THE

PISCATORIAL ATLAS

BY

O. T. OLSEN.

THE

PISCATORIAL ATLAS

OF THE

NORTH SEA, ENGLISH AND ST. GEORGE'S CHANNELS.

BY

O. T. OLSEN, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.

ILLUSTRATING

THE FISHING PORTS, BOATS, GEAR, SPECIES OF FISH
(HOW, WHERE, AND WHEN CAUGHT),

AND OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING FISH AND FISHERIES.

GRIMSBY:
O. T. OLSEN, FISH DOCK ROAD.
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DEDICATED

BY

SPECIAL PERMISSION

TO

His Royal Highness

REAR-ADMIRAL

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH,

K.G., K.T., K.P., ETC.,

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF

THE INTEREST SHOWN BY HIM TOWARDS THE PROMOTION

OF

THE BRITISH FISHERIES

AND

ALL OTHER NAUTICAL MATTERS.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Some eight or ten years ago, when engaged in studying the physical conditions of the North Sea, more particularly with reference to the nature of the bottom, depths, sounding, &c., for the purposes of navigation, I was led into daily consultation with the masters sailing from Grimsby and Hull. My previous career on board ship, where, among other duties, I devoted considerable attention to the preparation of a log for Lieutenant Maury, of the United States, in which physical questions predominated, caused me thereafter to consider how I could apply like data for the benefit of our fishermen in the North Sea. I therefore constructed what I termed a Fisherman's Log-Book—a kind of modification of Maury, adapted to our trawlers &c. I here reprint copy of the headings of the Log-Book issued by me to the fishermen, which speak for themselves:—

MONTH LOG KEPT BY

Date.	Departure.	Course Steered.	Distance by Log	Wind.	Weather.	Name of Ground Arrived at.	Depth of Water.	Soil.	Set of the Tide.	Latitude by Observation.	When Shot.	What Tack.	How Towed.	When Hauled.

ON BOARD THE OF NUMBER.

Ships in Distress. LIVES SAVED.	QUANTITY OF FISH.	DESCRIPTION OF FISH.	DESCRIPTION OF REFUSE.	MR. BUCKLAND'S NATURALIST'S COLUMN.	REMARKS.

By accident I consulted the late Mr. Frank Buckland, who was delighted with the idea, and suggested what I afterwards called "Buckland's Naturalist's Column" (see above), in which the following appeared:—

MR. BUCKLAND would feel obliged if specimens could be kindly forwarded to his address,—37, Albany Street, Regent's Park, London.

1st. Stomachs of Soles, Plaice, Turbots, Brills, Halibots, Whiting, Haddocks, &c.

2nd. Hard and Soft Roes of Fish while Spawning.

3rd. Anything that looks like Eggs or Spawn of Fish or Marine Animals attached to Shells, Stones, &c.

4th. Samples from Deep Sea Oyster and Mussel Beds.

5th. Samples of Bottom of the Sea as brought up by the lead.

N.B.—All specimens should be labelled.

This soon led me to take a deeper interest than hitherto in the fishes themselves, their habits and habitat; and I then commenced to construct a chart of the fishing-grounds of the North Sea.

I was enabled to do this the more effectually by the aid of my friends, the fishermen of Grimsby, Hull, and other ports on the East Coast of England, who at my instigation kept and filled in with their practical observations the Log-Books above referred to.

I take this opportunity of thanking my numerous correspondents and log-keepers, among whom I may mention the following masters of fishing-smacks:—

Capt. W. Doran,

Capt. S. Angusbi,	Capt. W. T. Dunlin,	Capt. B. W. Mathias,
„ W. Brown,	„ J. Epton,	„ E. Robinson,
„ S. Buckingham,	„ T. Freer,	„ T. Salmon,
„ J. L. Cook,	„ A. B. Hashing,	„ J. B. Spooner,
„ W. Chappers,	„ T. Horday,	„ F. H. Welsh,

to one and all of whom I am indebted for information applied in the construction of the present series of Charts comprising the 'Piscatorial Atlas.'

Although there are many works devoted to the Natural History of the British Fishes, there are only a very few which relate to the fisheries, boats, and gear—Holdsworth's volume 'On Deep-sea Fishing and Fishing-boats' being by far the most practical and comprehensive treatise. It nevertheless occurred to me that, by using different grades of colouring on Charts, the distribution of particular fish might be seen at a glance, and more readily appreciated. Thus the general distribution of a species in the accompanying Charts is indicated by pale tint; where caught in abundance, the depth of colour is increased; and the deepest tints of all mark the spawning-localities.

Each fish is figured in the lower right-hand corner of the Chart, noting time of spawning, number of eggs, where and how caught, bait, food, size, weight, quality, when in season, and other remarks, chiefly based on an average of the extended information derived from the fishermen for a number of years back, verified by statements of scientific writers. On the upper right-hand corner of each Map is a sketch of the boat and gear employed in certain localities for the capture of the particular fish represented on that Map.

There are six Charts devoted to shell-fish, viz. Oysters, Mussels, &c. (or the Mollusca), used both as human food and fish-bait; and four Charts represent the Fishing-grounds, depth of water, nature of the soil, and set of the tides. The names given on the British Coasts in the Map are chiefly those of the fishing-ports.

Seeing that fishery questions are now regarded as of high importance, I trust my 'Atlas' may help to supply reliable information of a practical kind for consultation at a moment's notice.

Besides my fishing friends, I have been indebted to numerous other British and foreign savans and men practically engaged in the North-Sea Fisheries. Of the latter the following may be mentioned:—Herr von Yhlen of Lyskil, Superintendent of the Fisheries of the province of Bohus, Sweden; Capt. N. Juel, R.N., Inspector of Norwegian Fisheries; Herr S. A. Back of Stavanger; Herr A. M. Wallem of Bergen; Herr A. Feddersen of Viborg; Commandant Cavalier de Caverville of the French Imperial Navy; Captains J. L. Cook, James Alward, John Smith, George Whiteway, W. C. Normington, and others of Grimsby. From the late Frank Buckland I derived great encouragement in my work, and he it was that stimulated me in the pursuit of the subject; and to Dr. Francis Day, late Inspector of Fish and Fisheries of India, I am indebted for his extensive knowledge of Fish and Fisheries generally. In the same way Prof. Baird and Capt. Collins, of the United States Fishery Commission, as likewise the works of Prof. Sars and R. Collett of Norway, have been useful adjuncts to my own knowledge of the subject. Mr. Mathias Dunn, of Mevagissey, every one knows, freely distributes his information on fishing matters.

Mr. Holdsworth's excellent work I have already mentioned. The Reports of Mr. Frank Buckland, Mr. Spencer Walpole, Mr. A. Young, and Prof. Huxley as Inspectors of Fisheries have been freely used; nor have other authorities been forgotten, such as Yarrell, Cuvier, Bloch, Couch, Linnæus, Hamilton, Günther, and, on special subjects, those of DeCaux and Mitchell on the Herring, and others.

Lastly, Dr. J. Murie has kindly given me aid and advice both in lithographing of the Charts and printing of the text while passing through the press.

I give here, in a tabular form, the numbers, tonnage, and men employed in all First, Second, and Third Class Fishing-Vessels of the United Kingdom.

BOATS REGISTERED UNDER THE SEA-FISHERIES' ACT,

Compiled from Official and other sources.

ENGLAND.

	Ports.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total. No.	Total. Tonnage.	Approximate No. of Men and Boys employed.
AB	Aberystwith	2	19	60	81	403	233
BE	Barnstaple	2	4	—	6	71	173
BS	Beaumaris	7	13	1	21	255	340
BK	Berwick	126	443	1	570	5761	1302
BD	Bideford	7	126	13	146	352	237
BN	Boston	3	20	—	23	249	217
BH	Bridgewater	—	—	1	1	—	99
BT	Bridport	1	—	—	1	20	222
BL	Bristol	2	—	—	2	41	33
CO	Carnarvon	15	44	7	66	786	184
CF	Cardiff	3	6	—	9	97	69
CA	Cardigan	1	5	—	6	74	364
CL	Carlisle	—	23	1	24	48	51
CH	Chester	1	2	—	3	27	9
CK	Colchester	90	245	—	335	3003	1060
CS	Cowes	3	8	16	27	156	232
DH	Dartmouth	237	141	10	388	11474	1360
DL	Deal	8	10	3	21	176	100
DR	Dover	29	31	27	87	1671	373
E	Exeter	—	59	4	63	187	568
FH	Falmouth	7	61	16	84	559	372
F	Faversham	24	128	1	153	1603	516
FD	Fleetwood	69	7	—	76	2283	251
FE	Folkestone	6	85	12	103	793	411
FY	Fowey	20	175	48	243	1758	881
GR	Gloucester	1	—	—	1	15	20
GE	Goole	1	5	—	6	59	18
GY	Grimsby	637	16	4	657	36550	3750
HL	Hartlepool	—	135	6	141	685	341
HR	Harwich	16	55	2	73	1214	287
HE	Hayle	97	132	22	251	2741	1408
H	Hull	585	201	1	787	34643	3350
IP	Ipswich	—	20	—	20	168	36
LR	Lancaster	7	1	—	8	190	148
LI	Littlehampton	3	26	5	34	131	247
LL	Liverpool	46	186	3	235	2628	626
LY	Llanelly	1	1	—	2	33	115
LO	London	160	66	1	227	9004	560
LT	Lowestoft	430	30	7	467	14349	3300
LR	Lyme Regis	1	39	2	42	171	178
LN	Lynn	21	91	—	112	1054	413
MN	Maldon	13	271	1	285	2337	724
MT	Maryport	1	42	—	43	231	79
MB	Middlesborough	1	53	1	55	151	90
M	Milford	12	28	2	42	518	435
NE	Newcastle	1	5	—	6	81	48
NN	Newhaven	6	71	9	86	373	221
NP	Newport	3	1	1	5	55	21
PW	Padstow	—	80	—	80	204	239
PZ	Penzance	29	409	—	438	2036	2100
PH	Plymouth	87	168	1	256	4107	1064
PE	Poole	—	7	1	8	—	195
P	Portsmouth	25	61	—	86	862	350
PN	Preston	1	62	—	63	171	100
R	Ramsgate	173	29	—	202	6573	915
RE	Rochester	7	94	—	101	651	229
RN	Runcorn	1	21	1	23	135	32
RX	Rye	41	107	1	149	1490	869
SR	Scarborough	122	106	—	228	6211	1375
SC	Scilly	1	—	—	1	26	4
SN	Shields, North	28	503	—	531	2694	1622
SSS	Shields, South	12	57	—	69	390	254
SM	Shoreham	26	128	26	180	1481	1658
SU	Southampton	27	13	6	46	683	385
SD	Sunderland	7	109	—	116	769	423
SA	Swansea	3	118	—	121	1021	236
TH	Teignmouth	3	70	9	82	569	441
TO	Truro	—	14	—	14	—	99
WH	Weymouth	3	8	23	34	141	585
WY	Whitby	23	213	—	236	1428	450
WA	Whitehaven	17	32	42	91	509	236
WI	Wisbeach	—	10	—	10	48	26
WE	Woodbridge	17	15	2	34	683	272
WO	Workington	1	13	1	15	46	46
YH	Yarmouth	659	414	33	1057	23832	4474
	Total	3979	5991	434	10405	198498	46418

SCOTLAND.

	Ports.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total. No.	Total. Tonnage.	Approximate No. of Men and Boys employed.
A	Aberdeen	145	427	33	605	4460	1275
AA	Alloa	—	6	—	6	48	18
AH	Arbroath	15	138	1	154	1000	650
AD	Ardrossan	7	153	1	161	733	512
AR	Ayr	4	276	—	280	828	600
BF	Banff	819	488	5	1312	15783	6285
BO	Borrowstouness	—	28	—	28	111	108
CN	Campbeltown	60	301	—	361	2432	1341
DS	Dumfries	—	52	35	87	333	114
DE	Dundee	44	74	—	118	1593	520
GW	Glasgow	—	19	29	48	91	96
GN	Granton	2	—	—	2	69	12
GC	Greenock	33	1343	133	1509	5245	5124
INS	Inverness	288	1139	1075	2502	13154	8000
KY	Kirkaldy	486	392	3	881	9024	4508
KL	Kirkwall	106	493	12	611	3760	1700
LH	Leith	165	350	—	515	3030	2158
LK	Lerwick	160	745	65	970	4527	4928
MK	Montrose	102	238	2	342	4168	1327
PEH	Perth	2	21	—	23	191	69
PD	Peterhead	889	254	323	1466	14544	4744
SY	Stornoway	124	675	9	808	5530	4500
SK	Stranraer	6	259	5	270	604	555
TN	Troon	—	79	—	79	276	116
WK	Wick	506	667	2	1115	12856	3469
WX	Wigtown	2	13	77	92	169	148
	Total	3765	8570	1810	14145	107389	52959

IRELAND.

	Ports.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total. No.	Total. Tonnage.	Approximate No. of Men and Boys employed.
BA	Ballina	—	3	184	187	326	667
B	Belfast	55	359	50	464	2442	2400
CE	Coleraine	—	111	18	129	202	250
C	Cork	73	346	287	706	3301	3183
DA	Drogheda	3	47	20	70	193	305
D	Dublin	177	321	123	621	7321	2300
DK	Dundalk	1	46	16	63	122	250
G	Galway	5	618	631	1254	6204	3670
L	Limerick	7	33	305	345	663	838
LY	Londonderry	10	452	130	591	1268	2343
NS	New Ross	1	70	2	73	303	120
N	Newry	46	121	71	238	1505	1264
S	Skibbereen	44	343	454	841	3104	4703
SO	Sligo	3	100	461	564	440	1965
T	Tralee	17	155	432	604	1569	1718
W	Waterford	16	171	33	220	1253	678
WT	Westport	—	22	808	830	1482	2791
WD	Wexford	13	183	15	211	1049	778
Y	Youghal	2	28	21	51	190	801
	Total	473	3529	4071	8072	32937	30914

ISLE OF MAN.

	Ports.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total. No.	Total. Tonnage.	Approximate No. of Men and Boys employed.
CT, DOS, RY	Castletown, Douglas, Ramsey	318	132	9	459	8290	2898

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

	Ports.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Total. No.	Total. Tonnage.	Approximate No. of Men and Boys employed.
GU, J	Guernsey, Jersey	35	236	36	285	1511	1130
	TOTAL	8561	18458	6360	33356	348625	134319

ORDER OF THE MAPS.

MAP 1. Illustrating by arrows the set of the ebb and flood tides, and by numbers the velocity in knots per hour.
2. Representing, in different shades of colour, the nature of the bottom of the sea.
3. Depths, in fathoms, for every 30 miles, the blue lines indicating differences of 10 fathoms.
4. The names of the Fishing-grounds of the North Sea familiarly known to fishermen, indicated in red.

FISH, CRUSTACEA, SHELLFISH, FISHING-VESSELS, &c.

SILVERY AND SURFACE-FISH.

5. Herring	Scotch Herring-lugger.
6. Pilchard	Mount's Bay Lugger.
7. Shad	French Herring-boat.
8. Anchovy	Fishermen shooting the Seine.
9. Sprat	The Stow Net.
10. Whitebait	Thames Shrimper.
11. Garfish	Torbay Hooker.
12. Scad or Horse Mackerel	Yarmouth Drift-boat.
13. Mackerel	Torbay Hooker.
14. Smelt	The Seine Net.

ROUND AND MIDWATER-FISH.

15. Whiting	Teaby Fishing-boat.
16. Pollack	Whitby Cobble.
17. Haddock	Steam Trawler (Scotch model).
18. Coalfish	Orkney Fishing-boat.
19. Hake	Scotch Long-liner.
20. Cod	Grimsby Cod-vessel.
21. Tusk	Shetland Yawl.
22. Ling	Orkney Fishing-boat.
23. Conger	Guernsey Boat.
24. Eel	Burnham Boat (Thames).

ARMED AND SCALED FISH.

25. Wolf or Catfish	Keel Boat (Holy Isle).
26. Sturgeon	Scarborough Trawler.
27. Bass	Irish Fishing-boat.
28. Grey Gurnard	Lowestoft Trawler.
29. Red Gurnard	Dutch Fishing-boat.
30. Grey Mullet	French Fishing-boat.
31. Sea Mullet	Ditto, with Trammel net (100 years ago).
32. Bream	Brixham Trawler.
33. Wrasse	Swedish Boat.
34. John Dory	Manx Fishing-boat.

FLAT AND GROUND-FISH.

35. Sole	Brixham Trawler.
36. Lemon Sole	Lowestoft Trawler.
37. Dab	Shrimp and Dab Trawl.
38. Flounder	Trawl and Thames Boat.
39. Plaice	Steam Trawl and Trawl-head.
40. Brill	Ramsgate Trawler.
41. Turbot	Beam-trawl.
42. Halibut	Grimsby Cod-vessel.
43. Thornback Ray	Brixham Long-boom Trawler.
44. Skate	Lowestoft Trawler.

CRUSTACEA AND SHELLFISH.

45. Lobster	Guernsey Fishing-Boat.
46. Crab	East Coast Cobble.
47. Shrimp	Thames Shrimper.
48. Mussels	Loch Fyne Fish-boat.
49. Whelk	Grimsby Whelker.
50. Oyster	Oyster-dredge.

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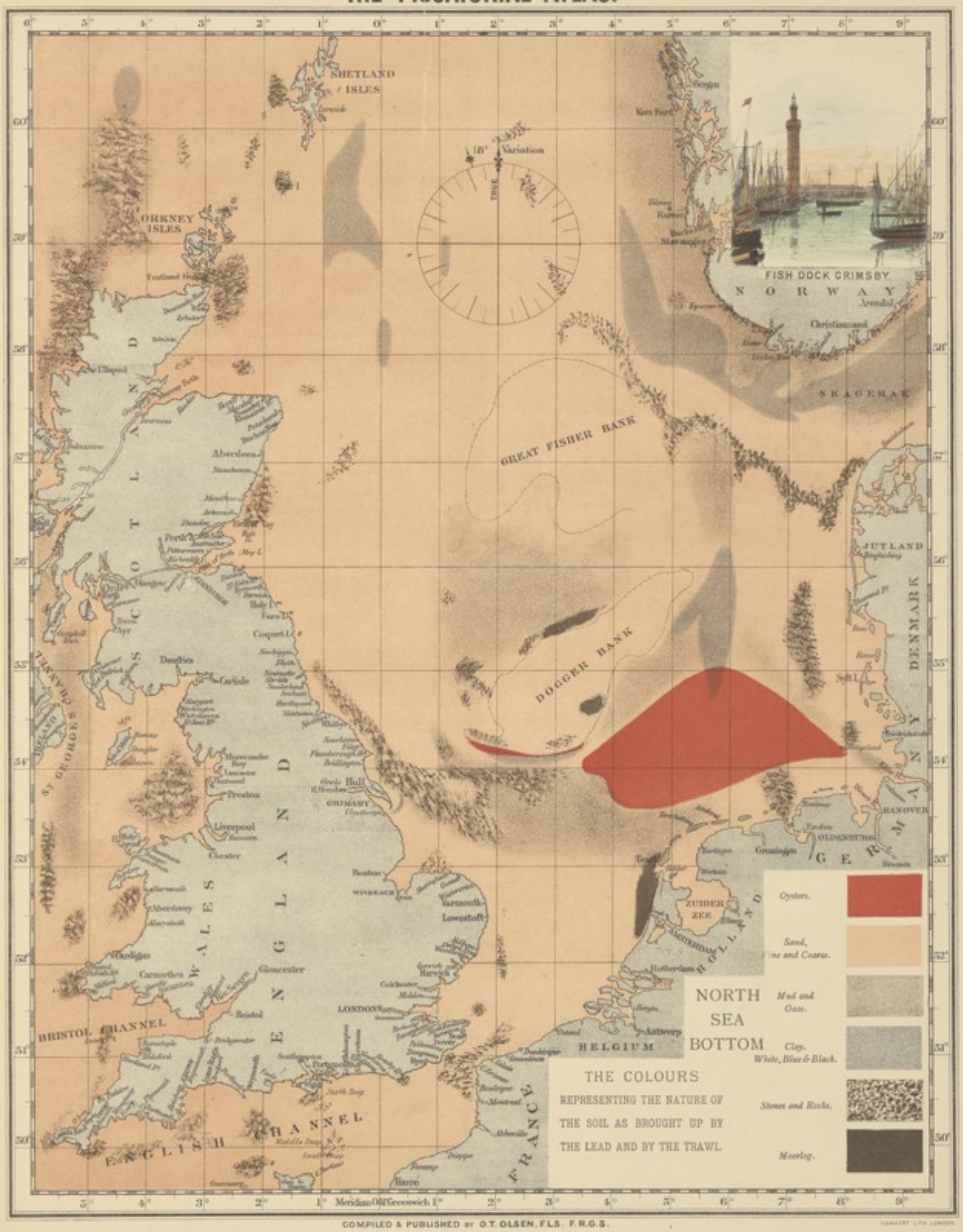

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General distribution— ▨

Where caught in abundance— ▨

Spawning localities— ▨

HERRING.

(*Clupea harengus.*)

Time of spawning—September to November.
Number of eggs—70,000.
When caught—Each locality has its season.
How caught—By seines and drift nets.
Bait—Not caught by hook and bait.
Food—Minute animals, small fry and spawn.
Size—From 9 to 13 ins.; Iceland 15 ins.

Weight—Average 5 ozs. to 1 lb.
Quality—Very wholesome, nutritious and savoury.
When in season—July to March.
Remarks—The Herring is a migratory fish, captured in different localities at different seasons. It is very prolific. Its graceful form and silvery brightness are as pleasing to the eye as the taste is grateful to the palate. It is also food for all fish.

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SHAD.
(*Clupea alosa.*)

Time of Spawning—June and July.
Number of eggs—95,200.
When caught—From May to August.
How caught—By nets, seines, trammel and wiffing.
Bait—A piece of mackerel or anything glittering.
Food—Small fish and crustaceans.

Size—1 to 4 ft.
Weight—4 to 6 lbs. to 20 lbs.
Quality—Good, but rather dry.
When in season—May, June, and July.
Remarks—The Shad is a salt water fish, but is chiefly caught in rivers, where it ascends to shed its spawn. It is very little esteemed; it is dry and full of bones. At times mistaken for very large Herrings.

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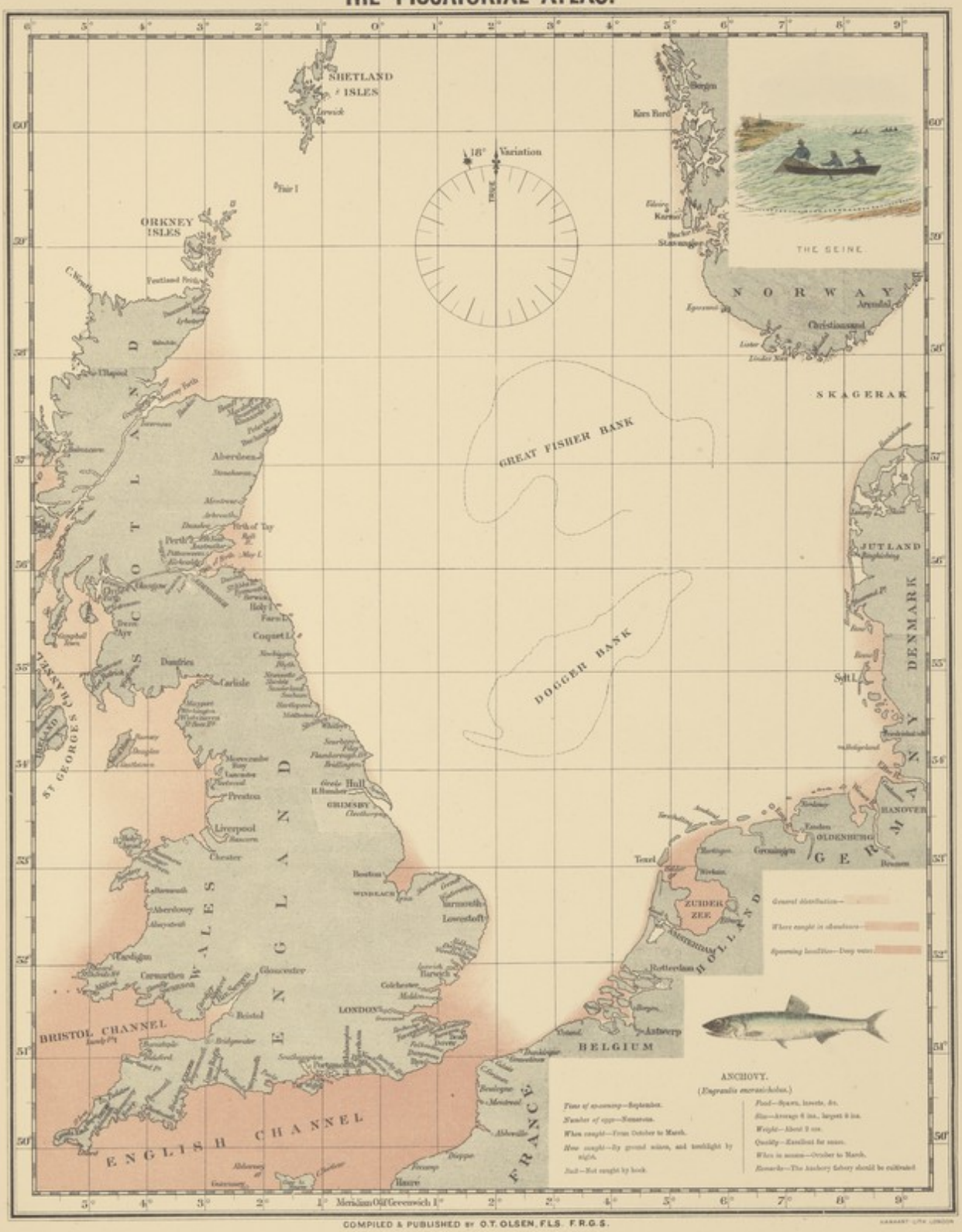

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SPRAT.
(*Clupea sprattus.*)

Time of spawning—Autumn.
Number of eggs—560,000.
When caught—Spring and summer months.
How caught—By seine and sprat nets.
Bait—Not caught by hook.
Food—Shrimps, minute animals and spawn.
Size—3 or 4 ins., 6 to 7 ins.

Weight—4 ozs.
Quality—Very good and much esteemed.
When in season—November to March.
Remarks—The sprat is shamefully destroyed; it is caught and sold for manure. May not this wanton destruction be discontinued? The Sprat attracts a great amount of fish to the shores, and becomes food for them.

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SCAD, or HORSE MACKEREL.
(*Scomber trachurus.*)

Time of Spawning—Spring.
Number of eggs—79,600.
When caught—Summer months.
How caught—By hook and in drift nets.
Bait—Herrings chiefly.
Food—Herring fry, sandlaunce and crustaceans.

Size—12 to 15 and even 18 ins.
Weight—From 1 to 2 lbs. to 4 lbs.
Quality—Very coarse.
When in season—April to September.
Remarks—The Scad, or Horse Mackerel, is a migratory fish and follows the herring along the coasts.

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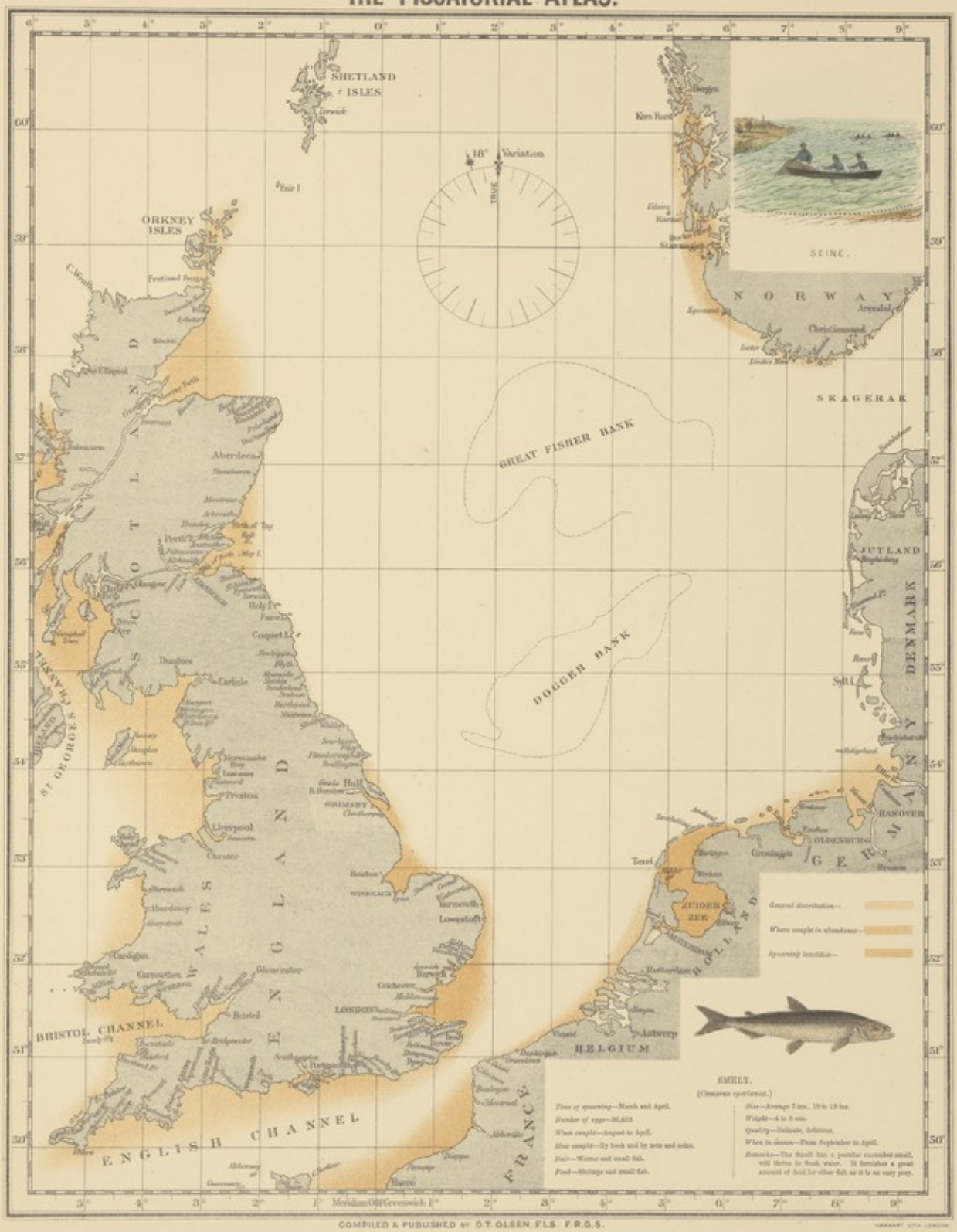

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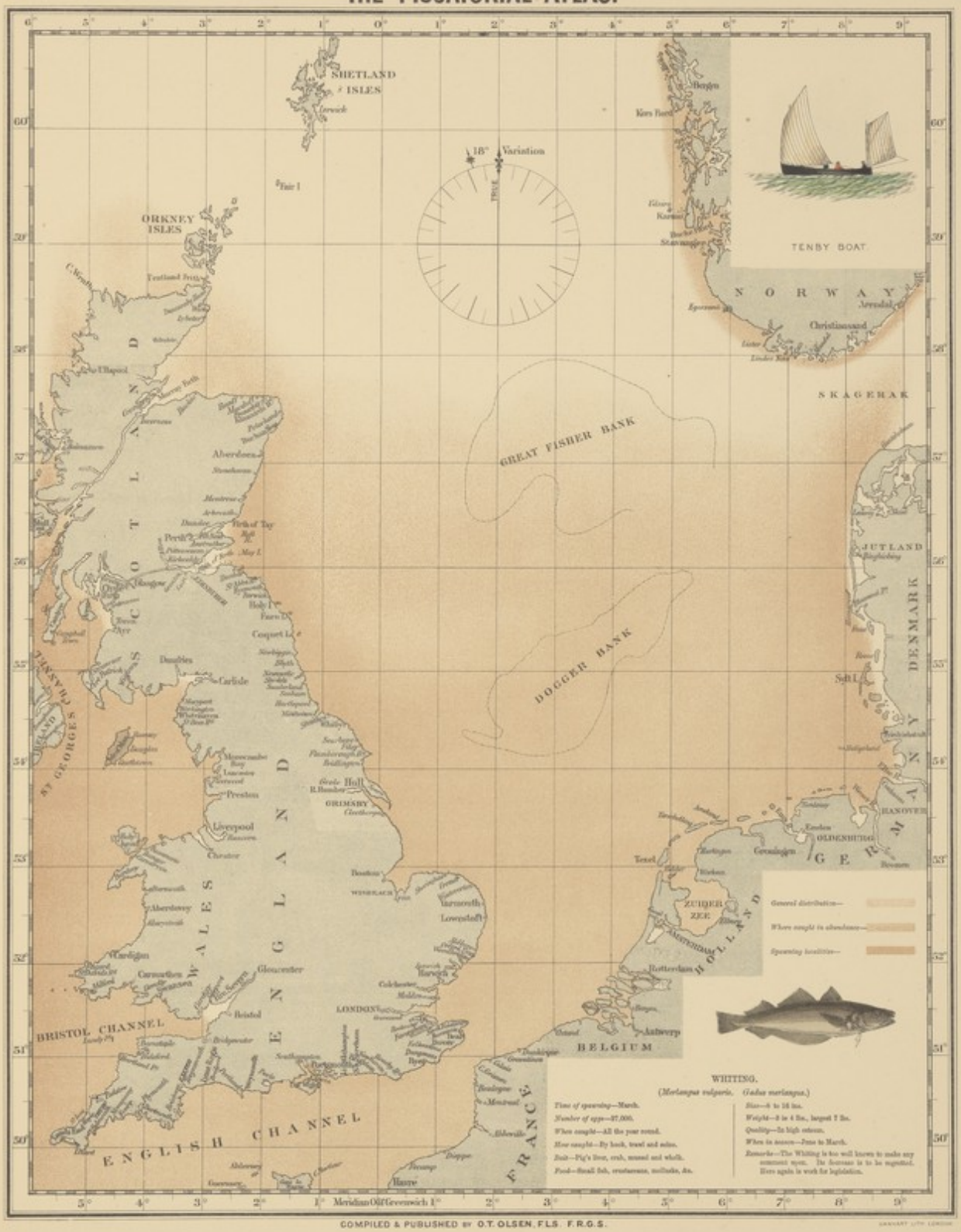

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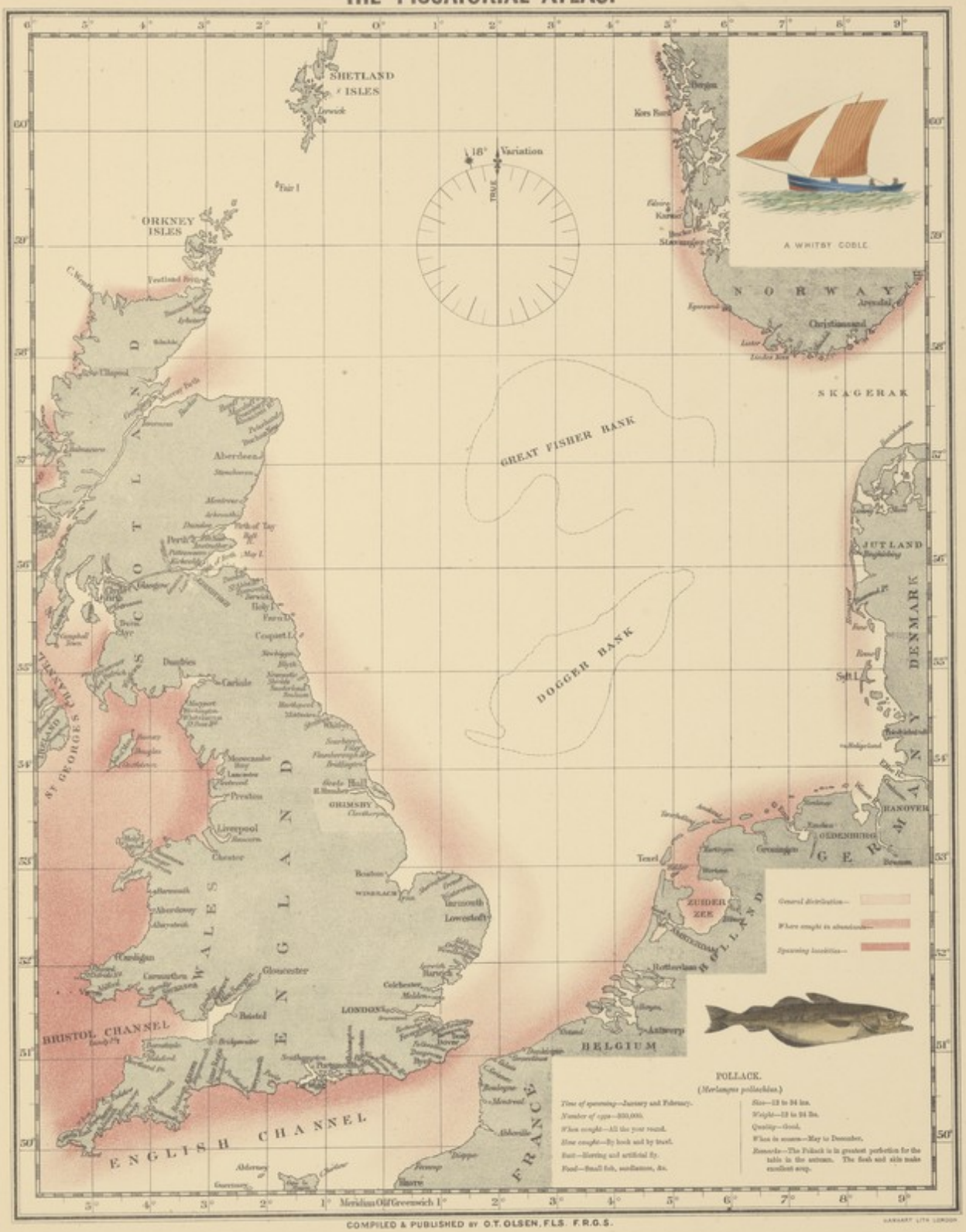

General distribution—	▨
Where caught in abundance—	▨
Spawning localities—	▨

POLLACK.
(*Merlangus pollachius.*)

Time of spawning—January and February.
Number of eggs—200,000.
When caught—All the year round.
How caught—By hook and by trawl.
Bait—Herring and artificial fly.
Food—Small fish, sandlaunce, &c.

Size—13 to 24 ins.
Weight—13 to 24 lbs.
Quality—Good.
When in season—May to December.
Remarks—The Pollack is in greatest perfection for the table in the autumn. The flesh and skin make excellent soup.

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JANUARY 1874 LONDON

THE PISCATORIAL ATLAS.

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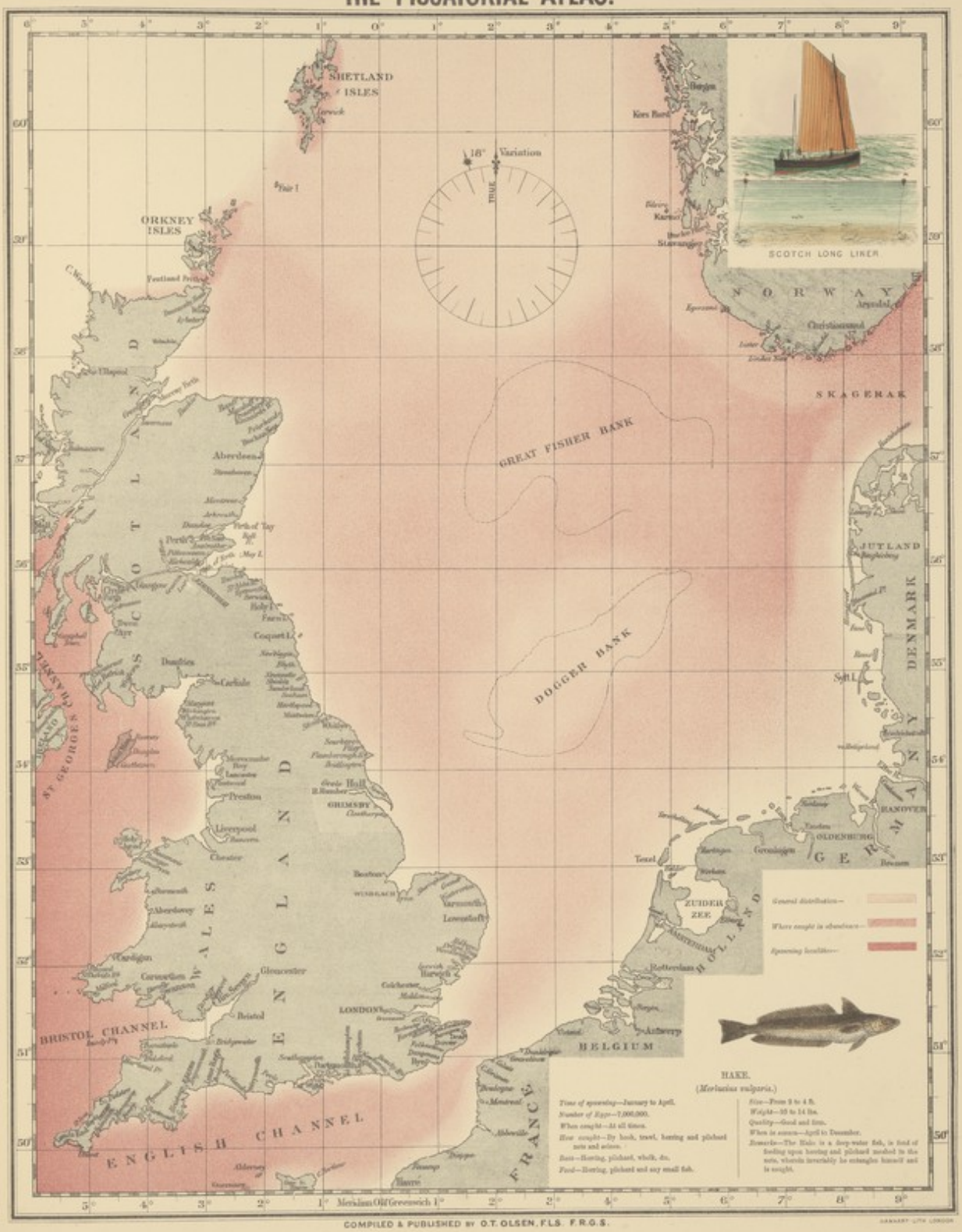
HEMMART LITH LONDON

THE PISCATORIAL ATLAS.



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JANARY LITH LONDON

THE PISCATORIAL ATLAS.

General distribution—
Where caught in abundance—
Spawning localities—

COD.
(*Gadus morrhua.*)

Time of spawning—January, February and March.
Number of eggs—9,000,000.
When caught—At all times of the year.
How caught—By hook, trawl and trammel net.
Bait—Herring, pilchard, lamprey, whelk, mussel, &c.
Food—Small fish, crustaceans, mollusks, &c.

Size—3 to 4 ft.
Weight—20 to 40 lbs., largest 84 lbs.
Quality—Firm, nutritious and of excellent flavour.
When in season—October to February.
Remarks—The Cod is the best and most profitable commercial fish, either fresh, salt, dried, boiled, fried, stewed, &c., produces medicine oil, isinglass, manure, &c.

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LANGMAIT LITH LONDON

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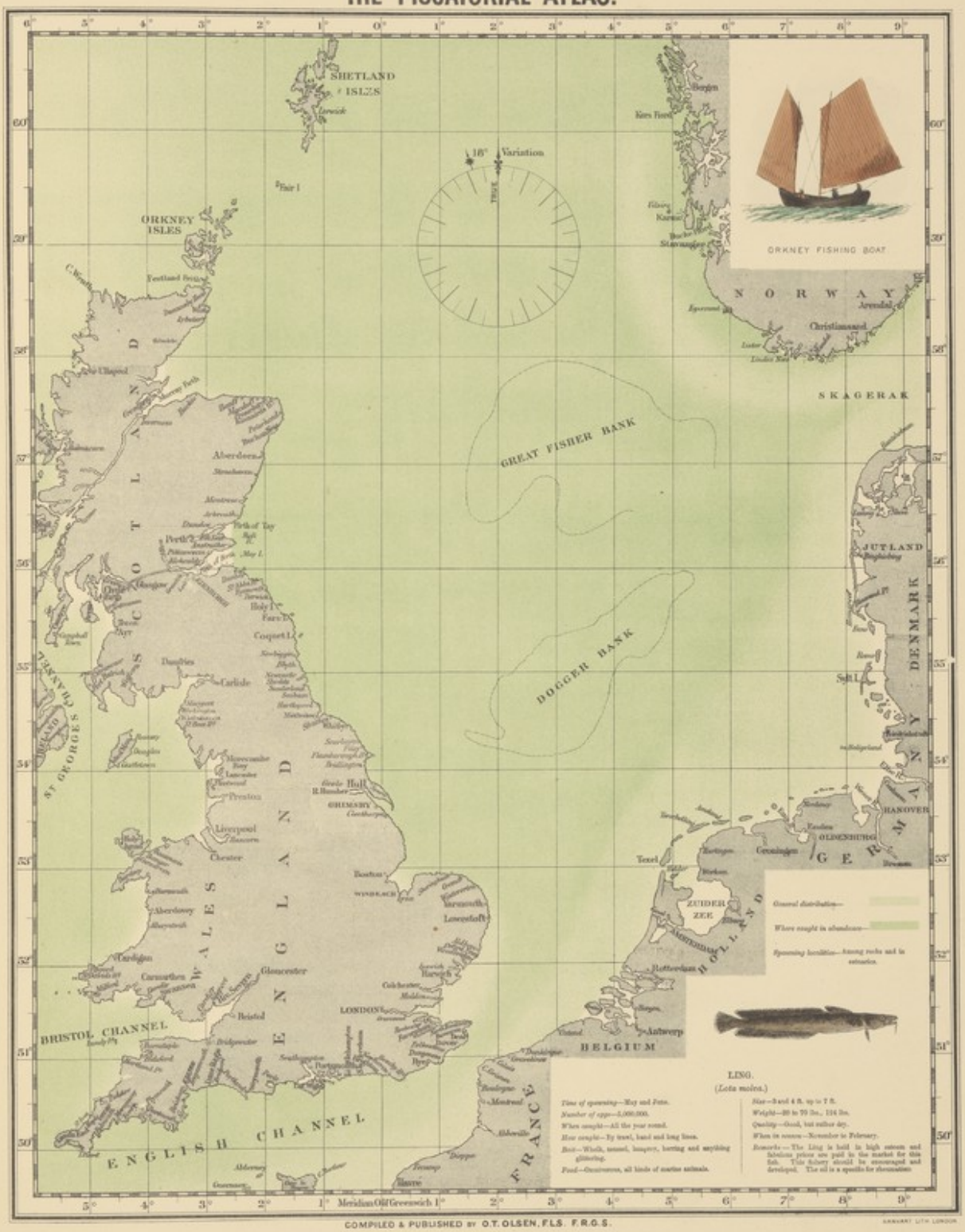

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JANUARY 1st 1884

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ARNAUT LITH. LONDON

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CASSELL LITH LONDON

THE PISCATORIAL ATLAS.

General distribution— ▨

Where caught in abundance— ▨

Spawning localities— ▨

STURGEON.
(*Acipenser sturio.*)

Time of spawning—Unknown.

Number of eggs—Unknown.

When caught—All the year round.

How caught—By hook, and by trawl, seine and trammel.

Bait—Whelk and lamprey.

Food—Sea worms and vegetable matter.

Size—6 to 8 ft., 11 ft. 4 ins.

Weight—50 to 100 lbs., 525 lbs.

Quality—In highest esteem, unrivalled.

When in season—February to September.

Remarks—The Sturgeon was considered a royal fish. It is very scarce, and ought to be cultivated in British waters by artificial hatching.

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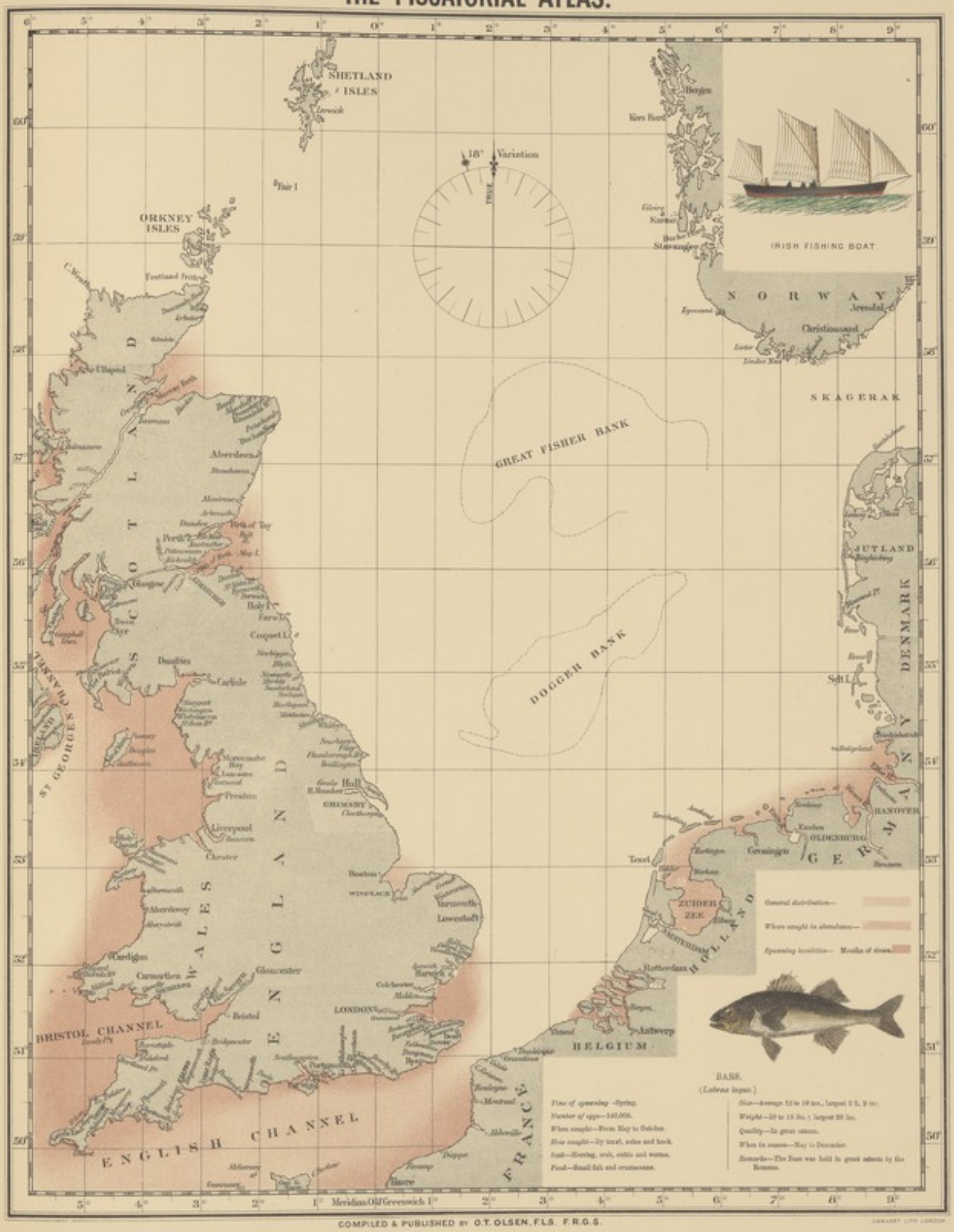

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HANSARD 17TH LONDON

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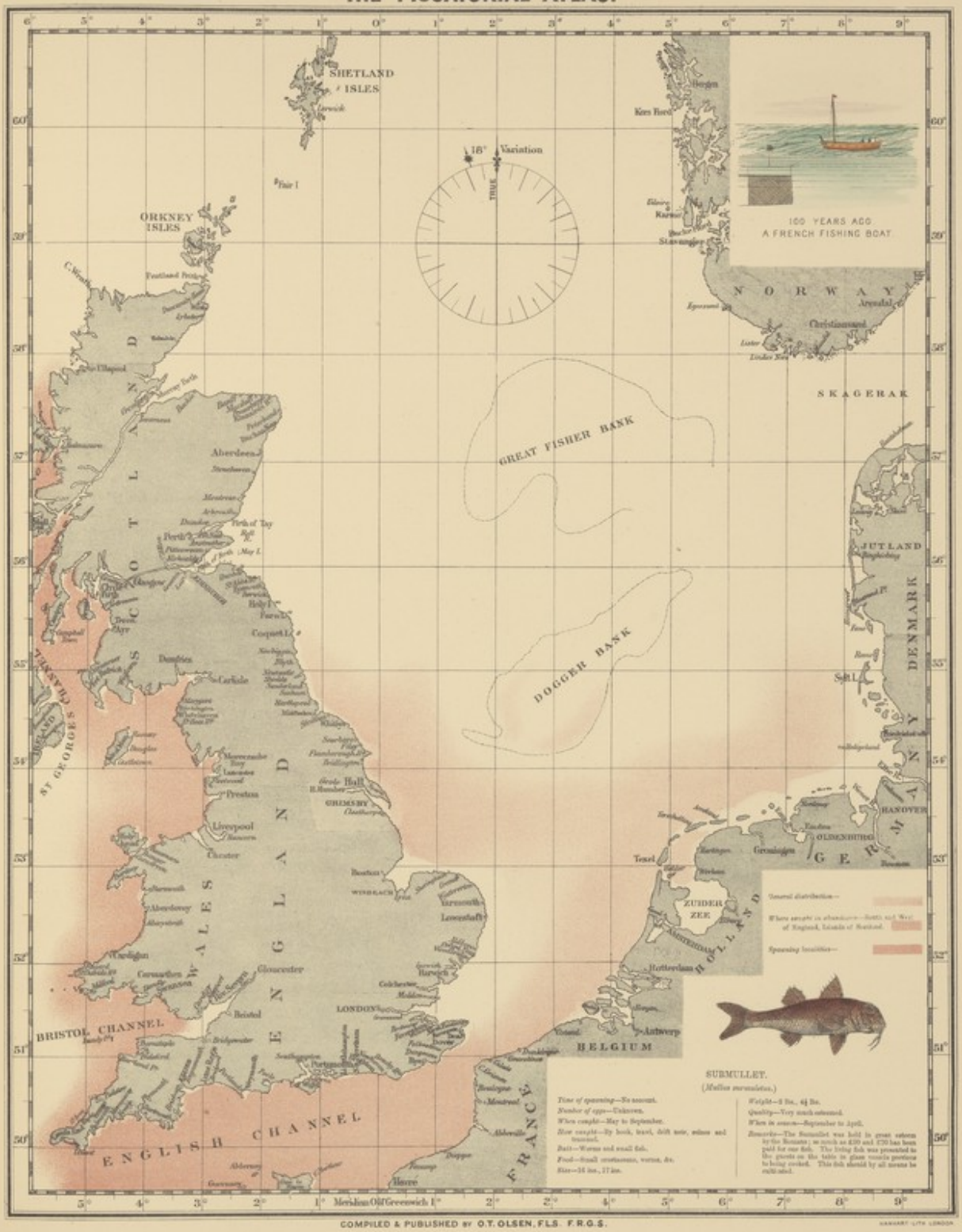

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HANKART LITH. LONDON

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Time of spawning—Winter months.
Number of eggs—3,600.
When caught—Chiefly in the winter.
How caught—By hook and bait, also in seines and trawl.
Bait—Chad is a very attractive bait.
Food—Fry of other fish, mollusks and shrimps.

Size—14 to 22½ ins.
Weight—5, 12 to 16 lbs.
Quality—Good.
When in season—May to January.
Remarks—The Dory may be called a wandering but not a migratory fish. Very fine eating, resembling the claw of a lobster.

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ANNHART LITH. LONDON

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LANGHAMY LITH LONDON

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ARNOUT LITH LONDON

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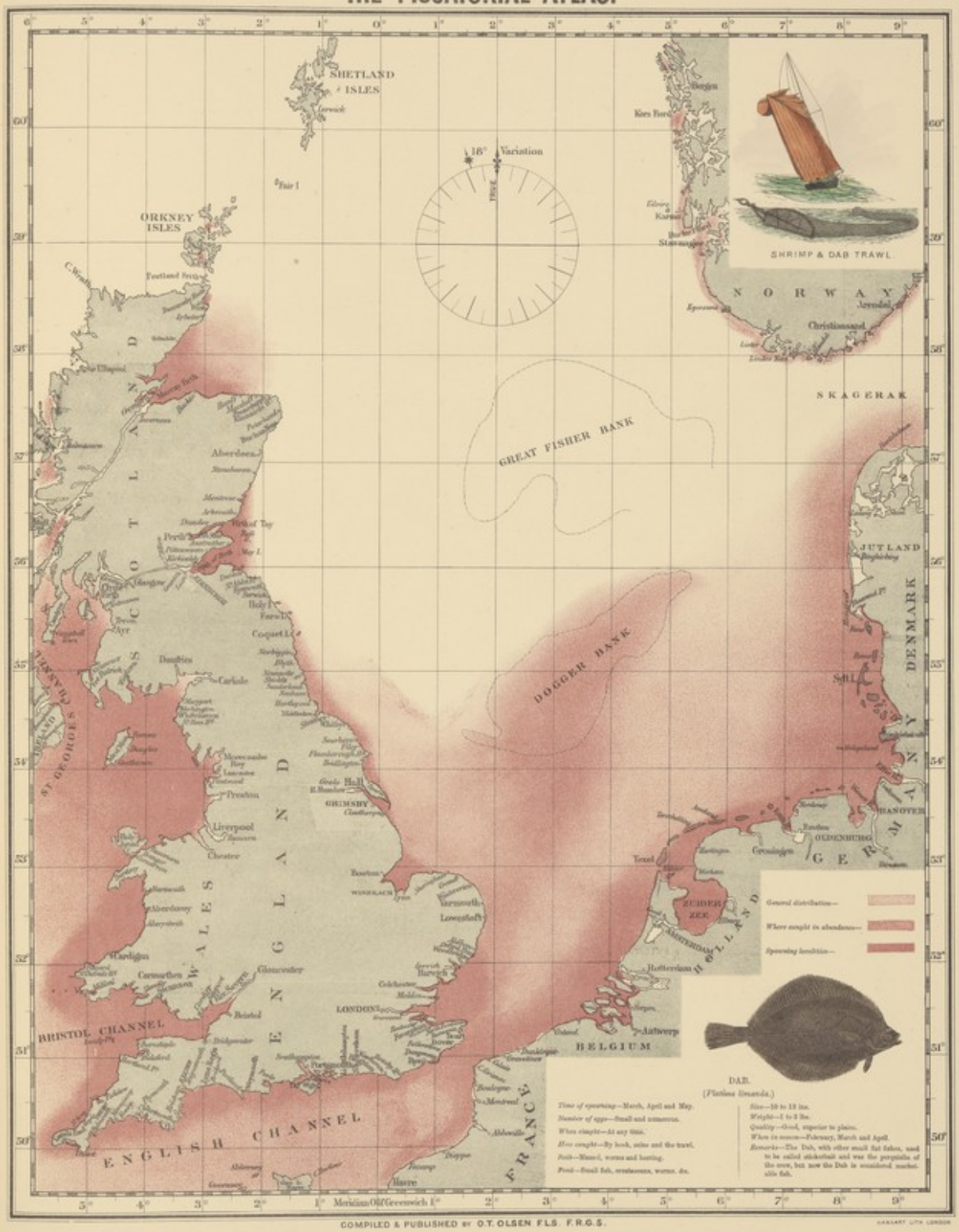

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HARKNETT LITH LONDON

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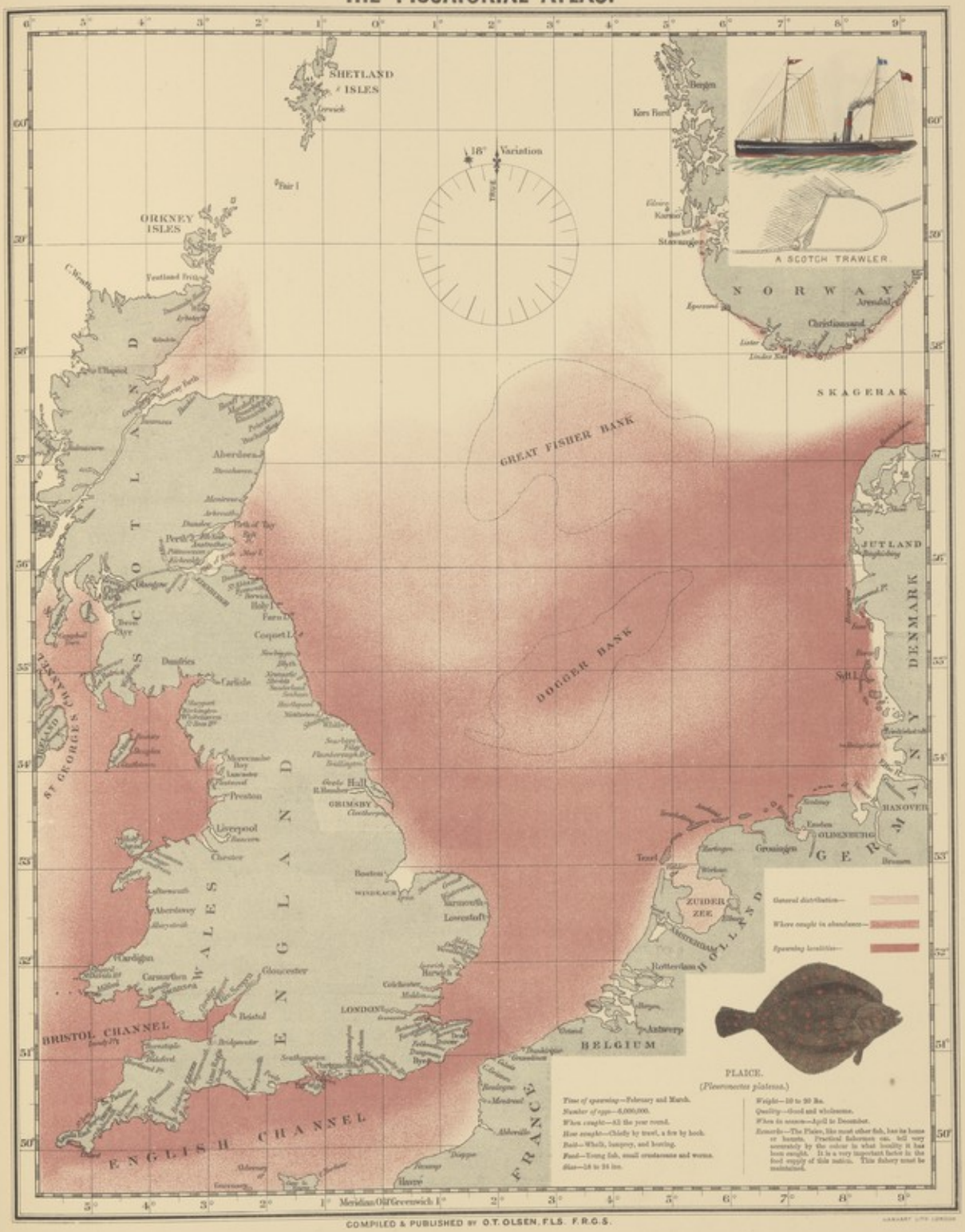

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THE PISCATORIAL ATLAS.

General distribution— 🟥
Where caught in abundance— 🟥
Spawning localities— 🟥

BRILL.
(*Pleuronectes rhombus.*)

Time of spawning—May, June and July.
Number of eggs—389,775.
When caught—All the year round.
How caught—By the beam trawl.
Bait—Not caught by hook.
Food—Shells, worms and small fish.

Size—18 ins.
Weight—16 lbs.
Quality—Good and wholesome.
When in season—March to November.
Remarks—The Brill is a little inferior to the Turbot and is termed a poor man's fish.

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LAKHART LITH LONDON

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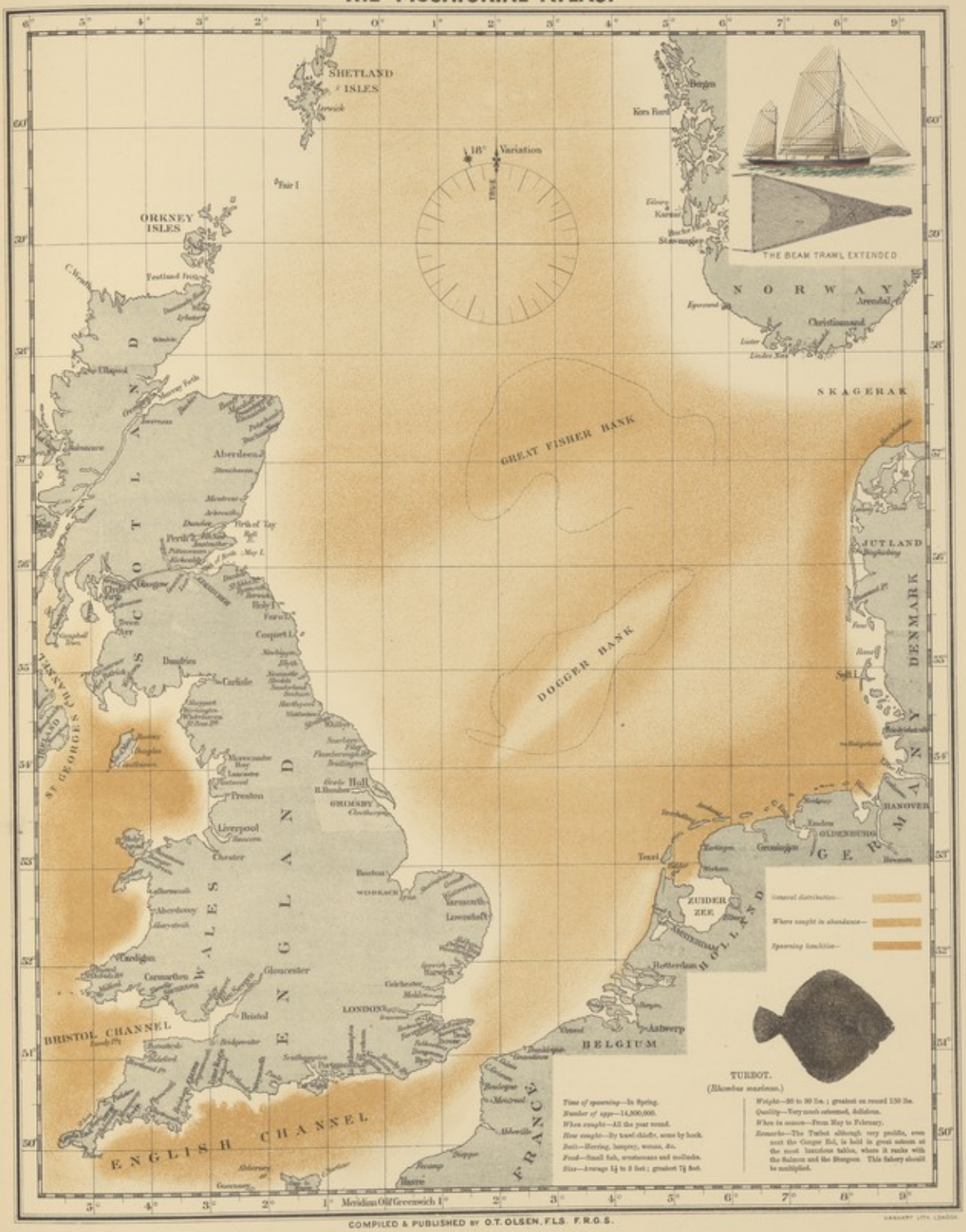

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JANUARY 17TH LONDON

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LANGART LITH LONDON

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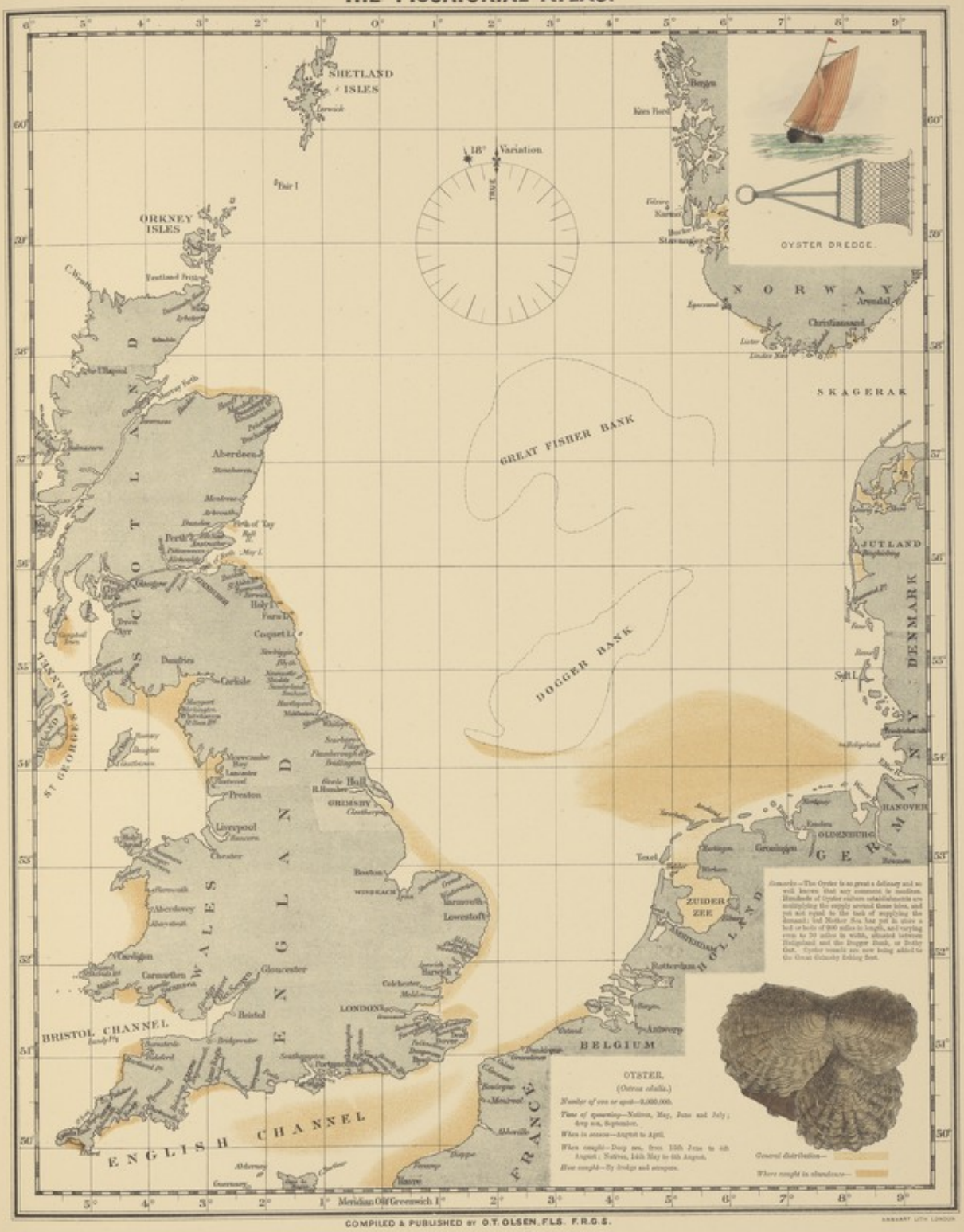

Remarks.—The Oyster is so great a delicacy and so well known that any comment is needless. Hundreds of Oyster-culture establishments are multiplying the supply around these Isles, and yet not equal to the task of supplying the demand; but Mother Sea has put in store a bed or beds of 200 miles in length, and varying even to 30 miles in width, situated between Heligoland and the Dogger Bank, or Botny Gut. Oyster vessels are now being added to the Great Grimsby fishing fleet.

OYSTER.
(*Ostrea edulis.*)

Number of ova or spat—2,000,000.

Time of spawning—Natives, May, June and July; deep sea, September.

When in season—August to April.

When caught—Deep sea, from 15th June to 4th August; Natives, 14th May to 4th August.

How caught—By dredge and scrapers.

General distribution— ▨

Where caught in abundance— ▨

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