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Capt. W.G. Pool, of Gloucester
November 15, 1893.

Aged 54 yrs. Been engaged in mackerel fishery about 27 yrs. Been a captain for 27 yrs. Was fishing for mackerel before that. Master of Schooner George F. Edmunds of Gloucester.

Mackerel are of different sizes in some schools, but often find schools all the same size. They will range in length from 17 in down to 9 inches. Sometimes the larger fish would pre-dominate. The largest mackerel that school are from 14 to 18 inches. Does not remember taking any that were 20 inches in length. Might be a very few scattering ones. Smallest mackerel he ever saw schooling were probably about 6 inches in length. They were spawned the same year. They were from 5 to 6 inches long; some probably not as long as that. That is, fish hatched in the spring

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would attain in the fall the size of 5 or 6 inches.

Thinks large mackerel are as abundant as they used to be, in proportion to the amount taken. Does not know of any decrease in proportional size.

Has not been south mackerel fishing for the last 6 yrs. Stopped going south when the close season began. Has taken mackerel as far south as the latitude of Cape Henry. These early fish in the spring as a general thing are all headed north. These fish are most all schooling, some scattering fish. The farthest north he has caught any fish in the spring was Point Miscou. Could not say how far north the fish that start in off Cape Henry go. They have been trying to find this out for a number of years. Some go into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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Q. You do not think that they stop at the Bay of Fundy, and other schools coming in further north are the ones which go into the Gulf?

It is owing to the season. Some go off shore and strike down by Cape Sable.

When he first sees them in the spring they are very poor. They are not all in spawning condition. Has picked out a few mackerel in the spring as far as in August, but only once in a while one.

Has never been able to trace a school of mackerel any distance with any surety. Thinks they do sometimes.

The farthest north he has fished was off Gaspe. Got fish there about the first of July.

Cannot say the fish are any different now from what they used to be in size. They seem about the same as

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when he first commenced to catch them with seines; the movements of the schools are the same; and the condition of the fish is the same.

The fish do not leave the coast very suddenly. Owing a good deal to the weather. If cold will leave quicker. A heavy cold wind will start them sometimes, especially a northeast gale. Some scattering mackerel left on the coast after the schools have gone. Take these scattering ones with hook and line and with nets. On leaving the coast the fish generally take a southerly route. Never followed them farther south in the fall than Block Island. Some seasons they go off shore when leaving. Fish that come out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence follow up to Cape Sable, and then go south outside of Georges Bank.

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The fish which are on the coast of Maine go down close to shore as a general thing. Does not know of any one who has followed mackerel south of Block Island in the fall. Cease following them there because the weather gets bad. Does not think they travel south in the fall any faster than they move north in the spring. Does not see much difference. They make about 20 miles in 24 hrs. both in the spring and in the fall. Has heard of scattering mackerel being as late as the 25th of Dec. Christmas time, but after that do not see any mackerel at all. Has heard of mackerel being caught in January on trawls and on hook and line, on Jeffrey's Bank; on the middle of the Bank. Have seen mackerel caught down

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off New Brunswick in herring nets in February; probably there might be half a bbl. or so among a hundred barrels of herring, more or less. No. 2 mackerel. They were caught at Beaver Harbor, Passamaquoddy bay. These winter mackerel would be about 11 inches in length. Would be very poor.

Q. When mackerel strike in at Cape Henry, how long before they get to Cape Cod or Block Island?

Well, we catch them there sometimes about the 10th of April. As a general thing about the middle or last of May, we get them at Block Island. Has caught mackerel off the coast of Nova Scotia about the 20th of May. Get them on the coast of Nova Scotia as early as at Block Id.

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That would indicate that they might strike in from off shore.

Mackerel strike in at Cape Sable and two days after we hear of their catching them at Canso in the nets. Mackerel that go in at Cape Sable move right along the shore. Others strike in directly at Canso. On the Cape Sable shore mackerel strike about the 1st of June.

Does not know of any part of the coast which they keep away from.

They are more plentiful in the Bay of Fundy anywhere inside of a line drawn from Cape Sable to Matinicus. That is the best fishing grounds on our shore. More plentiful in the Bay of Fundy than in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some years when they are so plentiful

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in the Bay of Fundy they are apt to be scarce in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; not always the case. They were the most plentiful in the Bay of Fundy in 1884, and were just as plentiful in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They were small sized fish.

Found mackerel the most plentiful in the Gulf, in 1886, thinks it was, between North Cape and Escuminae. That is the only season he ever found good fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Vessels used to do better hooking than seining there. Do not catch as many fish there now as they did then. Have not for the last few years. During the last 4 yrs. have not caught as much fish as formerly. Seem to catch the most fish as they are going into the gulf, and coming out. Does not know any particular reason why they should not be as abundant there.

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Mackerel generally follow the fish. Where there is the best feeding ground, they will be the most plentiful.

The farthest off shore he ever found them was about 130 miles.

Has found mackerel in July on Georges Bank. They were working to the northward. Has never fished much on Georges in the fall.

Has seen mackerel in large schools right close to shore on the rocks, or on the beaches. Thinks a great many different fish prey upon mackerel. About all large fish prey upon them. They often frighten the schools away. Blue fish will drive mackerel off the coast. Albacore are as bad as blue fish. Could not say whether whales trouble them or not, but they are found among the schools. These predaceous fish drive the mackerel away from the coast; turn them from their course. Does not

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think sharks drive mackerel. Dog fish will drive them. Always expect to find mackerel when a large body of blue fish comes on the coast. They clear them out. Never see blue fish farther north or east than the coast of Maine. No mackerel caught on this coast last fall.

(Dr. Wakeham stated that at Grand Manan blue fish had been seen some years ago, about 1888. The fishermen coming home from the bank reported shoals of blue fish about half way between Matinicus and Cape Sable. That was the year that the menhaden reappeared on the coast of Maine, after an absence of 10 years)

Mackerel feed on red seed, or cayenne, on small shrimp and on small fish, about $\frac{3}{4}$ in long. Has seen jelly fish in the stomachs when dressing them. Never noticed any

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particular kind of feed at one time of the year and other kinds at another time. Some years will not see much red seed, and at those times do not see large schools of fish on shore. Seems to be the principal thing that the fish feed upon. Has seen it as far as he has been north. Has seen it up in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Herring feed on it also. Has seen herring full of it off New Foundland in the winter. Other mackerel are seen schooling they are feeding at the surface. Does not think they feed so much in the spring when making their passage.

It is the red feed that burns their stomachs. Does not know of any other kind that does. It prevents their being kept fresh. Cannot keep them very long without ice. Used to lose a good many. Now we have packets that we turn them into, so we do not

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Lose any at all. Pockets are rigged on the side of vessels made of heavy twine. Turn the fish out of the seine into these pockets. All vessels carry these pockets. Get fish in warm weather, put them on deck, and they would get soft before we could dress them. Some fish die in the pockets; those that have been injured. They would live long enough so as to dress a large school.

The red food has no particular distribution. Find it more or less everywhere.

Mackerel spawn as soon as they go in the bay (Gulf of St. Lawrence) as a general thing. Some spawn will be ripe when they first catch fish in April or May. Will find them ripe at Block Island by the time they catch them there. Never catch many fish on the coast of Maine with spawn in them. Most of them spawn before they get there. Spawn

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along Block Island, Nantucket, Georges and Cape Cod. They find spawning fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence the last of June. They catch mackerel with spawn in them the middle of July in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Could not say how far off shore they spawn. Thinks they spawn on Georges. Do not know whether they spawn at the surface or not, but thinks they spawn at the bottom. Does not know whether they spawn during the day or night. They disappear during the

spawning season. They disappear the last of June, and it is the middle or 10th of July before they come up plentiful again. Get only scattering fish during that time.

The fish in the spring run before spawning are very poor.

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They begin to fatten up some by the middle or last of July.

Find very few sick mackerel. Logy mackerel are very poor, sick fish. Never saw dead mackerel at the surface. They seem to be very dull about the spawning time. Take mackerel in the spring on the Nova Scotia shore, generally catch about every school they set for because they appear to be less active then. The first schools on the Cape Shore are nearly all large and full of spawn. Nothing smaller than 11 inch fish.

Does not think there has been any decrease in the abundance of mackerel. As many as when he began fishing. Some seasons more plentiful than others. Large catch of fish in

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1884. Caught over 4,000 bbls. that year. For 5 or 6 years before had not caught over 200 bbls. Since then has not caught as many, although he has made good catches. This summer we supposed there were no fish on the coast, and they struck in here all along the coast, and some got good catches, although I did not happen to be one of them. They struck in October 1, off Matinicus, then all along the coast of Massachusetts, and large catches were made; lasted about three weeks.

Does not think the purse seine has done any harm. Years ago when I was a youngster used to be 700 or 800 sail on the coast all fishing with hook

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and line. Purse seine has no effect in breaking up or scattering schools. Does not think the purse seine fishery should be regulated in any way. Does not think it is necessary.

Does not think the close season of any benefit to the mackerel fishery. They have been no more plentiful since the close season than they were before. Would be no object in prohibiting purse seine fishing prior to June 1. Many of these fish are sold fresh. Certain market for poor fish. Get fair prices for them. Do not get the biggest prices in the spring. Prices average all the way from \$10 to \$15 for these poor fish. South mackerel fishery would pay first rate if they did not get too many

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vessels down there. Does not think there is any great advantage in starting out early, not before April at least. Is in favor of keeping up the early mackerel fishery. Has followed it up about twelve years. Made it pay on an average.

Does not think mackerel need any protection. Thinks they spawn more some seasons than others.

Does not think there is any region where purse seining should be prohibited. Does not think purse seining hurts the hook and line fishing along shore.

More mackerel destroyed by predaceous fishes than by fishing. Total amount of mackerel taken only a small proportion of the mackerel they see.

Purse seine fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence not very profitable. Did very well there one year; caught two trips. Thinks it was in 1883. Does not

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think there would be much opposition to the prohibition of purse seine fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Gulf used to be a famous fishing ground with hook and line.

Has not fished much with hook and line; If vessels would not take any seines now, and would fish with hook and line as they used to do in old times, would do just as well as they ever did. Hook and line fishing would do well on our own coast. Never saw fish bite any better at Block Island than they did this summer.

No difference in quality of the fish, between the purse and hook and line fish, since they got the pockets over the sides of the vessel for holding the mackerel alive.

Purse seine fishermen would not want to go back to the hook + line fishery. Thinks about 7/8 of the mackerel taken

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by U.S. fishermen are caught with purse seine. Fish caught on the coast of Nova Scotia, etc., not included in this proportion. Fish are caught more cheaply with the purse seine than by other methods, else it would not be kept up. But it is a more costly outfit. Vessels get more fish with the purse seine.

Some will last, if well taken care of, 4 or 5 yrs. Average cost of seine \$700. Purse seine now is a great deal longer and deeper than when he first began to use them. The first seine he had was 140 fathoms long and 500 meshes deep. Now they have 240 fathoms long and 1000 meshes deep; about 17 fathoms in depth. Used 1 7/8 inch mesh in purse seines. Never larger than 2 in. Size of mesh in gill net 1 3/4 to 2 in stretched.

Does not know much about

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the steam launch. Says Capt. Hartly used one this summer. Does not think he got enough more fish in his purse seine to pay the extra expense. It requires the same crew. Boat great deal heavier to tow. Risk of losing greater. Cost about \$2700. \$250 for row boat.

There is not much feeling on the part of the shore fishermen against the purse seine. Does not think the purse seine frightens the fish away from the shore. Might for an hour or so but not materially.

Thinks pounds the most destructive things to use. Thinks there is a certain school of mackerel that strike onto the coast of Nova Scotia, and go into the Gulf. Does not think purse seines would particularly affect

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their abundance after they get into the Gulf. Purse seines are used on our coast more than anywhere, and does not see that they have driven the mackerel away any. That goes to prove that they would have no effect on them in the Gulf of St. L.

As a general thing mackerel are by themselves; no other fish with them. Have caught "blue backs" with them. They are mixed with mackerel more than any other species. Also find some shad, but very few. Do not catch blue fish with mackerel very often. Mackerel clear out when the blue fish put in an appearance. No blue fish around when they first see mackerel in the south.

Thinks mackerel must lay off the edge of the gulf stream, but has spoken square rigged vessels in

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the spring that said they saw fish on the other side of the gulf stream in April.

Mackerel are at their best in September. Begin to get poor as they start to go south. Does not think they grow much during the winter. Mackerel grow very fast in the summer season, until they get up to a certain size, about 11 or 12 inches. Does not think they feed much in the winter.

Thinks some seasons there are lots of mackerel going through the Gut of Canso, late schools. Has known them to come out that way. Has seen them schooling in the Straits. (Dr. Wakeham has know Leandre Michel, at Meccatina, to catch over 50 barrels; were caught with

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drag seine, herring seine, in September. Others have been taken at Bon Esperance at the end of the Straits of Belle Isle. Does not know of mackerel being taken in the Straits).

Has known of mackerel being taken in White Bay, on the northeast coast of Newfoundland. Thinks they must have been going through the Straits of Belle Isle, as he has never known of their passing by St. Johns, on the southern coast. But Mackerel have been taken in Fortune Bay.

(Dr. Wakeham thinks they are not taking mackerel at Meccatina)

Capt. Henry Smith took 100 bbls. or more mackerel on a hook about St. Georges Bay, the southwest corner of Newfoundland,

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about 15 years ago, in the last of October, in a snow storm.