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Page 1 [1]

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

Page 2 [2]

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?

Page 3 [3]

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?

Page 4 [4]

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

Page [5]

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?

Page 75 [1]

W.L. ZWICKER, AGENT FISHERIES INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, LUNENBURG, N.S.,
MAY 30, 1895.

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

Records of dates of appearance of mackerel, Lunenburg, etc. Mr. Zwicker is interested in one of the traps in Lunenburg Bay which is referred to as his trap. All barrels mentioned at Lunenburg are salt barrels of 200 lbs., fish.

1892

The first run or large mackerel were first taken in the gill nets here May 25, and lasted until June 11.

The second or strawberry run. His floating trap was put down June 3, Catches were made as follows:

June 20,	2 mackerel,
“ 22	few dozen mackerel,
“ 23,	1 bbl. mackerel,
“ 24,	34 bbls.
“ 25,	2 ³ / ₄ “
“ 26,	1 “
“ 27,	2 “
“ 29,	30 “

Page 76 [2]

June 30,	1 bbl.
July 1,	6 “
“ 4,	7 “
“ 7,	1/2 “

This was the last taken this year. There were no mackerel in August or September. He thinks the above school went west from here, as mackerel of the same size were subsequently taken at Liverpool. Mr. Zwicker considers that this second run is not going to the Gulf, but remains about here more or less into the summer. He calls it the summer or strawberry run, the last name being generally recognized about here. (The question of the movements of the second run in this region is somewhat difficult of solution here, and there seems to be a difference of opinion regarding it).

1893

First or large run. A few years taken in the gill nets May 24, which were the first. They lasted until June 7.

Second run. Catch in his trap.

Page 77 [3]

June 12,	1 mackerel,
“ 14,	26 “

“ 17, 8 bbls.
 “ 19, 25 “
 “ 23, 8 “
 “ 26, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ “
 “ 27, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ “

Thence up to July 11 had a few scattering mackerel only at each lift.

Large fall mackerel going west struck here October 20. Scattering ones will continue here generally to about November 20, sometimes later.

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1894

First or large run. Henry Weaver put out his gill nets May 18. It stormed May 19. On the 21st he took about 150 mackerel. On the same date they were schooling right in the harbor here, and entered the coves, etc. They come into the bays in immense numbers that season. On May 28 the first were taken in traps, which had been set out for them.

Only

Page 78 [4]

a few traps had been set then, but on that date 50 salt barrels were taken in them.

Second run. June 13 took 35 mackerel, the first in his trap. June 21, 2 bbls.; 26th, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bbls. There was scarcely anything of a second run in 1894.

Fall run large mackerel. Set his trap October 19, on the shore at Oven's Head. October 26 took 6,500 large mackerel. Besides this about 1,000 same mackerel were taken in other traps, which was total catch of fall run in traps for 1894.

1895.

First or large run. Following is the catch made by the boat taking the greatest number each day, in gill nets, up to date.

May 21, 1 mackerel
 22, 12 “
 25, 20 “
 27, 70 “
 29, 80 “

There have been about 25 gill net boats out. The others each took smaller quantities

Page 79 [5]

daily.

In 1890 and 1891, there were immense quantities of 9 to 10 inch mackerel on this shore. The greatest number were present in 1890. That year they struck in the last of July and lasted until about the middle of September. They were so plentiful in Chester Bay that one hour after emptying a trap it would be full again. These fish were marketed as "small mackerel."

1890 had not been a good mackerel year up to that time, so that these small fish brought a good price in the United States market. They began at \$5.50 a barrel, salted, and went up to \$10.

They run a seine across the mouth of Deep Cove, Chester Bay, and held in an immense quantity which they kept there as they dressed. Not knowing, however, that they would be of so much value they did not save all and let some go to waste. There were probably thousands of barrels penned in the cove at that time.

This year (1895) there are 28 traps in Lunenburg Bay, inside of Ovens Pt. and East

Page 80 [6]

Point. The catch in these traps is mackerel, herring and squid, and occasionally a salmon.