

The change of seasons seems to have its influence on fish as well as on other classes of animals: in winter their appetites seem entirely to forsake them; at least they continue in so torpid a state, that few baits will tempt them to their destruction. They then forsake the shallow water, and seek those deep holes that are found in every river, where they continue for a length of time without ever appearing to move. The cold evidently affects them; for they lie close to the bottom, where the water is most warm, and seldom venture out, except the day be peculiarly fine, and the shallows at the edge of the stream are warmed by the powerful rays of the sun.

It is asserted by Goldsmith, “ that some  
“ fish may be rendered so torpid by the cold  
“ in the northern rivers, as to be frozen up in  
“ the great mass of ice, in which they con-  
“ tinue for several months together, seem-  
“ ingly without life or sensation, the prisoners  
“ of congelation, and waiting the approach of  
“ a warmer sun, to restore them at once to  
“ life and liberty.—Thus that chearful lumi-  
“ nary not only distributes health and vegeta-  
“ tion to the productions of the earth, but is  
“ ardently sought even by the gelid inhabit-  
“ ants of the water.”

Fish,