

Extracts from 19th century local newspapers relating to sea-fishing

HERRING FISHING STATISTICS – Last week 190 boats were fishing in this district, 50 of which were engaged at Eyemouth, 82 at Berwick, 22 at North Sunderland, 14 at Craster, and the remainder at the other stations. This total number of boats is 45 less than the number employed in similar week of last year. At the various stations there was a fair fishing for the week, especially at Berwick and Eyemouth, where the daily average varied from 20 to 77 crans. The catch for the week of 7,054 crans, and for the season 10,290 crans, against 20,400 crans for last year to similar date. Of the season's catch 4,044 crans were landed at Eyemouth, 97 at Burnmouth, 3,784 at Berwick, 1,123 at North Sunderland, 200 at Beadnell, 171 at Newton, 594 at Craster, 35 at Boulmer, 150 at Amble. Quality very indifferent during the week; greater part of the herrings consisting of soft oily matties unfit for curing purposes. An occasional shot of fine herring was, however, secured; particularly one of nearly 80 crans caught by a Burnmouth boat inshore off Marshall Meadows, and which was delivered to Messrs Boston at Spittal. Such was the inferior character of most of the catches during the week that some hundreds of crans were sold at 1s to 2s per cran and sent to the manure works at Berwick and Eyemouth, a most disheartening circumstance to the fishermen. For the better classes of herring, prices at the various stations varied from 6s to 12 s per cran, still very poor for the fishermen. During the current week the herrings have advanced to from 8s to 16s per cran; the largest takes and best quality being got from one-half mile to 3 miles offshore between Burnmouth and Berwick, all these takes being of particularly fine quality.

Berwick Journal
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