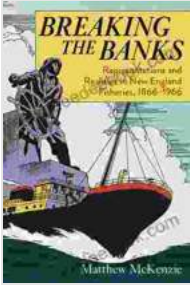


# Representations and Realities in New England Fisheries, 1866-1966: The Rise and Fall of a Dominant Local Industry



Breaking the Banks: Representations and Realities in  
New England Fisheries, 1866-1966 (Environmental



## History of the Northeast) by W.E.B. Griffin

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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The New England fishing industry has a long and storied history. In the 19th century, it was one of the most important industries in the region, and it played a major role in the development of the United States. However, by the mid-20th century, the industry had declined significantly, and it is now a shadow of its former self.

This article examines the history of the New England fishing industry from 1866 to 1966, a period of great change and upheaval. The industry was once a dominant force in the region, but by the mid-20th century, it had declined significantly. The article explores the reasons for this decline, including overfishing, pollution, and the rise of foreign competition. It also examines the ways in which the industry has been represented in popular culture, and how these representations have shaped public perceptions of the industry.

### **The Rise of the New England Fishing Industry**

The New England fishing industry began in the early 17th century, when European settlers arrived in the region. The settlers quickly discovered that the waters off the coast of New England were teeming with fish, and they

began to fish for cod, haddock, and other species. By the 18th century, the New England fishing industry was one of the most important industries in the region. Fishing was a major source of food for the colonists, and it also provided a livelihood for many people. In addition, the fishing industry played a major role in the development of the United States. The profits from the fishing industry helped to fund the American Revolution, and the industry also played a major role in the development of the American merchant marine.

The New England fishing industry reached its peak in the 19th century. During this time, the industry was dominated by large-scale fishing companies. These companies owned fleets of fishing vessels, and they employed thousands of fishermen. The fishing companies sold their catch to markets all over the world. The New England fishing industry was a major economic force in the region, and it played a major role in the development of the United States.

### **The Decline of the New England Fishing Industry**

The New England fishing industry began to decline in the late 19th century. Several factors contributed to this decline, including overfishing, pollution, and the rise of foreign competition.

Overfishing was a major problem in the New England fishing industry. The large-scale fishing companies overfished the waters off the coast of New England, and this led to a decline in the fish population. In addition, pollution from factories and other sources degraded the water quality in the region, and this also contributed to the decline of the fish population.

The rise of foreign competition was another major factor in the decline of the New England fishing industry. In the late 19th century, countries such as Canada and Norway began to develop their own fishing industries. These countries had lower labor costs than the United States, and they were able to sell their fish for lower prices. This made it difficult for the New England fishing industry to compete, and many fishing companies went out of business.

The New England fishing industry continued to decline in the 20th century. The Great Depression of the 1930s caused a sharp decline in the demand for fish, and many fishing companies went bankrupt. World War II also had a negative impact on the industry. Many fishermen were drafted into the military, and the war disrupted the supply of fish to markets. After the war, the New England fishing industry continued to decline. Foreign competition continued to increase, and pollution and overfishing continued to damage the fish population. Today, the New England fishing industry is a shadow of its former self. The industry is now dominated by small-scale fishing operations, and it plays a minor role in the regional economy.

## **Representations of the New England Fishing Industry in Popular Culture**

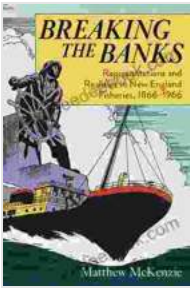
The New England fishing industry has been represented in popular culture for centuries. The industry has been featured in novels, short stories, poems, and songs. In addition, the industry has been the subject of several documentaries and films. These representations have shaped public perceptions of the industry, and they have helped to create a romanticized view of the fishing life.

One of the most famous representations of the New England fishing industry is the novel *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville. This novel tells the story of a whaling voyage, and it provides a vivid portrait of the life of a fisherman. The novel has been praised for its realism and its insights into the human condition. *Moby-Dick* has also been adapted into several films, including the classic 1956 film starring Gregory Peck.

Another famous representation of the New England fishing industry is the poem "The Wreck of the *Hesperus*" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. This poem tells the story of a fishing schooner that is lost at sea with all hands. The poem has been set to music, and it is considered one of the most famous poems in American literature.

The New England fishing industry has also been the subject of several documentaries and films. One of the most famous documentaries is "The Last of the Mohicans" (1971). This film tells the story of a group of fishermen who are trying to save their livelihood from the encroaching modern world. The film was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to raise awareness of the problems facing the New England fishing industry.

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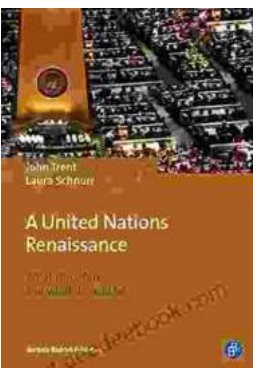
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