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W.S. Jordan & Co.
Portland, Me.
Interviewed by Richard Rathbun
Nov. 23, 1893

Does not think the purse seine has any effect on the mackerel; that is, as to the diminution of the fish. It is like this: there are so many other fish of all kinds preying upon the mackerel, and so many other influences of all kinds, that the use of the purse seine has not diminished the number of mackerel. The large decrease in the catch for a number of years is not owing to the use

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of the purse seine for this reason: purse seines have been used for years and years, and in 1884 the catch was large, and the next year the catch dropped off almost to nothing. That diminution cannot be laid to the use of the purse seine. Thinks the close season was a benefit to the owners of vessels, and to some extent a benefit to the trade. Does not

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think the purse seine fishery needs any regulation. The purse seine fishing does not affect the inshore fishery here. The gill net fishermen have not been doing as much of late for the reason that there is not as many mackerel on the coast, but does not think it is owing to seining at all. It would be better to give up the southern fishery entirely. Last

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year sent two vessels, against our judgment, because the captains were bound to go. Used to make large catches in the old days with hook and line. Had a few vessels down at Block Island last summer: all had purse seines, and all the vessels took hooks and lines.

Is quite confident that the diminution of the catch of mackerel is not in any way due to the purse

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seines. It is from other causes, such as other fish preying upon them, etc. etc.