



## Pier Carried Away By Ice

Provincetown lost one of its last functioning piers to the ice last weekend.

Ice flows five feet thick and frozen together into large blocks have been clogging the harbor intermittently, depending on the direction of the wind, for the past three weeks.

Beginning on Saturday, the ice, moving westward with the wind and outgoing tide, carried away the last 400 feet of the 1,200-foot long Atlantic Coast Fish Packing Plant pier in the West End.

The 60-year-old pier had been actively used through last summer. A small cart ran the length of the pier on a railway track. Fishing vessels would fill the cart at the end of the pier usually with catches of whiting, but also of mackerel and herring.

The bucket in the railway cart would be lifted up at the shore end of the pier and then hoisted up to the third story of the main building through a wooden chute (see photo).

Plant manager Joseph Bekoff estimated Tuesday that "millions of pounds of fish" had been unloaded by the facility.

Workers at the plant doubted that the old pier would be replaced, and said that all the fish would now have to be trucked from MacMillan Wharf. They pointed out that the trucking would delay the packing process, particularly during the summer.

The wreckage of the pier, its railway, and a shed at the end of it which housed some machinery



(Above) Wreckage of the Atlantic Coast Fish Packing Plant's pier and the house on the end of it are washed ashore on the opposite side of the harbor at the East End breakwater. (Below) Freezer workers John White and Keith Hottaway stand at the top of the fish-loading chute watching the pier wreckage as it drifts westward in the ice. In the background the remainder of the pier still stands.

was first taken west of where it had been, and was then blown across the harbor to the East End breakwater on Tuesday morning.

There it remained caught in ice which rested on the flats after the tide went out.

About 800 feet of the Atlantic Coast pier still stand in a somewhat uncertain condition. Provincetown Harbor, which once had many wharves, is now left with the remains of this one, two other short ones in disrepair (the pier at Land's End and the wharf of the Old Reliable Fish House), and MacMillan Wharf.

Robert Cabral plans to build a new pier and marina parallel to MacMillan Wharf on the west side. And the Coast Guard has announced plans to build one to the east of MacMillan Wharf.



All that's left of the wharf in article on left.

- 1972 -  
The old Freeman Wharf



Tarves Boatyard after the Turn  
- 1976 -