



Record 956-pound tuna caught by Thomas M. Howell of Chicago. Howell is on the right in the picture; his fishing captain, Charley Thompson, on the left. The fish was more than ten feet in length.

By John A. Menaugh

A Champion Fisherman Catches a Record-Breaking Fish

IF ANYONE seeking the utmost in thrills would try to manage a wild bull on the end of a slender fish line from the rear seat of a flivver, with the prairie beneath him bouncing him up and down in twelve foot bounces and someone heaving buckets of cold water into his face, he might be undergoing an experience not dissimilar to that of Thomas M. Howell when he caught a 956-pound tuna. Howell is a Chicago business man, sportsman, and champion fisherman. The 956-pound tuna, which he captured off Liverpool, Nova Scotia, on Aug. 17 last, in an exciting battle lasting 1 hour and 48 minutes, was the largest fish of that species ever taken with rod and reel.

Howell's tussle with the record-breaking fish, though violent while it lasted, was almost as nothing in the way of an endurance contest compared with his fight with a similar fish a few days earlier. At 11 o'clock on the morning of Monday, Aug.

6, he hooked a tuna that was not brought to gaff until 1 o'clock on the morning of Thursday, Aug. 9. For 62 hours he and a guest and his fishing captain and a launchman fought it out with that long-winded tuna, through storm and fog, through day and night, and through waves that more than once threatened to swamp their 22-foot fishing launch. And the fish they caught then weighed 792 pounds—164 pounds less than the record-breaker.

Adventures such as these are big moments even in the life of a champion fisherman who has taken a 405-pound broadbill swordfish off Montauk, Long Island; a 140-pound sailfish and

a 650-pound black marlin swordfish from the waters around the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific, scores of giant tarpon off the Florida keys, and hundreds of other fish of various species up and down the Atlantic coast. Howell, well qualified to take the role of an expert in matters pertaining to big-game fishing, believes the tuna is not quite as able a scrapper as the marlin swordfish, pound for pound, and that the gamest fish of all that swim the seas is the dolphin.

Five giant fish, including the record-breaking specimen, the 792-pounder, and a third weighing 780 pounds, were caught by Howell off Liverpool this summer. The big fish follow schools

of herring into Liverpool bay, forage about the nets of the commercial fishermen placed along the shores of the bay, and feast upon dead herring cast out of the nets by the fishermen. No place else in the world are larger tuna found. The big fellows belong to a species, *Thunnus thynnus*, of the mackerel family. They are, in fact, the biggest of the mackerel, and sometimes are called horse mackerel, a name surely applicable to a fish that literally weighs as much as a horse.

For many years the fish of this species have gone under the name of tunny, especially in Atlantic waters. In the Pacific, and specifically about Santa Catalina Island, where they are taken for sport, of more recent date they have been given the name tuna (pronounced too-na). The layman is most apt to think of fish meat in cans when he hears the term tunny, and most apt to think of fishing with rod and reel when he hears the term tuna. In other words, tuna is the stylish name for tunny. In all sorts of fishing the public from time to time

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