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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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GEORGE DORES, LUNENBURG, N.S.
MAY 30, 1895.

Interviewed by Wm. Wakeham and R. Rathbun (long hand).

His fishing experience dates back some 40 years. Has always lived about here. Has used seines and floating traps for mackerel. Has one of the latter now in Lunenburg Bay.

40 years ago they fished for mackerel only with seines, hooks and gills. At that time they had a dozen or so vessels which went hooking for mackerel in the Gulf.

There are 2 runs of fish here in the spring and summer. The first run, beginning in May, consists entirely of large fish. The second run is called the strawberry run. They may first appear any time between June 15 and July 15. If they consist of rather large fish, 12 or 13 inches, they would pass on from bay to bay, not remaining long at any place. If the run consists of small fish, 8 to 11 inches, they will stay longer in the bays, through August and more or less of September.

He said the smaller fish returning from

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the Gulf pass here the latter part of August or early in September. (Probably confounded with the last above).

The large mackerel from the Gulf pass here the latter part of October and during November.

Very small mackerel, 5 to 6 inches long, and some smaller, come down from the Gulf in October. They do not do much more than to trim the shore. Keep passing along.

Mr. Dore and others have spoken of a "pilot mackerel," which is very rare, and comes with the mackerel; only an occasional one, and would be caught outside, none inside. About length of small medium mackerel, more slender body, narrower dark stripes.

The seines used now and formerly, 100 to 120 fathoms long, 6 to 8 fathoms deep. Mesh $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in bunt, 2 inches in wings. Always hauled in by hand. Sometimes do not haul up on shore, but encircle the mackerel, and empty by means of a spiller seine.

There were 10 or 12 seines owned and used here when he began. They were mostly used in

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Lunenburg Bay, but a few might go over into Chester Bay at times.

He gave up seine fishing in 1877, and begin trap fishing. Has two traps, and on one of them uses a few poles on account of the current where it is set.

Saw mackerel plentier previous to than he has since 30 years ago. Within his experience they were most abundant in 1871. There has been nothing like it since. They were 13 inch summer mackerel, and struck the shore in August all at the same time. Did not have to look for them with their seines. They were inshore everywhere.

Doesn't know that the purse seines have decreased the mackerel. May frighten them and prevent them from trimming the shore. The first run of spring mackerel does not trim the shore west of here after rounding Cape Sable. Keep more off shore. Not as much fishing done west of here as about here and to the east.

Years ago they used to catch many mackerel with drag seines some years, and in places they do so now; but in other years they would do nothing.