

and farther south, near the Canaries, off Agadir, they may even amount to two-thirds of the total catch. Soles are also numerous. South of the Canaries we saw during our cruise (see Chapter III.) a considerable handline fishery for acanthopterygian fish (*Dentex*, *Diagramma*, etc.) carried out on hard stony and gravelly bottom. The trawl cannot be worked there, where the acanthopterygians were present in enormous shoals, outnumbering all other species. We had there a fauna entirely different from the boreal fauna, lacking all the northern forms.

All the way from western Ireland to the coast banks of Morocco, fishing is carried on down to deep water, at least to 300 fathoms (500 to 600 metres). West of Ireland the trawlers in April capture two kinds of ling (*Molva molva* and *M. elongata*), hake and breams (*Pagellus*), down to 300 fathoms, and west of Morocco they get large hake down to 200 or 300 fathoms. Fishing thus goes on as deep as *the fauna of the coast banks extends*.

As we have seen already, the Macruridæ peculiar to the fauna of the slopes, commence at about 500 or 600 metres. Will this fauna of the slopes, particularly the Macruridæ, *Mora*, etc., ever be the object of a fishing industry? This question is important, and the possibility of such an industry cannot *a priori* be denied. If we consider that the "Michael Sars" in one haul, with a comparatively small trawl, at Station 4 took over 300 fishes, some of which, as for instance the *Mora*, seemed just as fit for the market as the tusk, it does not seem improbable that improved technical appliances may render fishing profitable even down to 500 fathoms and more.

It is very interesting to note, as shown in the following table, that the temperature in 300 fathoms (the limit of the coast fish) is 10° C.—a temperature which we have previously referred to as marking the southern limit of the northern forms to the west of Ireland, where the southern forms commenced to increase in abundance:—

Depths in Fathoms.	Station 43, South of the Canaries.	Station 93, West of Ireland.
50	16.8°	10.8°
100	15.7°	10.4°
200	13.1°	10.3°
250	11.7°	10.2°
300	...	10.0°
350	9.5°	...
400	...	9.2°

Depth limit  
of fishing on  
Atlantic slope.