

FISH BY THE MILLION

On the Newfoundland east coast the fishermen weren't troubling to go to sea. The fish simply demand to be caught, even to the extent of coming ashore. They're called Caplin in these parts; known as Smelt in Europe, and being related to the salmon family, they seek land-locked waters when it's time to spawn.

Caplin don't come to the same places every year, so all along this coast fishermen set watch, 24 hours a day, and as soon as the swarms are spotted, up goes the cry and out come the nets. The harvest is plentiful, but it can only be reaped - or rather netted - in a day or two. Lose the chance, and it means waiting till next year. Some of the fish are eaten fresh, some salted, millions are canned. But first, they're all taken to a collecting point. Nobody on this coast can complain that Nature's being niggardly.