



Trawls are designed to allow little fish to swim through the net while the big fish, like these haddock, are caught.

Fishing Year-Round

Fishing remained an important business in Maine after the Civil War. Schooners headed east toward the Georges Bank and northwest to the Grand Banks, far out into the Atlantic, to catch cod. They also headed as far south as the coast of Virginia to hunt for mackerel. The schooners took more fish

than ever by using a *trawl*. This was a large net usually tied to the back of a boat that scooped up fish in deep water.

Maine's new ice business and rail system made fishing a profitable business year-round. Fish were packed in ice and shipped overnight by train to Boston and New York. Factories for salting and packing fish in oil popped up along the Gulf of Maine.

Fishermen in Maine made even greater profits because of a new dish called "finan haddie." The dish was made from smoked haddock and was a favorite of the British Prince of Wales. People had never eaten much haddock before, and the fish had been used instead as bait. But now Americans wanted to be fashionable like European royalty, so the demand for haddock increased.