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Notes on the Mackerel, M.J. Keating, at the Magdalen Islands,
July 11, 1893.

Mr. Keating is from Port Mulgrave, Gut of Canso. He fishes at the Magdalen Islands (Entry Islands). Comes in May and leaves last of September or first of October. Fishes with gill nets and jig. He also buys fish from other people.

His statement was as follows:

The mackerel first reached the Magdalen Islands this year about June 6, which may be considered about an average. One year came as early as about May 28, and another year as late as June 20.

They are expected there within 48 hours from the time they leave Cape North. After leaving the latter place they move rapidly. This year they did not come in as promptly. When they appeared they were large, abundant

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and showed commonly at the surface. Sol. Jacobs obtained 100 barrels there. They seldom school in the bay, but do outside about the islands, and in Sandy Hook Pass, where there is deeper water than in the bay. This is the spring school, and the American vessels when they are there seine them about the islands outside of 3 miles from the islands. In the summer it is the same.

The spring school remains only about a week. They expect to have good fishing during only 2 or 3 nights.

The spring run consists of what is termed large mixed fish. They run about the same sizes we saw to-day, as noted above.

Four years ago, for the first time in 20 years, large mackerel struck in here in the spring run. They have been coming every year since.

After leaving Magdalen Islands, they are found at a few places which will be described by

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Wakeham, Miscou among them.

After this first spring run disappears they pick up a few mackerel right along, but they are not abundant. The summer run this year began July 8, the same day on which it appeared at Georgetown, as will be seen in notes regarding that place. The fish were larger at the Magdalens, however. The mackerel remain more or less abundant at this place during all the summer, until last of October, the abundance fluctuating from time to time. In November he has followed them from the islands as far as Sydney.

They do not hook mackerel in the spring run. Thought they could not be caught then in that way, but was not positive that they would bite. Begin to hook mackerel July 15 to 20. Gill nets are used exclusively up to this time; after that resort more to jugs than gill nets.

Gill nets have 3 inch to 3 ½ inch mesh.

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There are about 10 boats from Entry Island, using 8 to 10 nets each. The gill nets set inside must not be set before 5 P.M. and must be taken up before 9 A.M. next day. They can be kept down continuously, however, if sunk 12 feet below surface. These rules apply to a distance of 3 miles from the islands. Outside, nets may be set as they please.

Keating sets outside.

About 2000 nets are set in Pleasant Bay during summer.

There is a large fishery off South Beach in the spring and summer. One of the principal fishing places.

Mr. Keating thinks that the large mackerel schools entering the Gulf in the spring around Cape North proceed up to the westward of the Magdalen Islands, between them on the one side, and Prince Edwards Island and the mainland on the other. A small detachment only comes around the Magdalen Islands.

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No tinkers come with the spring fish. He has never seen many around the islands. They come in August.