

La Industris* de la Pesca en Gloucester Mass USA

(The Fishing Industry of Gloucester) -- an Edison Film circa 1913

Scenes and activity identified by Erik A. R. Ronnberg, Jr. of Gloucester, a noted fisheries expert and well-known model ship builder. -- Erik also provide some additional information about the translations of the captions to what I had translated, and noted that whoever created the Spanish titles was not very well versed in the language or knowledgeable about the Gloucester fishing industry.

1. El puerto de Gloucester / The port of Gloucester

00:20 - 01:13 -- Atlantic Wharf; Parkhurst Marine Railroad; Steamship Cape Ann at Steamboat Wharf and Head of Steamboat Wharf and offices of tow boats and water boats; Water Tower, Dodd's Wharf; Burnham's Marine Railway with vessels hauled out; Maurice Walen's Wharf and Chisholm Wharf

2. Zarpando para las pesqueras / Weighing anchor for fisheries [Zarpando = sailing pesqueras = fishing] (Leaving port under tow for the fishing grounds is the correct description of the activity taking place.)

The steam tug Eveleth is at the port quarter of an "Indian header"-type schooner (possibly the Admiral Dewey).

3. Paratiempos y costumbres tipicos de los pesadores / Pastimes and typical dress of the fishermen [pasatiempo = pastime pescadores fishermen]

Fishermen have gathered at the fore mast for the topside games of cards while the schooner is headed for the fishing grounds.

4. A cien millas de la costa / A hundred miles from the coast

The schooner is cruising under shortened sail.

5. A veriguando la latituda y la longituda enchandl la corredera al agua / Navigating with sextant and taffrail log (Checking the latitude and longitude and recording it in the log -- taffrail = the aftmost railing around the stern of a vessel) [verificar = to verify or check encaminar = to show the way]

The skipper is "shooting the sun" (taking the sextant readings for latitude; working out the longitude is not shown, and entering the schooner's position in the log book. A patent log is mounted on the taffrail to find the vessel's speed.

6. Cebando los azuelos / Baiting the Trawls (Baiting) the hooks or nets [cebando = fattening, also means to "bait" as too draw into an argument]

"Tubs of trawl" (trawl lines coiled in wooden tubs) are taken from the "gurry kid" (stowage box for fishing gear) and their hooks are baited.

7. Botando al agua; las lanchas y preparando las redes / Preparing the nets and launching the boats in the water (making "flying sets")

Dories are manned and fitted with fishing gear, then towed astern by the schooner. At intervals, they are cast loose to set their trawls (trawl lines with hooks are used, not nets as the caption uses).

8. La vuelta de las lanchas / The return of the boats (Dories returning)

These dories, returning under sail, may simply be coming back for a 'mug up" (coffee break) before returning to their trawls to haul in the catch.

9. Recogiendo los sedales / Gathering the (fish lines) (Hauling in the trawl lines) [sedal = fish line]

This activity may be "staged" and doesn't show clearly if the trawl lines are being hauled in for the day or overhauled (the trawl ends remain anchored), the fish removed and hooks rebaited, and the lines are re-set to resume catching fish.

10. Limpiando el pescado / Cleaning the fish or catch

The fish (cod) are split open, their heads cut off, and their body cavities gutted (the livers are saved for making cod liver oil)

11. Enviando al Puerto / Shipping to the port (Getting underway for port)

As the anchor cable is wound in by the windlass, the crew hauls on it and coils it on the fore deck athwart (to the side of) the fore mast.

12. Desembarcando / Disembarking (Unloading the catch) [el descargar = unloading embarcadero = pier]

The fish are hoisted out of the schooner's hold and sorted (by size and quality) on the wharf.

13. Pesandolo / Weighing the catch

Once the fish have been unloaded and sorted, they are weighed.

14. A derezandolo / Dressing the fish [derrabar = to cut the tail off of despedazar = to cut up]

Fish taken from the schooner have already been salted. Ashore, they are washed (in a dory filled with fresh water) and re-salted. At this time, their tail fins are cut off and their backbones removed.

15. Los secaderos de pescado "Gorton Pew" / The dryers of fish "Gorton Pew" (Drying the fish at the Gorton-Pew flake-yards)

Dressed fish are dried in the sun on racks called "fish flakes". When dry, they are stacked in casks and covered in dry salt.

16. Escamandolo / scaling the fish (Skinning the fish) [escalamiento = scaling escamondar = trim]

The dry codfish skins are ripped off the salted flesh.

17. Desosandolo / Boning the skinned fish

High-grade salt cod is boned by hand using heavy tweezers.

18. Empacandolo y preparandolo para ser transportado / Packing it and preparing it to be transported/shipment [empacar = to pack or crate]

High-grade salt cod is trimmed and wrapped for packaging in small wooden boxes. A conveyer belt sends the crated boxes of cod to a wagon for shipment.

notes from 2007:

Film has to have been made around 1913. -- The name Thomas A. Edison, Inc. is used in the opening credits, and Edison began producing his movies under this name in 1911. -- Portions of the movie were filmed at Gorton-Pew.

The movie was evidently made for a Spanish speaking audience. -- Mary Palmstrom translated each main or subtitle as accurately as possible using GOOGLE and a Spanish/English dictionary. Several captions have some misspelled words, so have tried to choose some words that appear to be close to those originally used.