albermarle Sound. In the two months or so that our shad fisheries last they bring to the fisherman of the Albermarle district something over half a million dollars. Chowan and Bertie counties get the most of it. The salt water fisheries in Pamlico, Croatan, Roanoke, Core and Bogue sounds keep things lively all the year round and the miscellaneous catch of the choicest food fishes that swim that comes annually to their nets and lines foots up in financial results close on to a couple of millions a year.

"So you see there is mighty good reason for us people along the North Carolina coast country to be taken up mostly in talking about fish, of which Pinehurst sees its share during the season."

## Mr. and Mrs. Spring Return

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Spring of Boston opened their log cabin bungalow early in the week.

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