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Portland, Maine.  
Capt. Ahmon Mallock  
Nov. 23, 1893

Captain of Schooner Nathan Cleaves. Has had about 15 years experience mackerel fishing.

Thinks there was a decrease in the quantity of mackerel from 1885 until 1890, but there has been an increase since then. Their decrease heretofore was all owing to the amount of blue fish which inhabit this coast and which feed on mackerel (See under Enemies).

Thinks blue fish are very destructive to mackerel. They have a tendency

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to drive mackerel off this coast to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Does not think squid frighten them very much. Has seen mackerel and squid school together. Albacore drive them very much. Mackerel seem to know when these enemies are after them, and they travel to get out of the way. Sometimes has known them to go 200 or 300 miles. Sometimes way

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up in the bay of Fundy where blue fish do not go. Does not think whales have much effect. They feed on them some, but are not very destructive. Dog fish feed on them some, but mackerel and dog fish will school together. Blue fish and albacore are the most destructive fish to mackerel.

Thinks the five years' close season has been the ruination of the business

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along the Massachusetts and Maine coast. He would not have any close season for mackerel. Catch them when you can. Will never catch them all out; it is useless to think of it. Does not think we catch 1/16 part with seines or hooks that are destroyed by fish that feed on them. Would not suggest any regulations for the mackerel

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fishery. Thinks it will regulate itself.

He went south this year, but did not get many fish. Only one or two vessels that did.

When you interfere with us here you are going to benefit other countries that are going to use our markets. Such other countries are Ireland, Norway, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Canada. Any quantity of mackerel come in from Ireland and

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Norway. Cannot say just how much, but it increases every year. Does not take a very large quantity of mackerel to put prices down on extra fish. Those fish that come from Norway are best quality, No. 1. Would not be apt to send anything else.

The schools that appear on the southern coast first are moving in a northeasterly direction,

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up along the edge of soundings. Find them off shore anywheres from 20 to 75 miles; and that would bring it about on the edge of the gulf stream. None of the first run of fish stop at Block Island. They go over Georges, over the southern and some over the northern edge, and strike along about Cape Sables, and pass down the Cape Shore into

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North Bay. Thinks it is a later school that comes in at Block Island, and they practically remain there during the season. Some will not strike until they get well down the coast of Nova Scotia, as far as Beaver Harbor. Schools have been known to strike in at Louisburg that come straight from off shore. They come in over Western Bank from the

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gulf stream region, and enter the Gulf of St. Lawrence, passing along the outer coast of the Cape Shore. The mackerel strike the Cape Shore about the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> of May, and they make about 40 miles a day. The length of the Nova Scotia coast and Cape Breton is 290 miles. The farther east they strike the less time it takes for them to reach the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The first schools are generally all large mackerel. They go in

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around Cape North, and some over to Newfoundland, passing along the southern side of Newfoundland and thence in the direction of Iceland. They have been followed beyond Newfoundland as far as you can see the land, and they were heading straight northeast in the open ocean.

The second body consist generally of smaller mixed fish. They are

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not more than a day or two later in their appearance than the first school. Some of these go through the Gut of Canso. Then there is what we call the strawberry school. They are smaller than the second school. They work down along the shore very slowly. Some go through the Gut of Canso; some up around Cape North. Sometimes do not go any further

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than Cape North: stay down around Sidney all summer.

Does not think the big fish school very much. Thinks they go way to the north. The second school does not go so far north. They stay around Prince Edward Island and the Magdalens. Sometimes you will find small fish in the Gulf later than you

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will see big ones. I was there last fall; got home the 26<sup>th</sup>, and the last fish we saw there were little ones.

Does not think mackerel grow any in the winter. Those little fish 5 inches long he does not see the next spring.

The fish that go into the Bay of Fundy come from the

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southward, out around Block Island and Nantucket, South Channel, and up that way. Come onto the coast of Maine generally about the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, and stay until about the middle of September. Off this coast get large and small fish both.

Thinks that the Gulf of Maine is the best purse

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seine fishing grounds as a whole, that there is. They school better here than they do in the Gulf or in the southern grounds. The school that came on here suddenly this fall covered an area of 7 or (?) miles wide and 10 miles long. When we first saw them they were off Seguin. They traveled eastward down as far as Monhegan, and

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seaward right off shore. Saw blue fish and albacore around Monhegan in immense numbers for two days after the mackerel were there.

Has never taken any mackerel in mid winter. Has heard of their being taken in cod fish on Georges. Has heard of there being taken with the herring on the eastern coast

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of Maine – a very few. Thinks those are mackerel that get separated from the main bodies and go among the winter herring. They followed a school of mackerel up into the Gulf of St. Lawrence 3 years ago the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Has never seen them with ice around.

Mackerel feed mostly on what we call red feed, cayenne.

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Has seen them feed upon their own young in the Gulf of St. Lawrence this summer.

Mackerel spawn, we think, in June. Does not think they spawn south except it is at Block Island; fish that stay there during the season. Thinks some schools spawn after June. The spawning season begins at Block Island along the last part

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of June and the first of July. They spawn as early in the Gulf of St. Lawrence as they do here. Does not think they keep on the surface when they spawn. Thinks they spawn on the bottom. There are 2 or 3 weeks that we do not find them when they are spawning. Does not know just how long they stay down.