

Filename: Lunenberg.pdf
Title: Interviews of Mackerel Fishermen at Yarmouth & Lunenberg, Nova Scotia, Canada, 1895.
Location: National Archives, Northeast Region, Waltham, MA. RG 22, 15/16/11-6.
Source: RG 22. Records of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

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QUESTIONS RELATING TO MACKEREL, USED AT YARMOUTH AND LUNENBERG, N.S., MAY AND JUNE, 1895, BY WM. WAKEHAM AND R. RATHBUN.

When do the mackerel first strike this part of the coast? (Has he any records).

Describe the different schools that come in, and the size and period of each.

How far north do the spring mackerel strike in? (Maitland, St. Mary's Bay, Digby).

How do they strike the shore? Broad on, from the north, or how? What direction do they move? What evidence is there to show that they do not also move north?

How about movements at Pubnico, Barrington and Shelburne?

How far off Yarmouth do they take mackerel with gill nets? In what direction are those mackerel moving?

If mackerel are taken on the gill net grounds off shore, do they not move directly on the shore, and why should one trap interfere with the catch of another?

Do mackerel of the first or second run

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ever spawn here?

Do any mackerel run here in the summer and fall sizes?

How about St. Mary's Bay?

How about Digby and other places in Bay Fundy?

Where are brush weirs located in this part of Nova Scotia? For what are they set?

Are traps set specially for any fish but mackerel? No.

Description and sizes of traps.

Where are they located and number between Maitland and Shelburne?

When did they begin to use traps?

On what part of the coast do the traps do best fishing?

History of trap fishing, when were there most. How has reduction come about, and are the few now in use preferable to the larger number? Why?

What was used before traps?

History, sizes, mesh, etc., of seines?

How many were in use?

Where were seines used?

Did they make as good catches as traps?

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Why were they given up?

History of gill netting, when did they begin? What has been number at different times in past; and at present?

Description of gill nets.

Seasons.

Places where used.

Comparative quality of catch.

When was mackerel fishery first taken up in this region; what has been its general history? Has anything been published on the subject?

When did they begin to ship mackerel fresh? What did they do before that?

Can we obtain statistics of mackerel fishery here in Yarmouth?

Can we rely upon the reports of the Boston Fish Bureau?

What is salmon season in traps?

How many are taken here every spring?

What sizes do they run?

What is done with them?

To what river do they belong?

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Isn't there a large waste of small fish in the traps? Cod, pollock, etc. Could these not be thrown overboard in pursing the trap?

In all of this region are the poles to the traps always set in stones, or do they have soft bottom in places where they drive them?

What depth water should there be in the bowl at low tide.

Do they purse the traps early enough each season to know they are catching the first mackerel?

At what time are the traps taken up between Maitland and Shelburne?

If left in later than the mackerel season, for what purpose?

Are any mackerel gibbed or salted now in this region?

What has been the relative catch of mackerel during the past few years?

What causes yearly fluctuations in catch of mackerel?

Are mackerel as abundant as ever?

Does purse seining have any effect upon

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their abundance here? Or does it interfere with their fishery in any way?

Why isn't the Yarmouth Bar trap set on a point instead of in a cove?

What are the shipping ports for Boston? What territory is tributary to each?

At what places in Bay Fundy do spring mackerel occur?

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A.B. COLDWELL, COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, LUNENBURG, N.S., MAY 30, 1895.
Interviewed by Wm. Wakeham and R. Rathbun (long hand).

In 1877, a pole trap was put in just inside of the Ovens, Fire Cove. It was kept there about 9 years. They had a man from Cape Sable Island to run it. The first year they had a good season, but succeeding years were not so good, and it was finally given up on account of the expense and labor of running it.

Some fresh mackerel were shipped from here to Yarmouth for Boston in 1894. This is done occasionally, but not often, and not in large quantities. There is only 1 steamer a week to Yarmouth, but a few may go by rail sometimes.

Thinks the presence of so many lobster pots in all the bays has had much to do with keeping the mackerel out. They foul bait, the presence of so many buoys, and lines, the general commotion in lifting, etc. Doesn't think purse seiners have had much effect; only

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a drop in the bucket so far as causing a decrease, although they may frighten the mackerel somewhat. The bottom in the bays has been much changed, however, by some cause, and he thinks it has been in part due to the lobster pots. The kelp has been destroyed, and they always thought it proved an attraction to the mackerel.

Mr. Does thought the kelp had been destroyed by sea urchins which were formerly very abundant in this bay. Now the urchins have disappeared, and the kelp is beginning to grow again.