

May 1947

Cape Eelgrass

A rank marine plant known as eelgrass, said by reference books to be abundant along the North Atlantic coast, sickened and died in 1931-32. Eelgrass all but disappeared as Cape Cod folks well know.

Temporary disappearance of butter from corner groceries in 1946 caused more excitement, but it was less important.

Eelgrass was nature's nursery for scallops.

Maybe you too remember picking up a bagful of them on a golden October day, tide out, and then unfrocking them on the rocky shore.

Along shore, scallops of this sort

were the number one item in the bounty of the sea. No scallops dredged from deep water approached them in tenderness and flavor when properly cooked in deep fat or blended in a stew.

No eelgrass, no scallops. October lost much of its charm.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife people now report the eelgrass has made a comeback; again it flourishes along shore as far north as Nova Scotia.

If it means the return of real Cape Cod scallops—as it may if shellfish regulations are enforced—Cape Cod is in luck.

—Brockton Enterprise.



The Shore around Gull Hill - 1880. The two odd-shaped sheds in the center can be located in picture below also. Note vessel masts at the different wharves. Mount Gilboa in the background, and eelgrass in the water.



Same scene as above, a little bit more to the westward. Centenary Church Steeple a little to the left of center.

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