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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 pursuing 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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HENRY WEAVER, LUNENBURG, N.S.

MAY 30, 1895.

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

Has fished in this region about 48 years and is still fishing. One of the most energetic of the local fishermen. Now using gill nets and traps, and also hooks for cod, etc.

The big mackerel came in last year May 10, the earliest known, and lasted until about June 5. Generally do not begin until about May 21 to 25.

There was no second run last year (1894), but the big ones held on until toward the last of June, smaller ones coming in more abundantly toward the end.

The second run generally begins about June 7 to 10, and lasts until about July 1.

Generally have a summer run. Some years they may be plenty; and others not many. They are generally about 9 inches. They strike from the middle to the end of July and last about 1 month.

In the fall the big mackerel come back

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from about the middle of October to middle of November. Preceding them may be smaller mackerel, 8 or 9 inches, which may last 2 or 3 weeks.

The size of the mackerel in the first spring run is about 15 inches, but some are larger, and may be larger this year.

Second run are about 11 inches, more or less.

Summer mackerel are about 9 inches, a few larger, and are mostly in poor condition.

In the spring they use only gill nets and traps.

For the first spring school they set gill nets 6 to 8 miles off Cross Island, and at other places along the coast about the same distance off shore.

Between here and Sambro they fish gill nets much more extensively than they do along the coast to the westward, in the proportion of 10 to 1.

The number of gill nets to a boat is generally 6 to 12, but some may use 18 to 20.

When the second run comes on they fish much close in, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mile, more or

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less, off land.

This year they set some traps as early as May 20, but have caught nothing in them yet. Do not depend on getting the first run in traps but do the second.

The mackerel have struck in better at Prospect this year than Lunenburg.

In 1894, the spring run struck east of Cape Sable, and come right along shore. There were millions in our harbors.

They keep the traps out until the middle or latter part of August. After that they are apt to be blown out. The traps are fished for herring and squid as well as mackerel.

Mackerel are very scarce this year. Has not caught over 65 in his gill nets. Nothing has been taken in the traps.

Used to catch more mackerel 15 years ago in one morning than they do now in a whole season, in gill nets. This does not include the traps which have done well for him 3 years out of 4.

There may be as many mackerel as ever; last year there seemed to be from May 18 to the

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middle of June. Hard to judge anything about this.

Purse seines shy the mackerel. Last year was pleasant in the spring, the sea was smooth and purse seiners did well. This year, however, the weather has been bad.

Thinks purse seines scatter the mackerel, but do not decrease them.

Mackerel are a smarter and shyer fish than herring. The latter are not so easily disturbed. They are slower and more easily caught.

Lunenburg Bay has about 30 traps.

Mackerel enter Lunenburg Bay in the spring on the south side and pass out on the east side.