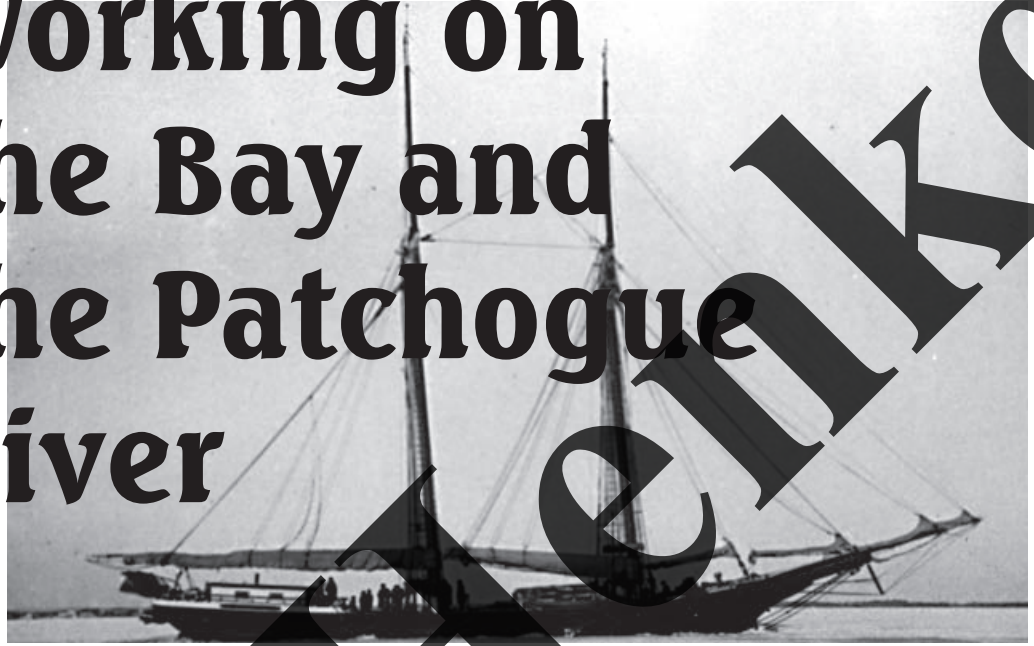


Working on the Bay and the Patchogue River



These are some scenes from a Harpers Weekly article, September 8, 1877, showing oyster boats working on the Great South Bay. From 1820 to the end of the century the main source of income for Patchogue came from the waters of the bay and the ocean.. By 1870 three hundred fifty

people made their living from harvesting oysters, fishing and maritime commerce. The oyster harvest peaked in 1895/96, when 70,000 bushels of oysters were taken from the Great South Bay, of which 40,000 bushels were shipped to Europe.