

Cod  
(*morihica vulgaris*)

These fish generally inhabit water from 25 to 40 or 50 fathoms deep; when found in shallower places there must be some particular attraction in the shape of food. They are extremely voracious, living on small fish of all kinds, mollusca, worms, and crustacea; among the latter, crabs of considerable size are found in their capacious stomachs. They frequently swallow substances, such as pieces of wood, which even their powerful gastric juices are unable to dissolve, and they have the power of rejecting these indigestible particles when incommoded by their presence.

It has been found in cod fishing that the largest and fattest fish do not bite at the hook but must be captured with gill nets. It required only 210 of those caught with a net to furnish an equal amount of oil (about 26½ gallons) as was obtained from 360 fish taken with hooks. It has also been found that the livers of netted fish yield much more oil to the gallon than those of the trawl or line caught fish. On the Atlantic coast cod taken with gill nets averaged 73 lbs. in weight, while individuals go as high as 75 to 80 lbs. The average weight of those taken with trawl lines in the same localities is only 10 lbs.

Cod ova are very numerous; as high as 9,384,000 having been taken from a single fish