

Commercial Fishing

Sanford Business Directory 1886 finds the following:

Charles Barrett, fishing tackle First and Sanford Ave.

Orlando Business Directory 1887 finds the following:

Sanford:

Adams & Foster
R.R. Gilbert
S. Gilbert
Sanford Fish Company

Sanford Herald 1909

Florida Fish and Produce Company

The fish industry is another of Sanford's notable line of business. Foremost is the Florida Fish & Produce Company with headquarters at Jacksonville, Florida, one of the largest catchers and shippers of fish and sea foods in the state.

At their Sanford Branch, of which Mr. C.R. Walker is manager, they handle all the varieties of fresh-water fish, such as trout, or black bass, bream, perch, mullet, and cat fish, white shad, and herring in their season. They operate "Fish-Boats" out of Sanford for gathering the fish from the various fishing grounds along the "up river" from 50 to 70 miles south of Sanford. These boats are fitted up with refrigerators for carrying ice to the fishing grounds to place the fish in refrigeration as soon as they are taken from the water. We are informed that this way they are able to eliminate almost entirely the percentage of damaged fish that used to be shipped, and still are shipped, to areas where this means of gathering the fish is not adopted. By this means, they are able to place their fish with their customers practically FRESH from the water, as they are iced down as soon as taken aboard these boats and kept well iced until placed in the hands of the customers.

The industry is large and growing and is perhaps of greater importance to Sanford than is realized by many, as they employ an average of 50 to 75 men throughout the season, which is August 15th to June 15th of each year, and their earnings are put into circulation through the business channels of Sanford. Through the season, and especially at its height, November 1st to April 30th, there are many interesting sights to be witnessed at their wharf at Sanford upon the arrival of their fish boats, the unloading of these boats, and preparing and packing the fish for shipment to the markets. One day this last season there were to be seen at their wharf fourteen boats loaded with herring only, the boats averaging 4,000 fish to the boat; or on this particular date a shipment of 56,000 herring in addition to the other varieties.

Fishing for Profit:

The fish industry of Sanford is an important one. There are six companies employed in the business. They ship as far East as New York City, as far North as Dubuque, and as far West as Omaha but their shipments are principally to the smaller dealers in the

South. Black bass, cat fish, herring, bream, perch and shad are caught. The fishing season is long - from August 15th to June 15th. Nearly three thousand pounds of cat fish have been brought in by one seine.