

We sounded, therefore, at Station 35 and got 2603 metres. The trawl was dropped with 5200 metres of wire and towed for about two hours till 6 P.M. At 9 P.M. it was on board again with an extremely interesting catch, including two baskets of holothurians and twenty fishes, several of which were remarkable bottom forms (*Harriotta*, *Bathysaurus*, *Halosaurus*, *Alepocephalus*, and different species of *Macrurus*). There were also several pelagic fish, including the interesting *Gastrostomus bairdii*, with its huge gullet, which had previously only been found on the American side of the Atlantic.

At Bojador there were seven fishing schooners and two smacks at anchor. Some of the people were rowing about in boats setting traps, while others were jigging from the vessels themselves. We went on board the "Isabelita." Along the port-rail stood ten men with hand lines, each furnished with three hooks, by means of which they hauled up the big grey "burro" as fast as they could pull. Every now and then they captured "chiacarone" and smaller silvery fish with red fins and strong teeth. Their bait consisted of anchovies and sardines, which they secured near the shore by means of a seine net. We were told that at daybreak next morning they were going close inshore to use their seine, and we obtained a promise to be allowed to accompany them. To our surprise we were asked to bring carbines and revolvers, as the fishermen were very much afraid of the Arabs.

Seine-net  
fishing.

Before daybreak we rowed towards the shore along with the fishermen to work the seine. The view was magnificent. For miles we could see the coast stretching away in a straight, clear-cut line like a mole, a hundred feet or so above the sea; up beyond the cliffs the land apparently was quite flat, and the sun rose over this line as it does from the horizon at sea. Unfortunately the breakers prevented us from landing, and we had to lie a short distance out from the shore. On the heights above we could see the dreaded Arabs, with their long, thin firearms ready for use; but they sat as motionless as statues, and were probably only thinking of defending themselves.

The Spanish fishermen now made several casts with their seine (see Fig. 54), but were unsuccessful. They had expected to catch large quantities of sardines for bait. We got from them, however, some interesting samples of the small fish that live in quite shallow water, which it would otherwise have been difficult for us to obtain. Among them were young fish (sardines and anchovies), and a number of small spiny-finned