

Filename: Portland.pdf
Title: 3. Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me. Interviews by Joint Fisheries Commission. November 1893.
Location: National Archives, College Park, MD. RG 22, Box No. 18, E44, Stack Area 150, Row 1, Compartment 17
Source: RG 22. Records of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Records of the U.S. Fish Commission & the Bureau of Fisheries. General Records. Records of the Joint Committee Relative to the Preservation of the Fisheries in Waters Contiguous to Canada & U.S., 1893-1895. 1893, Gloucester, MA.

Page 205 [1]

Portland, Maine

Capt. N. Orchard

Interviewed by Richard Rathbun

Nov. 23, 1893

(Bring the last ¶ up here)

There seems to be more mackerel this year than there were last, but were harder to catch. Has been a series of bad years back to about 1885. Does not think they were any scarcer as a whole than in previous years. Thinks the purse seine has some effect. If there had never been a purse seine there would be any quantity of them now. Would not

Page 206 [2]

make much difference to him whether the purse seine was given up or not. Thinks the close season did some good. Thinks it would be a good thing to continue it. They ought not to go south and catch these unspawned fish. About all the mackerel they catch here (Portland vessels) are on the Cape Shore, and the close season gives them a chance to get along, as otherwise lots

Page 207 [3]

of them would be caught as they pass along. During the close season they did not get them and they had a chance to spawn. Every spring they follow them from the south to the Jersey shore, and they have a good chance to catch a great many of them.

(Capt. N. Orchard, of the schr. George W. Pierce of Portland, has been in the mackerel business for about 35 years, lives in Boothbay.)