

Table B), we observe that northern (boreal) forms decrease enormously to the west of the British Isles. We may say that there is a sharp southern limit to the distribution of these species west of the Channel; the cod, saithe, tusk, and halibut here quite cease to play any part in the captures.

The northern limit for the southern forms is essentially different. Of the species recorded in the systematic list of bottom-fish captured by the "Michael Sars" in the Atlantic, 63 species were previously known from the Mediterranean, and are found there in abundance. Of these only a few are genuine southern forms; 10 species have their northern limit on the coast of France, 19 on the coasts of the British Isles, and 23 occur in varying numbers even on the coasts of Scandinavia. As we shall show in Chapter X., this wide range of certain species is probably due to the fact that the water-layers in the North Atlantic run north, and transport especially the young stages of certain southern species, which may as a consequence pass their youth very far from the localities where they were born. This is why the boreal fish-fauna is more or less mixed up with southern forms, especially in the southern part of the boreal region, for instance in the southern North Sea, in the areas west of the British Isles, in the Kattegat, and along the coast of the Skagerrack, in which localities high summer temperatures prevail in the upper layers.

To the south-west of the British Isles, from the Bay of Biscay towards Morocco, we enter the real area of the southern fauna. This is shown by the table containing the fishery statistics, as well as by the record of the captures made by the "Michael Sars" in the Atlantic. In the following list the captures made during the cruise down to about 500 metres, or 300 fathoms, are recorded and arranged in three groups: (1) West of the British Isles, (2) West of Morocco, and (3) South of the Canaries.

Fishes taken  
by the  
"Michael  
Sars" down to  
300 fathoms.