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WHITBY PRAYS FOR FISHERMEN

As the peak of the herring season approaches, the combined fishing fleets of Britain begin to mass at Whitby, the Yorkshire port which launched the fleet of Captain Cook two centuries ago. Today a ceremony which dates back to that time is revived by the Bishop of Whitby. Before they commence their perilous North Sea season the men of the little ships receive the blessing of His Grace.....

One hundred and forty of the drifters are ready to sail. Time is short, for the East Coast season only lasts two months. Last year nineteen thousand tons of fish were landed weekly, enough for each Briton to eat one pound every week. This year there are hopes of greater catches!! With meat supplies decreasing fish looms ever larger as a staple item of our diet.