

Extracts from 19th century local newspapers relating to kippering of herring

HERRING FISHING – There was a successful catch of herrings during the latter half of last week at Berwick and Eyemouth; the daily average at the former station varied from 6 to 20 crans for 40 to 72 boats fishing, and prices ran from 8s to 12s per cran. At the latter port the daily average was from 6 to 12 crans for 45 boats, and prices from 6s to 17s. The herrings were generally large in size, from 700 to 900 to the cran, but a good many were soft and torn in the bellies. Gutting and salting for exportation have now commenced at Berwick and Eyemouth, and a considerable quantity of herrings have undergone this operation. The quantity landed last week at Berwick was 2,620 crans and for the season 4,236 crans. At Eyemouth 1,926 crans were landed for the week, and 5,310 for the season. Little is doing at the other stations in the district, a good many of the local fishermen not having made a start yet at the fishing.

Berwick Journal
5th August 1887

HERRING FISHING STATISTICS – There was a very successful fishing last week at Berwick and Eyemouth. The weather being favourable, the boats were regularly at sea. The 78 boats fishing at the former port landed 4,567 crans for the week, and 8,803 for the season. At Eyemouth, where 50 boats were employed, the catch for the week is 2,551 crans and 7,861 for the season. The herrings were to a large extent of indifferent quality and consequently many shots sold for as low as from 3s to 6s per cran, but the general prices varied from 5s to 10s. A considerable proportion of this week's catch were gutted and kippered, the quantity dispatched fresh to the home markets being small owing to the unsatisfactory returns obtained therefrom. The boats at the above mentioned two ports catch their herrings on the fishing ground from 14 to 30 miles off the coast between Holy Island and St. Abb's Head. At North Sunderland and the other stations south of Berwick, on to Amble, only a moderate fishing was secured for the week, but prices were rather better than at the two northern ports, from 7s to 15s per cran being the general rates. There were 235 boats fishing in the district last week, and the total catch of herrings for the season is 20,402 crans against 18,081 for last year up to the same period.

Berwick Journal
11th August 1887