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GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Interviews by

JOINT FISHERIES COMMISSION.

November, 1893.
Capt. Frank Foster, Gloucester.

77 years old. Has been mackerel fishing since he was 16 years old. Master of vessel for 22 years. Interested in only one vessel at present. Museum of Gloucester. Has built 5 or 6 vessels for this fishing.

Q. Do different size mackerel go in the same school, as well?

There are some schools in which they keep very an inch, other schools will vary from as long as your finger to 16 or 18 inches.

Q. Do fish run together mostly of one age and grow up together?

Some schools remain together, but of course there are cases where they are all sizes from the smallest to the largest.

Q. Is it not a difficult matter to tell how fast the fish grow?
They go away in the fall and come back in the spring. After leaving here in the fall they do not grow any until they come back in the spring. They grow when they are on the coast for the reason that they do their feeding there. After going away from the spring when they return there is not a particle of fat or flesh on them. On holding them up you can see the light of day through them.

Were many small mackerel seen last spring, and wouldn’t not have been better not to have touched those mackerel?

I think all they landed would not make a drop in a bucket. Only 3 or 4 vessels got any at all.

Those men mackerel which had spawned the year before, and 3/4 of them would go right through the meshes of the net.
Q. How large do they grow in a year?

A. About an inch. Mackeral grow rapidly only to a certain size; I suppose somewhere from 10 to 16 inches long.

Q. What is the largest mackerel you have ever seen?

A. I think 23 inches. I think we got one of that size this spring, which has a very large mackerel. Mr. Church got 400 lbs. of his large fish one time at the fish cleaner. This was fishing about Block Island. Those large fish are there every year. They would lay right across a boat. Would pack go to a boat of 200 lbs. Later in the year many very big, have not seen any big fish for 2 years. In 1886 we went out there and got 100 lbs. on one morning.

Q. How large were they?

A. I do not know exactly. Should
Day from 14 to 18 with 19 inches long. Packed in bbl. took 160 to 180 for No. 1, 130 for extras.

Q. How did you catch them?

In the seine, it was in the last of Oct. They showed up better than at any other time.

Q. What is the average size of mackerel taken with the purse seine? What will they weigh on an average?

That is a pretty hard question to answer. I should say they would measure between six and, little tinker mackerel, and 14-inch mackerel. We catch more No. 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} than we do larger size fish.

Q. What is the smallest size mackerel seen schooling in the fall, after they are hatched in the spring?

5\textsuperscript{1/2} or 6 inches. Could get 132 in a common water pan — generally would not fill it.

Q. What was the size of those small
mackerel last spring?
They were from 7 to 9 inches, possibly, on an average.
Q. Were those year old mackerel?
Yes, they were year old.
Q. Do you find as many large mackerel now as you used to?
More large mackerel this fall than there has been since I have been going fishing. The general percentage this year is large mackerel altogether.
Q. How far south have you taken mackerel this year?
Just as far as I have gone. Capt. Adams has record of farthest south taken by Capt. Foster.
Q. When fish are schooling do you always find scattering fish on the surface?
Yes, indeed, always find scattering fish. Will always see them on the
coast anywhere. Light vessels catch these scattering fish.

Q. Do you follow schools any distance?

Oh, no; but would follow a body of fish. Would follow them along, perhaps 10 miles from the shore. Would follow them clear to the south as far as we go. Do not follow any one school that we know of.

Q. How far have you followed a body of fish?

We follow them from as far south as we find them to as far to the north as we go. They go to the head of the Bay of Fundy. Fish which approach the coast of N.J. go up the bay and into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Fish on this coast do not go into the bay of St. Lawrence.

Q. You find, possibly, that the fish which go into the Gulf of St. Lawrence
might approach the coast there near the mouth of the Gulf?

Yes. A little further to the north. We have no proof of this more than that we do not find them anywhere else.

Q. Are mackerel there when first seen?

Yes, indeed, not a particle of fat on them.

Q. When are fish first seen off the coast of Nova Scotia, generally?

The 5th of May is the earliest known of.

Q. They have not begun to fatten up at the south?

No, never find any mackerel south with any fat on them in the spring. Cannot tell the males from the females when in the water.

Q. How far north have you fished for mackerel in the Gulf St. Lawrence. West
up as far as the Magdalen Isls. and up the Miramichi.

Q. How early can you fish out there successfully?

Well I do not know. I never was there early. Never attempted to go there early. Do not generally go around north of Cape Breton in the spring. Capt. Sol Jacobs got 201 mls. at Cape North in June. Last spring were 30 sails or more around near Cape Breton in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Q. Has there been any change in the fish as to the size or movements of the schools?

Well no, nothing more than some years they are more plentiful than others.

Q. You do not see any great difference?

No, indeed.

Q. That is to say, you might find fish schooling in the same way; schools of the same size, and fish of the same size.
new that you did 20 or 30 years ago.

Yes, indeed. I well illustrate this
by this one instance: We were
south; plenty of fish. All at once they
disappeared and we never knew where
they went to. We never found them
again. Have searched the coast for
several months and never found anything
until the first thing we know, they
came rushing on the coast, all along
from Newaygo (?) to Cape Leve.

Q. If these schools of fish that come
onto the coasts of Virginia and New
Jersey do not go into the Gulf of St.
Lawrence, where do they go?

They came on this coast last. They
came on this coast this summer, and
went as far as above Grand Manan,
more than they have known for many
years. We do not know where they
went to. Good schools of mackerel around Cape Cod, off Block Island and Vineyard Haven. They start through the whole summer. Large schools. We went up there quite late and got 2 or 3 lbs. Raised them any where. Leave Cape Cod 1st of Nov.

Q: There is still some fishing there?

Oh yes, there is fish always, but they do not seem to be in schools at this season. They catch them now in traps and in nets at Cape Cod. No sail on the coast now. They catch them in traps until Christmas; that is scattering fish, in small quantities. There are vessels yet on the Nova Scotia coast. Mackerel always follow the coast out of the bay up along the nova Scotia coast.

Q: What time of year is that?
About this season (Nov. 15) there would be no fish in the bay of Fundy at this season that I know of.

Q. What seems to become of that school of fish they are now catching on the Nova Scotia shore?

They never go up the Gulf from the Bay at all. When the season comes for them to come in on the coast, they come in. Think they go into the Gulf stream; that is, all those that strike the other side of Cape Sable, but our fish that strike up along this coast come in on the coast this side, and stay here.

Q. Are these fish going out through the Straits of Canso, going out and disappearing in schools?

Yes.

Q. Do the fish that go up from...
Jeryc left down by N.J. again.

q. How far south as the fishing carried in the fall?

I never knew them to carry so far as Block Island. I suppose principally on account of the weather. It is on account of the weather that they now get fish them again after they get that far.

q. Do you find as large schools in the fall as in the spring?

Yes frequently larger.

q. Do you know of placers which have run the fish south of Block Island in the fall?

Yes, indeed, one of my men who has been with me for two years, goes south every winter. He went out on the City of Macon. I think, and
he said the like he never saw before in the way of mackerel. They seemed to be right in a body. About 35 miles S. S. W. from Block Island. We could not go there this fall.

Q. They used to fish off the Vineyard, yes indeed, but not very recently.

Q. Do you ever find mackerel during the winter?

There are none found during the winter after December that I know of. I do not think small mackerel go south as far as the big ones. Never knew of mackerel being found in the stomachs of other fishes during the winter. In winter these fishes go off in the edge of the gulf stream, in warm water. Stay on the bottom, will tell you my reasons for thinking so. There are
plenty of vessels go across the gulf stream, and often men go who have been fishing all their lives. If they saw a school of mackerel from the deck, they would report it. Hundreds of vessels cross that stream, and do not see them.

9. Do the schools strike the upper parts of the coast with regularity from year to year?

That is a pretty hard question to answer. It is a difficult matter to strike those fish exactly when they strike the coast. Might have had weather for a week and not see them. We expect to meet them when they first come out of the gulf, somewhere along about the first of March. Mackerel occur anywhere about the coast at certain seasons.
Q. There is no particular place where they never occur.

None that I know of.

Q. You may find them around Georges.

Oh yes.

Q. Which is the biggest mackerel region on our coast, including Canada, I should say on our coast that the Bay of Fundy has the greatest quantity; at any time. When a large body of fish come from the south they generally go to the Bay of Fundy.

Q. How far off shore have you seen mackerel?

It is always inside of the gulf stream. Never saw them off more than 60 miles.

Q. What do you consider the Bay of Fundy, that part north of Grand Manan?
S call anything the Bay of Fundy inside of the Seal Islands and Matinelle.

Q. Would you expect to find mackerel 60 miles off shore in the Bay of Fundy?

Oh yes. In the year 1752 was the greatest year we ever knew in the Bay of Fundy.

Q. How far from shore is the best fishing?

It is anywhere.

Q. You do not know anything about the temperature of the water.

Nash.

Q. At what distance off shore would you see the backs of the fish? Do they seem to move up as they go inshore?

Oct.

Q. Do the schools go inshore at all?

Yes indeed, there has been a very
good fishing this year close in.

q. So that the same school of fish which have gone in?

Yes indeed. But there is always more or less scattering fish. Never know a season but what there is more or less scattering fish along shore.

q. Do you find these same small pods off shore too?

Oh yes, very frequently.

q. These are not worth purse seining?

Would be if you could catch them. Have set all day long and only got 20 lbs. of fish.

q. Are the movements of the schools affected in any way by predaceous fish?

I have seen mackerel paralyzed so with fish that you could go right up to them and pull them into the
What were the fish? They were all blue, from 1 1/2 to 3 feet in length.

What is the movement of mackerel in the school, do they circle much? Sometimes they circle. Sometimes you will see a dozen schools at once, sometimes 20 and 50 schools, all going around like a wheel, not like mackerel exactly.

What do the mackerel feed upon? Several things. We call it red feed or red seed that is in the water. It is alive. They also feed on live bait, little fish. I have seen fish in mackerel that length (length of pig).

Is there any difference at different times of the year? Do they feed on this red feed at all times of the year?
There are plenty of times in the year you will not find any of this red feed in the mackerel.

Q. Do there any particular time of the year that they get the red feed when they are going up the coast in the spring?

Well wherever they find it, it is not general all along the coast.

Q. Do mackerel feed at the surface?

Yes, I think so. They school for nothing but that.

Q. Do mackerel feed at all seasons, do they feed in spawning season?

I suppose they do.

Q. The question of burning their stomachs with this red feed?

Yes, it is the red feed.

Q. How long does it take to burn the stomachs out?
Sometimes could not keep them on deck more than 5 or 6 hours. Could not bring them in fresh very well, not without ice. It would affect the flesh of the fish.

9. You do not find this fish at any particular place or season, but may find it at any time during the year?

Yes, at any time. The red fish goes in schools. Find it down south where we first strike the mackerel, and as far north as we have gone. Plenty of it in the Bay of Fundy.

9. Where do the mackerel spawn?

In my judgment, they spawn anywhere from the Delaware Breakwater to the Head of the Bay of Fundy, on this coast, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They spawn any time.
from the 15th of May until the 1st of July, and sometimes later than that.

6. Have you ever seen the spawn running from the mackerel in the water?

I never did.

7. Do you know whether they spawn during the day or night?

No, I do not.

8. Do you know anything about the habits of the mackerel when spawning or immediately after?

I find that the month of June is the dullest season, there is. They may be below the surface.

9. That would happen during the months of May and June?

Yes.

10. How rapidly do they fatten up after spawning?
Very rapidly, after the first of July, and from that to the middle of August, they get about all the fat on them then for the year, and then they remain fat until they leave the coast. Not as good late as a little earlier.

Q. Did you ever find any logy mackerel?

No, I never did. Once in a while find them without a particle of food in them. Do not find many in schools that are sick. Never see dead mackerel on the surface. They would sink.

Q. Do lamprey eels ever touch those mackerel?

No, I never saw any at the surface.

Q. What fishes feed on the mackerel?

A great many — whales, sharks, porpoise, dog fish, albacore and
boats. Blue fish are the worst
fish in the world for mackerel.
Will bite them for mischief.

9. Have mackerel decreased or in-
creased in abundance within the
past 20, 30 or 40 years?
That is a pretty hard question
to answer. They have been scarce
a great many years ago, and then
they will be very abundant, and
then they will decrease again so
that we will not have but a few.
There are as many on this coast
this year as I have seen since I
have been fishing.

9. You do not think there has
been a general decrease?
No sir, I think we are liable
to see as many in 1 or 2 years
from now as we ever see.
Q. Then you would not conclude that the extensive fishing which is going on has affected their abundance?

No, not materially.

Q. Are there any years when you see the mackerel mostly small? Yes, nearly all small some years.

Q. What does that mean; are they all small the next year?

Some years small mackerel. In 1853 all small. In 1854 no, but great abundance; the biggest catch we have ever had since purse seines have been in use. In 1875 we did not know where they went to. Was not so many then as there was the year before.

Q. Is there any form of fishing...
appliance which is used in catching mackerel that is taking too many fish or destroying them in any way?

No, I do not think of anything that destroys fish to any extent.

Q. Do you think that the purse seine has any effect, is too destructive or not? Either in the quantity caught, or breaking up the schools and frightening them from our coast?

No, I do not think it is too destructive a method of fishing. It would break up the fish more than hook and line, but do not think the purse seine breaks up the fish to a great extent. All we catch does not amount to a drop in a bucket of water compared with what there is in the ocean. In the years 1873 and 1874 there were a great many
thrown overboard. Heared everyone
myself. Have been sorry ever since.
It was in the fall fishery.

Do you think there should be
any regulations regarding purse seine
fishing?

No, I should not regulate it in any
way. It will regulate itself. Think the
demand will regulate the extent of the
fishing. Think they do not catch enough
to supply the demand, even with all the
facilities they have. Would not prohibit
fishing with purse seines on Canada
shore. Does not favor the close season.
Thinks the fishermen made a great mis-
take in having it. Does not think the
fish need to be protected during the
spawning season. What they catch
would not amount to much, comparatively
speaking. Does not think the close season

of much benefit.  

Q. There is a particular reason why you would prohibit purse-seining for any season? 

A. Well, we might prohibit it altogether. Might make much more plenty. But now if you are going to catch any you have to use the purse seine. Caught more fish in the old days with hook and line than now, but had more men employed. They are on shore now just the same as they ever were.  

Q. What is the least depth of water in which you can use the purse seine?  

A. If the water is smooth, can use it in 10 feet. Depends somewhat on the bottom. If smooth, 4 fathoms; if rough 16 or 17 fathoms. Thanks we would all have to give up the business.
on this coast if we did not use the purse seine, for the reason that we cannot make them bite, no matter how nice the bait.

Q. Where was the great region for jigging in the old days?

A. Along this coast and the Bay of Chaleur.

Q. Were there many vessels jigging this summer?

I think 5 went to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Think there are as many mackerel this year as there has been at any time for the past 20 years or more. There are mackerel on this coast that we know nothing about. A great many little fish that we do not see. We do not see all the fish that pass along the coast. Some years when the season is cool or stormy
large quantities of fish will come by below the surface.

7. Where the fishermen have done well in the gulf of St. S. the last few years, we, they have done alike.

8. Did you see a large body of mackerel going north this year? The largest I ever saw.

9. If purse seineing were prohibited in the gulf would it affect you any? It would not affect me at all because I would not go there. Ever since he can remember there have been years when fish were plenty, and years when they were very scarce. There is a large quantity of fish come on this shore this year that are spawning fish. There will be a large quantity of small fish coming from those big ones, and of course they will come here and grow up here, as
They were spawned on this shore. This large body of fish are somewhere, and we shall find them before many years. The year 1772 was a very successful one for me, and it was for a great many, and they were about all large fish. Did not see small mackerel that year. The next year was a great tinker year, and the next year, 1774, was the greatest year we ever had since purse seineing has been in use. Thinks they will be the same again, but they have taken another course. Have not found them. These large fish that have come on the shore this year must spawn somewhere, and I think we will see the effects of it before many years.

Q. Do any quantity go into the Gulf thru the Gulf of Canis?
I think a great many, probably.
Q. What was the advantage in getting this close season in the spring, which has continued during 5 years?

Nothing: it was a great mistake and nothing else.

Q. What did Mr. Whidden suppose would be the result of the close season?

He supposed vessels would have to go into some other business during certain seasons. It was protection to the fisheries that was his idea. Close season in the southern waters should be later than the first of June. Mackerel have not done spawning until the last of June, and often into July. All the fish they catch at the south will not hurt anybody. I think there is too much legislation now against the fishermen.

Q. Are you acquainted with the mackerel fishery?
Well, I have caught more or less of them ever since they have been going. Do not know where they spawn. Do not think mackerel spawn anywhere this side of New York. The mackerel fishery is only for the people who are concerned in it. Do not want them for bait. Have used them in years past for bait, because it was the best bait we could get.

9. What bait do you carry on board mackerel vessels now?

Blue backs, we call them. Hyaeks are not the same color as the alewife. Have 17 bbls now of hyaeks. They are salted. Knows there are two species of alewives.

Fresh mackerel are worth more than salt mackerel, as a general thing.

9. Was there much shore fishery for mackerel?
no, very little. They go off Block Island sometimes. We used to fish in 33 fathoms, and would get plenty of fish. Sol Jacobs started from the fleet once, went 25 miles off shore in 60 fathoms, and came upon a body of fish; any quantity of them. He lay there until the next night, and 8 of us went out there, and went aboard his boat. He said to me, "the water is alive with fish. I am going to the Cape Shore, but will stop one more night. We worked all night long. All got more or less mackerel, but nothing to what we would have got if we could have kept them in our seines. It was not on account of their being too small, but they would go down before we could get the purse together.

Q. Don't you fish at night?
Oh yes.

Q. Why don't you take them then? That is something I cannot tell you. They would go right down and come up on the other side of our boat, and away they would go, 201 and 202. You take in a school, but away they would go. Would have them in the same one minute, and the next minute they would not be there. Thinks the steam same boat an advantage. However, as quick as you put a light aloft you scare the fish, that is mackerel. And should you take it down and meet with an accident you would be liable to be tried for your life.

Q. What is the advantage of a steam, is it to approach the schools more quickly? Yes, and you can also purse the seine quicker.
9. Is the steam launch obliged to have a light up aloft?
   Yes.

9. Do mackerel school better in the dark or in the moonlight?
   You cannot get them at all in the moonlight. A school of fish on a dark night with plenty of fire show just as white as a piece of marble.

9. Is the fleet of mackerel fishermen likely to increase?
   Not unless the business increases.

There is nothing that has happened this year that would cause them to increase next year. If mackerel should come on the coast very abundantly the fleet would increase.

9. Which is the best vessel fishing on the coast, which is supposed to pay the best?
   Nothing will pay better than mackerel, when they are here. 
   
   [Signature] 
   
   Hake are sold as hake.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Russell D. Terry

Interviewed by William Hataka and Margaret Smith.
Nov., 13, 1873.

Aged 52. Has had 42 years
experience as a fisherman. Has been
in the mackerel fishing most every
season up to the present. Name of vessel, Centennial.

Did not go south for mackerel
this year. Has always been south
before. Has found mackerel about
40 or 50 miles south of Cape
Ann, about 40 miles offshore.
Has been on the ground south sometimes before seeing the fish, sometimes 10 days before we saw them. When we did see them they were heading N. N. E. as a general thing. Has seen them in as close as a mile from land, and, again, off 30 or 40 miles. Generally follow them until they get up to Cape Cod, off Block Island. They love the fish there, and that ends that voyage.
strike them then in the Bay of Fundy.
The fish strike through the South
Channel down to the Bay of Fundy.
I have seen fish south of Georges.
They appear to remain there, but some
say they pass down to the Cape Shore.
See fish south every year that go to
Georges and do not strike this coast
at all. D) Mackrell have a very
regular course. They strike anywhere
from shore in to 30 or 40 miles off.
3) These early fish are very poor. They are full of spawn. Has seen the spawn run out of them quite freely when on deck of vessel. That would be along about May. When they first strike the shore they are full of spawn. Are full of it about the middle of May. Generally have the spawn in them until we leave them. The fish on the Cape Shore also have the spawn in them.
They fit for the Cape Shore along about the 25th of May. Fished fish on the shore for 2 months, but only fish there about 10 days. Some of them fish go through Canso - lots of them. Has never seen schools there, but has seen people that have caught them there. Some of them come out through Canso in the fall also.

Has followed fish in the fall as far south as about 15 or 20 miles off
Chatham. Leave the fish there on account of the weather. Might catch them late if the weather permitted. Catch them off Chatham sometimes as late as the 25th of November. Those fish, we presume, come from the Bay of Fundy, but cannot say for certain. P) has never caught mackerel in the winter. Never knew anyone on the coast to take them then. Along about the 4th of November they...
are supposed to be done schooling.

When he was a boy, about 40 years ago, used to fish off Cape Cod the 21st of November, but now do not go much longer than the 25th of October.

2) Mackrel feed upon different things. Because they feed on sun-squalls, sometimes brittle, and various things. We find these things in them.

Sometimes come across a school with this cayenne in them. It will poison
your hands when you take out the
inwards. II Machoel average about
the same size as they did 20 years ago.
Some years larger, some years smaller.
I Do not notice any difference in the
habits or movements of machoel. Since
the season began they school a good
deal more than they did before. Does
not know that they can catch them
quite as easy as the seniors now as they
used to when they first went seniors.
fishing, but does not think there is much difference. I was on a voyage a number of years ago off Block Island when they would dynamite all day until 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon and would not catch a fish, and then probably within an hour every vessel would catch a school. The spring fish are harder to catch than the fall fish. Spring fish are most always running, and summer fish are
lying quiet. Fish are more easily caught about the time of spawning than at other times, he thinks. Has never noticed that they lose the fish about the time of spawning. Fish are governed a good deal by the tide in schooling, and also by the weather. Has not run, for the last 5 or 6 years, half part as many mackerel as they did 20 years ago. Does not know what has become of them.
whether they have taken a different route
or what — they do not appear to come
on the coast. Does not think they
have been caught up. Does not
thinks they catch a thousandth part
of the mackerel that come along in
the spring. Has seen some days
more mackerel, apparently, than the
vessels caught during the whole year.

Does not think there was any benefit
in the close time law. It was poorly
to help the mackerel, and as a general thing the southern fishing was not a paying business. Used to do better on an average, when they were hooking than they do now. The whole fleet used to make a better average on the whole. Forty years ago there was more mackerel fishing carried on at Cape Cod than there has been for the last 15 or 20 years. When he was a boy there were three
Grims running there, and from 5 to 18 end in each firm, and most always engaged in the mackerel business, but not there is no fishing there at all, hardly. They used to share more evenly hooing than they do serving. One year, about 30 years ago, we had a bad year hooing, but as a general thing they averaged about the same. The vessels expected to make a good voyage every year. Used to carry 15 men hooing. Vessels were about
40 to 50 tons. The cost to fit out a vessel for hooking, for the fishing gear, was not more than $10 or $15.

Now it costs to fit a vessel for salmon about $2,500; that is for a new outfit.

The general opinion of the fishermen was that the close time law did not do any good. Does not think a man of them would like to see it renewed.

Do not like anything that is compulsory. Like more freedom.
Does not think there should be any regulations, as far as the cast fishing is concerned. Thinks the market will come back in time. 16 years ago, the fishing was very good, and he thought the next season was going to be a good one, so he went to work and built a new vessel, and the result was, when the season came around it was a failure, and was a failure for 2 or 3 years, and they thought there.
would be no fishing, but they came again
more plenty than ever, and we have
these spylets all along. I do not
think the introduction of the prince
same has been a good thing. Think
it has been an injury to the fishing,
community at large. Does not know
whether it decreases the quantity of fish
or not — may possibly. Do not
catch as many fish with the prince
same as we used to in the old days.
In the year 1831 more fish caught than at any time since. They used to catch from 1400 to 1500 barrels on the hook in a good vessel. Some shared as high as $500, a man on the hook.

Thinks if they should remove the purse some there would be a good many men abandon the business. Does not think they could catch as many fish with the hook and line as they did formerly, for the reason that
the fish seem to have forgotten how
to bite. Thinks the fish would
come back again if they all went
hooking. Thinks, in that case, a
large number would be benefited
by it than are today. Lots of boys
who are not large enough and strong
enough to handle the same could
catch them with the hook, and old
men also. Some anes throw a good
many old men and boys out of employments
They want men now about from 18 to 45.
For seining you want a good active crew
and a smart sailing vessel.

I did not catch enough fish south
this year to eat. His vessel was gone
about 2 months and got only 420 bushels.

When he was a boy used to start
south about the 10th of May, some-
times not until the 20th. Used to
make 2 trips in those days, and got
about from 150 to 200 barrels a trip.
the second trip would be about the 4th of July. Head to fish part of the time, and come in and get our toll back, and circle around on the southern end of Georges and go home; then went to the Bay of Fundy. Never saw a purse seine south until about 15 years ago. The seine fishing in the spring on the Cape Shore, began about 8 or 10 years ago. Now some of the best fishing done there.
Formerly never used to go there. Never used to think of going to the Cape Shore.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. John J. Bentacourt


Aged 47. Has had 27 years' experience as a fisherman. About

part of that time in the mackerel

fishing. Name of vessel, Myrtue.

Did not go mackerel fishing in this

year. Went fishing for mackerel

but went in the Marguerite Varden.

Has been master of a vessel mackerel

fishing 5 or 6 years. In 1872 was

master of a vessel mackerel fishing
in the North Bay. Was in the Flying

Send.

Used to go south to get mackerel

a good deal. Generally looked for

the fish off the Coasts of Virginia,

about 35 or 40 miles off shore. Ran

down there the 1st of April. Look

for them about that time. Has been

seen go there earlier, but did not get

many fish. Has been there before

fish were caught there. B) Does not
know what direction they come from when he meets them. They are generally heading about N. N. E. Has followed those spring bodies from off the Cape of Virginia clear to Gaspé. Has never been to the 7 Islands. The further north the fish get on our coast the nearer they come inshore. Never look for fish within 6 or 7 miles of land along northward of Delaware, and after they get up up
Bermuda and New York, catch them within a mile of land. Spring marks the way south of Georges.

Strike about Cape Sable. The fish strike the Nova Scotia shore before we get them in the Bay of Fundy. About the 10th to 15th of May, begin to catch scattering ones along about Cape Sable. Do not catch many fish on the Cape Shore until the first of June. Get them
right along the shore. If these shores come to the mouth of George's river the Cape and follow the shore down school split at the Cape and go in two separate bodies. No difference in the size of these bodies of fish. One day get 17 and 18 inch mackerel and another day, right in the same place, 10 to 15 inch. The earliest fish are the largest. Will find large bodies of these small mackerel.
We did not see as many as usual this spring. D) The fish this spring at the south were in deeper water than I have ever known them to be, to 60 and 70 fathoms of water. D) The fish south this spring did not seem to be so very shy, but they were scarce; were not so many schools.

D) When we find these fish at the south they are poor and full of spawn. The spawn seems not to be very
far advanced, but it gets ripe all the time. The last fish caught there, sometimes the spawn is running right out of them. The last we got this spring about 20 miles from Barneget, had the spawn in them. That was about the 15th or 16th of May. The spawn would run from them when we threw them on the deck. They were most all male fish. Were full of milk. The first fish
we caught this year were off 13 Mile Head, the 1st or 2nd of June. I have followed mackerel in the fall at

further than Block's Island. Now of our vessels go any further than

that. Does not know why they give up the fishing at Block's Is.,

then, except that it is getting late and the weather bad, and do not

find but few fish. I give up mackerel fishing on this side about
the 15th of November. They caught them up to about Thanksgiving and at Commissary Harbor nearly as late as Christmas. 9) Mackerel take the same course when leaving the coast that they do when coming on the coast. 9) The only difference he can notice in the habits of mackerel since he has been fishing is that they do not take the hook as they used to. Occasionally try them with
the hook. When we went to go to
the Bay, left here in June. Has
been in the Bay, in 1865, on the 11th
of June, and caught a barrel of
mackerel himself off North Cape.

R. E. S., and then the fleet went to
go in the Bay early, and would get
to having lots of bait. Probably
the having of so much bait has a
tendency to stop the fish. Now there
is so little bait that they do not pay
any attention to it; at least they do not cite as they used to. II) Does not think the Bay mackerel spawn as early as they do on this shore. Thinks they keep going until they get ready to spawn, and whenever they are at that time, there they stop and spawn. None of the fish they catch on their early spring voyage have spawned. Some of them are as fat as any we catch during the year. They are bawn fish. Only get a very few of such fish.
They spawn in the Bay about the last of June. Generally get to the Cape Shore about the 1st of June. The best fishing on the Cape Shore is from the 1st to the 10th of June. They follow the fish as far as Cape North and there they lose them. Pretty hard to tell about the habits of mackerel. Was master of a vessel in the Bayhooking 22 years ago, and has seen it right through his life that you would shun bait for
mackerel and perhaps catch half a dozen just as fast as you could hand a line, and then they would be gone all at once, quick.

We call these feed cayman, all-eyes and sand fleas. See now live feed now than we did 15 years ago.

In the old times when he went hand-line fishing did not see the fish schooling so much as they do now. Has been in the Bay and caught a number of trips of mackerel, and never saw a school.
during the whole season. Now nor
but one school at the Magdalen’s con-
to the surface for showing back.
I do not notice any difference in the size
of the fish now from what they were
t 10 years ago. They are large and
small ones. Some years more large
fish than small ones; other years vice
versa. I never remember fish being so
near on this shore as they were this
year; and they are all large fish.
Never knew them to run so large. All the
caught on the Cape Shore this year
were 1\& and 2\&. Got 46 barrels in
the Bay this year, and they were all
large fish; nearly all 1\&. Those
fish we get in the Bay are hardly ever
as fat as those we get on this shore.
Sometimes get what we call "white bellied
fish." In the Bay get dark bellied fish.
Get both kinds at the south, both
dark and light. Get better fish
on the north side of Magdalen’s than on the south side. Does not know the reason. No difference in the marking between the dark fish and the light ones. About the spawning time thinks the fish are more lazy and sluggish. No trouble to catch them then. They seem to disappear about the time they spawn. They stay down about 10 or 15 days to spawn. Some times will catch fish with half the
spawn out of them. Do not extract the whole of their spawn at one time.

When they get through spawning and come up you will find them in small bunches; perhaps a barrel in a school. Keep increasing until they get to be a big school. When they all get through spawning they get in a big body.

Did not used to begin fishing as early as we do now. Never used to go much until along in March, and never went...
so far south as we do now. Along about the 1st or 15th of May were off New York. Did not do any fishing on the Cape Shore in those days; not until 12 or 15 years ago. The heaviest fleets would leave for the Bay about the 4th of July, but some would leave the 1st of June. A few vessels would go in the Bay instead of going south.

For the last 3 or 4 years mackerel have been scarce everywhere; that is...
nobody could find them. Mackinel was as plentiful 10 or 12 years ago on this shoal as they ever were in the remembrance of anybody. Cannot account for the decrease in their abundance, unless it is that they have taken some other course. Does not think too many fish have been caught. Thinks there are more caught now before the spawning season than there used to be in old times. The fish that was caught...
in the Bay in hooking days had all spawned, except the ones we caught in June.

Always a dull time in the Bay about the 15th to 20th of July, on account of the spawning. The hooking lasted in the Bay in those days until about the 10th of November, and sometimes later. I never went swimming with the finnae nurse until about 1864, and since then the fish have been as plenty along the shore as they were before, so does not think it hurts them any. Thanks 1 trap or
...found is more than 25 seniors. Of course
the seniors break up the schools. Frequently
they catch every fish in a school with the
siren. The traps and pounds along the
shore are worse than anything else.
If they are going to do away with anything,
he would do away with the traps before
he would the purse siren. The traps
catch the young fish as well as the
big ones. If never but one or two years
that they caught fish at the south
and had to throw them away. One year vessels caught small mackerel at the mouth (He went in the Ellen W. Adams) and took them in to New York, and there were other vessels there from the north with large ones, and we had to throw about all our fish overboard. That was about 9 or 10 years ago. Sold $2.50 and threw the rest overboard. In those days could not sell small fish, but now can sell any kind.
I do not think the close season amounted to anything. Fish were no more plenty south this year than the last year we were there; if anything not so plenty. The object was, that it would be a good law to stop the vessels from going south, and they would not have to fit up any vessels for that voyage. It was not a paying voyage. That was the principal reason for passing the close law.
This law was first started in Portland, Me. Does not think it affected the fish at all. This spring we landed about 240 or 250 barrels at the mouth, that is not salted! One time we had about 22,000; another time 5,000 fish. Sold them all the way from 10 to 20 cents a piece. Would not be in favor of regulating the same, as fishing in any way that he knows of. Thinks the only way to
regulate the seine fishing is for every man to destroy his seine. Does not think it has been any advantage to anybody, all things considered. Some of those men who did well hooking, when they went to seining, lost every dollar they had. Some gained and others lost by the purse seine. He has done very well with it. It is a nice way to catch fish. They are saved in just as good order as with the hook and
In fishing, very seldom have any bad fish. It is like this: you go out and set your seine and get 100 barrels of mackerel in one school. You have 16 or 17 men, and in 3 or 4 hours, the men have these fish all dressed. So shocking you may lay 3 or 4 hours catching them. Can take care of fish much quicker now than formerly. 3) The prouest fish that come into these markets are
caught in boats around Bruce Edward Island and Magdalen Islands.

If the purse seine was given up, might possibly educate the mackerel to take the hook as they used to do; but would have to educate the fishermen also. If they would go into the Bay and have as much bait as they used to do, 300 and 400 banks, it would attract the attention of the fish, and they might bite like
they used to do. Those men who have always done well swimming would not sanction anything to stop it.

Fish school just according to the lead. If it is on top of the water, the fish will be on top of the water. If on the bottom, the fish will be on the bottom.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. John H. Cantwell

Deceased by: William Makeham and Hugh M. Smith

Nov. 18, 1893.

Aged 32. Has been fishing

for 23 years. Name of Vessel

Rapid Transit, of Gloucester, 1893.

Did not go south this year. Was

on the Banks up to September. Has

been in the southern fishing, was

at it for about 10 years. Got a

fair catch there every spring.

Usually struck the fish on the

southern coast about the Capes of
Delaware, and a few springs got them down as far south as Cape Charles. And the fish 35 to 45 miles offshore there. One spring they were within 8 or 10 miles. As they got up toward New York were nights close into the beach. When this school is close in shore there is another school off outside 50 or 60 miles. They are going to the eastward. Suppose they go to the southeast of Georges. Never followed a school
south of Georges that is never followed, them all the time. One spring fiind the fish at Sandy Hook, and then followed them way to the south of South Shore Light Ship. They were bound to the southward of Georges, and if they kept on in that direction would probably strike Cape Sables and the Nova Scotia shore. They stop fishing in the spring, leave the fish out around Block Island.
2 or 3 years found them this side of Nantucket Shoals. One year in May
we came over the Shoals and found fish
there; and worked further to the eastward
and got a school in deeper water. These
fish we got in the south spring fishing
have spawn in them. This spawn
gets ripe sometime in June. Get a
very few fish in this fishing that have
spawned. When we first catch them
in the spring do not dress them, so—
cannot tell. Never salt these fish. Always run them in fresh. After
the 1st of May they salt them some-
times. Never make a regular practice
of it. Look for fish in the Bay
of Sandy and Cape Cod Bay after the
first of June, but not much done in
the Bay of Sandy until the middle of
June. Thinks some of the fish they
see in the southern fishing come on
the New England shore. Thinks
mackerel spawn on this coast; some on the Long Island coast, and from that to the Bay of Fundy, and up as far as they go in the Gulf. Cannot say exactly how long the southern fishing has been carried on, but thinks about 30 years. They did not go down south as early 30 years ago as they do now. When the first began fishing, used to sail south about the 15 to 20 of April. Reach
the grounds about the first of May.
Did not go as far south then as they do now. Have went down there hunting.
Been fishing on the Nova Scotia shore for about 20 years. Would not be there in the summer time. First began to go there in the spring on the Cape Shore 8 years ago. Other vessels had been going there about 3 years before that. Never went there before that because did not know there was
fish there. Has not gone for the last three years. Always did well when he did go there. Would expect to find the fish there about the 1st of June or 27th of May. Generally expect to find them first around Cape Sable. Has followed them as far north as Cape North. Have followed them into the Bay in the spring. Those fish had not spawned. The spawn was in them, and was ripe.
They were large fish, most all of them.

The early schools are larger fish generally than the later schools.

That spring fishing is very short.

Over about the 15th or 20 of June at the outside. The fish are going along the coast quite rapidly. They are pretty shy at that time. Expected it is due to the fact that it is getting near their spawning time. Has followed fish in the fall no
further than the south of Block Island and then did not see any. The last fish they saw was off Cape Cod.

has never caught mackerel in the winter. Has seen probably a dozen when running fishing in the Bay of Fundy, along in January. Caught them in the mackerel run. [?] has never known mackerel to be found on Western Bank. On the Cape Shore has not found mackerel outside of 25 miles.
Has taken them that far off. They were going along where to the cattails were running parallel with the shore. Not going directly into land.

Has noticed different kinds of fish preying upon the mackinels and driving the schools. Has seen bluefish and bonitos. Saw lots of them this fall. They give the mackinels a good deal of trouble. Seem to drive them pretty fast.
Has known them to drive them close to shore. See more or less blue fish and bonitos every year. Find the blue fish chasing the mackerel most all seasons of the year on some parts of the coast. Does not think he ever saw them chasing the mackerel in the spring fishing at the south. Would find blue fish no further north than this side of the Bay of Fundy on the coast of Maine.
River below Grand Woman. Kassem

Monitors inside of the Seal Islands.

No difference in the size of the fish new and those caught when he first went fishing. Not much difference in the behavior of the fish. When we first went fishing there would be schools that we would not see them schooling. Never knew fish so scarce as they have been for the last 5 years. This year
there was a large body of fish on
the coast here, but they did not
show. 2) Later this fall saw as many
fish as he ever did. They were from
Monhegan to Mount Rock. Those
fish appeared somewhere about the
middle of September. Had not
many fish been seen along there
before that. 2) Those large schools
of fish this year were very large
fish, nice and fat. 2) The mocked
They take in the southern voyage and on the Bay Shore are about all of it.

Occasionally find a few fat fish among these early ones. About the spawning every year the fish seem to go down. They disappear in the Bay of Fundy, in the Bay Chaleur and on the New England coast. Stay down sometimes a week or fortnight. Some years they come up in a body. Does not think they will take the hook about spawning time.
He has had no experience hook and line fishing on this coast. Got a few on the hooks in the fall. Has been telling fish up and setting lines, probably about 15 years. Got 80 bands of snooked one time by trolling them up with bait and then setting lines around the vessel. Thought it was a good thing to try the close time law and see if it would be any benefit. Thinks it is a little too soon to tell.
whether it has been any benefit or not.

Thinks the body of the fish on this
coast is more than 5 years old. Does
not think the law was much benefit
because they caught the fish before
they spawned anyway. Does not
think what results go on the mackerel
fishing at that time of the year, but
the mackerel catch. Thinks next
year they will have a good catch of
mackerel. Does not think the present
secrecy will continue, some said 3
five years in succession before this.
Has no opinion as to the reason of the
secrecy. Does not think all the
fish have been caught up. Thinks
they take some other course. It is
due to some natural causes. All years
ago these old folks on Newfoundland
would say mackerel were an injury to
them, there were so many. They lift
that coast 15 or 20 years ago.
been a few fish caught there 10 or 12 years ago along the Bay St. George. Began to get scarce there before they did on this shore. 7 years ago got 3 tugs of mackerel in the Bay Charlene. Does not think the place same will hurt the fish any. Does not think it makes them wild. Saw a school caught this summer of about 200 barrels, on Manhargin that were very tame. The weather
has a good deal to do with catching
fish. The thicker the weather the
better chance to get a school.

Used to fish some in the Gulf of St.
Lawrence. Thinks the purse seine
fishing is all right there. Not
much been made out of the purse
since fishing of late years. Thinks
if they had hung to hooks they would
do better than they do now. The
quaric number of vessels that go and
The more bait, the more fish they will get. Does not think the average is as good as in old times. Does not think the fish caught with hook and line are in any better condition than those taken with the purse seine. The gill net fish do not look so well. Does not know of any difference in the market value between hook and line and the purse seine fish. Of the 240 rounds he caught, he saved them all.
in good condition. Had caught 200 barrels this year before that. About the middle of September had 520 odd barrels.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. John E. Garman


Nov. 20, 1852.

Has had 34 years experience in the

mackerel fishing. Captains of vessel

of Gloucester,

Lambert H. Knight, who engage in

the southern mackerel fishing. This

year did not go further south than

the Delaware Breakwater. Has

been down off Cape Henry some

years. Has taken fish down ahead

of Cape Henry in 25 to 35 fathoms

of water. Thinks they began that
extensive southern fishing about 15 or 16 years ago. That is about as early as they began to catch marked and run them into New York. Before that time used to go off Nine Island; that was the furthest, might some have gone as far as New York.

In the beginning find the fish both in schools and scattered. Such night will see them scattered. Do not notice it in the day time.
scattering fish except at night. The course of the fish is N.E. to N.N.E. as they work up from the southern ground.
The fish at that time are very poor; the poorest we find them. The very fish we get are better than the second schools. As they approach spawning time they get thinner. The size of the schools in the spring is generally larger than what we get later. Our own schools down there years ago that
were 8 miles long and a mile wide. Had not been any seen for 3 weeks before that time. This was about the 27 of April, about 1883, off Henricia Island.

Well, tell you how we came across them. It was before daylight in the morning. Was called to breakfast, and we all turned out, and I saw this rushing in the water. I supposed it was some other large fish, or something of that kind, so went down to breakfast—did
not think it was mackerel, but when I came up it was brighter, and I saw this white foam all over the water just as far as I could see, and I knew they were mackerel. We got 250 barrels in one set, and then set again and got another 100, and then went to market."

The first schools of mackerel are large, about 14 to 16 rich fish. The second schools run about 11 to 13 inches
See the second school within a week after the first school. This year they got the smallest ones first, so small that they washed in the same.

When he gets through with the southern fishing he follows them up as far as abreast of New York. Of late years do not look for them any more. In fact they appear to sink or go off shore, and strike Georges and the Cape Shore. Then
is a smallinside school that strike
down off Fire Island and go around
Block Island. They leave these
schools at New York and go to Cape
Sable. The early vessels come home
and refit. No fish caught between
New York and Cape Sable that he
knows of. They see them in the night
on the southern edge of Georges, but
they are very wild. They have tried
to catch them, but have never caught
any to his knowledge, except one trip, at South Ship Lightship.

He has gone as far north for mackerel as How River near Gaspé, that is 34 years ago, the first time he went.

Mackerel run more different sizes than they did in old times. Fish these times would run about one size. Now get more sizes to a school. Average smaller now. They apparently do not
come on our shore as they used 10 years ago, that is on the Brems coast, the surn to take more to the Nova Scotia coast and the Bay of Chaleur. The fish that go into the Gulf of St. L. go in in two schools. The first school goes in around Cape Breton, and the next school, some claim that a part of it goes through Casco, but he does not think that more than a scattering school goes that way.
The body of them go around the same as the big school. The first school is the largest. The first school goes as far north as water goes, he supposes, as they never are seen. They must go a long way. The second school stops in the Bay de Noc at Cape Charon. The small fish do not remain as long as the big ones. The first school goes in about the last week in May and the first of June, and the second
school from the 10th to the 15th of June. I suppose that second school is coming out from the 1st of August up till fall. They must be, on account of their catching them all through the summer, and they must come from that way. The larger fish come out last—very late. Has never noticed these fish going through the Gut of Canso in the fall. Fish leave the coast of Maine as late as
the 1st of October, and perhaps the middle of October. The fish they are getting now at Barnstable Bay, there is a question about whether they are fish from the Maine coast or fish that come up the Cape Shore, think they come from the Cape Shore. There are fish that strike in and go into the Bay Chaleur that never strike south at all. Some think they come in from sea. But he thinks
that they strike to the southwest and then work up around Georges. Thinks that the fish which reach the Gulf of St. Lawrence come from the south, and also the fish that come into the Bay of Fundy. There is a difference in the size of the fish that go into the Bay of Fundy. They are smaller than the ones that go into the Gulf. The offshore fish strike Nova Scotia and the mainland.
fish strike Cape Cod. The fish
seen offshore, off Cape Henry, may
go up outside of Georges and strike the
Nova Scotia shore and go into the
Gulf of St. Lawrence.

D) Has followed the fish as far
south in the fall as Block Island.
Does not know whether they occur on
the same grounds that they do in the
spring or not. Get down to Block
Island about the middle of November.
I never knew of any mackerel being caught during the winter, except a few caught in the cod fishery on Georges. Those are small mackerel caught once with haddock on offshores, on trawls. They took the bait. That was years ago. Those that are taken on Georges are young fish, and he thinks that the weather has demurred them so that they could not get south where they were bound.
Never knew of any taken in the pounds around here in the winter. He saw one mackerel taken at Newfoundland in Fortune Bay, about 4 inches long. That was in January. Has never heard of them being taken on the Nova Scotia coast in the winter. Has heard of their catching them at Grand Manan very late. Has heard of their catching them there in the herring pounds. They
were stragglers and got in with the herring. I often catch schools in the summer mixed part herring and pack mackerel. During the summer some mackerel are taken at times with the herring and alewives. Find shad mixed with mackerel also, a few scattering ones. Are apt to find the herring and mackerel mixed in the latter part of June, July and August. Has taken herring with the mackerel as
for south as Block Island, and has taken alewives with them as far as Barnegat. Some places mackerel occur more abundantly than others, at Monhegan, Matinicus, Mr. Dent Rock and Bay of Fundy. There are places where mackerel are more likely to occur than elsewhere. They are also as abundant in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, at Bank Orphan, North Cape, Bradleys, Bay Chaleur.
Magdalen's, and in the spring on the Cape shore. He has ever seen mackerel was this spring, about 25 miles offshore.

Large, predacious fish, such as blue fish, dog fish, albacore and whales, sometimes break up the schools. They have a tendency to break them up and scatter them into small schools. But does not think they eat many of them. Has known bodies of mackerel to be...
drown off by blue fish and other fish, so as to destroy the fishing for awhile.

In instance, at Block Island, blue fish came in there in July and chased them away for a few days, and then they would come back again, and they would harass them again.

I often get whole schools of very large mackerel. The first fish that come are pretty large. Fish we got this spring on the Cape Shore, the
First school, two-thirds of them are from 16 to 17 inches. They look for them very near on the Cape Shore. It is the same south. There has been a summer school in the bays on the Cape Shore every summer until this year. Has not heard of any this summer. Could not catch any quantity of them until this year. These fish that occur in the bays do not go into the Gulf. There are certain fish that go into the
days on the coast of Nova Scotia, and
when they all summer. They leave
about October. The little mackerel
do not school as much as the big ones.

They will in the fall when they are
moving south, but when they are on the
feeding ground they do not show as
often as the big ones. Should not
think there had been any decrease in
the large mackerel. A school of
large fish appear in the spring to be
rash to catch, but in the fall they are harder.

Mackerel feed upon herring and red mullet. That is about all we see them feed upon.

When sailing along and we find their feed in the water, we suppose naturally they may be mackerel underneath the surface. This feed does not occur only in places. Find it in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the coast. This year saw the most at Block Island.
Instead there all summer, and the fish
stood there all summer too. When
they are the feed pretty abundant, do
not always find the mackerel in the
same proportion. Never saw the
like of feed there was this summer.
At Block Island this year there
was a good school of mackerel, but
the feed appeared to be more abundant
in proportion than the mackerel.

Do not lose many fish of late years
by this feed burning their stomachs, but if this
the starving deck of fish and the
feed would naturally burn their stomachs
before we could save them. It is bad
for them to have this feed in them.
If they are feeding on lamp they will
last longer.

In regard to their spawning—
this year they spawned before they
got into the Bay Chaleur, but in
Cape North Bay we find the spawn.
just as thick apparently as the red
and is in the summer on this coast.

It was only mackerel spawn, looked
just like a bank up and down the
water. That was about the 8th of
June. Thanks they spawn at Block
Island about the 1st of June. Then
other fish that strike in, strike about
the 1st of June and then work down
back of Nantucket, and spawn on
that shore. Inside of the Gulf
of St. Lawrence they spawn about the last of June, from the middle of June to the last. When spawning, they are at the bottom, not at the surface. They remain at the bottom from 3 to 4 weeks. During that time the fishing is not very good.

Can tell them up with bait sometimes, can sometimes catch them with hook and line. Has caught the early mackerel with hook and line.
as readily as after the spawning season. The early fish on the Cape Shore will not take the hook until they get into the Bay. Has never tried to catch them on the Cape Shore, but got all their is south. Never could raise them to catch them on the hook there, and therefore do not try on the Cape Shore. Fish that are bound north to spawn will not stop to take the hook until they get to their
The Cape Shore fishery has existed about 10 years. They generally get a catch there in June. Would not start for the Gulf until the 4th of July. Would always get some fish on the Maine coast in June. Never very large catches, but would get enough to keep us here. That is the reason, he supposes, why they did not go to the Cape Shore.

Capt. Gus. Cunningham was the first
man that went to the Cape Shore.

It is about 7 years since he (Yerman) went
to the Cape Shore. The fleet going
to the Cape Shore increases every year.

At the Cape Shore fish are most
abundant from 3 to 5 miles offshore.

Along the antec coast of Nova Scotia they
keep off 3 to 5 miles, but down at the
eastern end they go in to the rocks.

While mackerel have decreased.

Of course they vary from time to time,
They have increased for the last 4 years, but before then it was a pretty poor catch for 2 or 3 years. No good fishing since about 1872 until 8 years ago. But as a whole, they are not as abundant as they were. Cannot see any prospect of their increasing in abundance. If they will increase we should have had a good increase this year. Do not think we will ever get any good fishing like we have
had as long as they are so many seine
there was an increase year before last,
and we looked for a better fishing
season this year. But there were only
1500 more barrels caught this year than
last year, and had more vessels employed.

Thanks the purse seine has had an
injurious effect both as to the amount
affidavit, and breaking up the schools.

Would not regulate the purse seine
fishing unless it was stopped altogether.
Thinks it would be best to stop it for a number of years during the whole season.

Use hooks and bait and go as we used to do. Thinks it would give the fish time to spawn and the young fish will come around as they did before.

Thinks fish would take the bait if there was enough went into the business, as they did in old times. Thinks they do not take the hook now because there are not as many blame the bait.
as they used to be. Known by
reference this summer, by laying to
and jugging, that they will come up and
late as they used to in old times.

Was not suppose 1/4 of the fishermen
would be willing to have the prose
arrays done away with. Would
suggest trying the experiment for 3
years. Thinks it takes 3 years
for mackerel to grow to be No. 1 fish.

Thinks pound fishing is an injury to...
would suggest that it be abolished for
the same length of time that the purse
win is abolished. I would not say
anything against gill nets. Total
amount of mackerel caught in nets
and pounds is not very great, but
they take the spring fish. Gill
nets are used only a little. Only in
the spring and fall for mackerel.
But they have got the pounds now in
every corner on the Maine coast.
Of course they have not made any big catches, but those inshore fish are the spawn fish that should be let alone. Those pounds - the majority of them - on the Maine coast are set on purpose for mackerel. Four years ago 16,000 barrels of mackerel were caught, and they have increased every year, and he thinks if they had let the south fishing game until the 1st of June for 5 years more it would be still better. Even
though they did not catch any, the bannaing of the mackerel by the seines is just as bad as though they caught them.

If you will favor the close time law, but they do not put the close time long enough to cover the spawning season. It should be until the first of July. If they would have a 5 years' cluse time and leave it up to the 1st of July before vessels were allowed to leave port, he thinks in the next 5 years we would
sea difference in the mackrel. That would shut off the Cape Shore fishing, and he thinks it should be shut off for the big fish. There are full of spawn always. They are very nearly ripe, especially the large fish of the first school that comes. The first fish caught this spring was at Beaver Harbor. During the past 3 years the first schools of mackrel have struck in about Beaver Harbor on the Nova
Sentry coast. The schools strike Bannow Harbor before they strike the coast lower down. Cantel not say whether they strike there and work down, or strike there bodily. This year when they got them at Bannow Harbor they were not at Canso, but they appeared at Canso the next day.

In the spring mackerel travel as fast under water as they do at the surface. The weather has a good deal to do with
They do not want rough weather, as they generally swim lower. With the mackerel in the spring it does not make any difference about the weather or anything of that sort. They always strike the Cape Shore about the same time every year, within 2 or 3 days. The temperature of the water does not seem to have any effect on them. First get mackerel south of Cape Henry as early as the 17th.
of March, and as late as the middle of April. They arrive at Block Island about the 1st of June, and at the Cape Shore about the same time. Some strike Block Island as early as the 19th of May. The first strike the Cape Shore about the 1st of June. It has been known to get mackerel at Scatteri' when ice has been drifting around. Mackerel swim on the Cape Shore in the spring, about 300
40 miles in 24 hours. Do not go quite so fast on the southern coast in the spring; about 10 or 15 miles in 24 hours.

Spawn is ripe on the Cape Shore than it is at the south when we first see them. I think they catch the same fish to the southward that they do on the Cape Shore. Get the same school to the south that go up on the Cape Shore. This year we thought we would leave a week before so as to...
bother when they came, and some claim that the fish at the south do not strike the Cape Shore, but I noticed we had to wait for them. Is pretty sure the fish strike south before they strike the Cape Shore. We know that fish are working from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the fall. They keep working to the south all the time, and the last we hear of them they have left Cape Sable and gone south.
The fish that leave Cape Sable go the same course that they come in by.
If fish go up the Cape Shore in August or September they are likely to strike this shore. The August schools are smaller than the fall schools.

Some years get a body of fish at the Cape Shore before they do at Block Island. Do not find any body of fish at Block Island until July. This year there was the biggest body of
fish at Block Island that he has ever known of. I have been to the Magdalis for bait in the spring. Generally try to get them about the first of May. I have heard them say they got mackerel at Magdalis about the 10th of May.

(It is known that herring have been taken at the Magdalis before they appeared on the Cape Shore—Dr. Wakeham.)
Fundy at the time we would find them on the Cape Shore. But of late years we do not find them in the Bay of Fundy until we go back from the Cape Shore. When we come back from the Cape Shore we find them in the eastern part of Caish's and those mackerel follow into the Bay of Fundy.

The close season law was passed in order to let mackerel increase again. Going south, there were lots of fish
caught and brought into New York that they could not sell. Those fish had
spawn in them, and were destroyed. That fishery as a whole was not a profit-
able business. This year he only caught 2 mackerel in the first run in the southern fishery. The fish were there, but do not know why we could not catch them. The average catch in summer will not be as large as the average catch of the hook and
and lines. If you were hooking mackrell
you would have a fair average; that is, the vessels would about all fare alike.

The biggest catch he ever made with the
fowr seine was about 500 barrels, in the
Bay Chaleur. The cost of the hook and
outfit is small; nothing compared with
the cost of a seineing outfit. For a good
mackrell vessel for hook and seineing,
would have a crew of about 16 or 17 men,
and about the same for seineing. For hooking
would put 20 men on a vessel, if they had real
good hooking.
[Handwritten text]

The vessel "Herring" Captain John E. O'Connor (49)
Schooner Ambrose H. Knight, Gloucester

Has been down 17 or 18 years to Newfoundland in the fall for frozen herring,
and last winter they ran smaller than at any time since he has been there.

Hears that more than 40 of the vessels brought home cargoes of large
herring. The spring herring fishing was very poor this year, at the Eastport.

As long as 24 years ago, very few vessels would go elsewhere for their
herring. Some would go to Newfoundland.
but the majority of the herring came from Eastport. 9) Newfoundland fish are larger than any others and bring a higher price, and they are also better for bait because there seems to be more substance to them. They are fatte and white. The Grand Manan herring are a darker meated fish than the Newfoundland fish. Take fish on the muddy bottoms and they are darker grained than others.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Sylvanus Smith

Born in 1729 in Rockport, Mass.

Rockport used to be a part of Gloucester, but it was set off in 1742. It began as a fishing village about 1742. I gave it up in 1764. Since then it has been engaged in the fishing business of Gloucester. Puts from 15 to 18 vessels, all engaged in the various kinds of fish and fishing. Sometimes, the 18th engaged and some seasons not.
more than 2 or 3, just as the projects appear. Never pursued the southern anchored fishing to any great extent. Was down there one or two springs. Went perhaps half way from Cape Houlpen to Cape Henry. Thinking went as early as 1836 to the southern anchored fishing. Newburyport was at one time engaged in the southern fishing. Capt. Pappangall.
running to the southern fishing. And to start about the 1st of May then about the 1st of June used to go to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the spring the fish seemed to come in from along off toward the gulf stream, and would follow the shore down until they got off Block Island. The fish were schooling at that time, and also found scattering ones. His experience was entirely hook and line fishing.
This school of fish that swims along our shore and around our Cape Code, came in on the Mass. coast, and sometimes they stay there. The school that went in the Gulf was another school that came across George. The first they struck would be a bone Cape Sable. The southern fish would stop sometimes as far east as St. John. Some schools would
not go further east than Cape Elizabeth.

Ground a great deal by the season

and the feed in the water. 3) The condition

of three early fish was not good. What

we call leather bellies, no fat on

them. Very poor. Would begin to

fatten as soon as the spawn was out.

Spawn would be out perhaps the 1st

of July. 3) Has followed bodies of

mackerel along for 100 or 200 miles,

as they would move east or west. Natic
followed an individual school. Has been as far north on the Gulf as you can go. Has been up way above the islands to Point Isabel, but never caught many fish up there. There has been an average decrease in the size of the fish. With the methods of catching fish, we catch them before they are grown; therefore thinks the proportion of large ones is less. The small fish will take the hook readily.
When the fish get as big as the hook they will take it. The present method of fishing tends to take more young fish than the old method of hooking. They began on a certain size mesh, and decreased the size. When they decreased the size of the mesh they had to use smaller turnips otherwise the seine would be too heavy. The size of the mesh used to be about 2 inches, and now it is...
down to about 1/2 inch. The usual
sizing nets used

...can be obtained of the Gloucester
Net & Twine Co.

The vessels fishing with hook
and line in the Gulf took larger
fish than the purse seiner. Off
Block Island they fish with hook
and line, and with seine both, and
would not be able to discriminate
between the fish caught. At
Block Island caught very many bull-
eyes this year. When mackrel are
in fish
the
were 10 or 11 inches in
length. Were mostly No. 5.
ought some less size than that.
The schools approach the coast at
different times. "In 1848 there was
a school of mackrel; no such
mackrel had been seen before in the
memory of man; that came on the
East in August, and they struck
the
long between Here and Isles of Scilly
an immense quantity of them; and
they have not been seen since.
They caught just as many as they
wished of them. They were of immense
size. Would average somewhere
about 80 or 90 to a barrel. Saw
whales among them. Did not go
further north than Portland, and
went off about the 1st of November.
They followed them down Cape Cod as far as Chatham. Do not know that they were ever seen afterward."

Mackerel never had been very scarce before that year. Were immense quantities of mackerel in the Gulf that year, but they were nothing like those described above.

The fish leave the coast in the fall and go south, perhaps the 1st of October. Some of the summer
schools will leave the Bay quite early about August. Has seen the large fish there as late as November 19.

The first school of mackerel that go into the Bay, are caught from the 1st to the middle of May. Used to catch them at the Magdalen's about the middle of May. There are large fish. They go around by scattering. They strike the Nova Scotia shore and follow it right.
down. Will catch them along at Camm. one night, and the next night find them at St. Peters, and then perhaps down further, to Summersburg and Sidney. Will go about 30 or 40 miles in a day.

The first school of mackerel goes far north, way to the upper part of the Bay. If there is a later school comes in they are mostly small mackerel. Fish come in as late as the first of middle of July. The first school
gets in by the 1st of June, and goes well up on the ground. 2) The smaller
mackerel are apt to leave earlier. 3) I do not think the last schools go up
beyond North Cape. Never saw them in the upper part of the Gulf.

I think that small school goes in through the Gulf of Canso, and come
down the same way.

2) Fished in these waters 18 years.

Any man could not catch fish on the
hook, but would catch them in gill
nets. The early fishing would be
with gill nets. Would not bite the
hook. Has seen do so sail there.
They were fishing at Magdalen's and
around Pleasant Bay. Were mostly
Canadian vessels. Were fishing
along the coast of Nova Scotia and
the Gulf at the time of the earliest
schools. This early school would
not look at a hook. They school
To some extent, but seem to mud which in the water, and could not see them readily. Could take the first schools later with the hook, and also the summer schools. In schools, will bite any time; that is, fish that are not ready to spawn. The summer schools have no spawn in them. After the fish are done spawning, they begin to school. They sink down when they begin to
spawn, you might try over 100 miles of ground, and would think there was no fish in the sea, and after they have cast their spawn, all at once up they come everywhere, and then they fatten up. Has been in the Bay, when apparently there were no fish there, and finally, when we began to catch them, would catch them everywhere, showing they were on the bottom spawning.
machined in the Gulf of St. Lawrence about the 10th of November. Fishermen of Cape
Batan say that they have seen them up to the last of Nov. He has seen them schooling as late as the 28th of Nov. at Cape George. 2) These fish in the Gulf come from the south. Fish on this shore may go onto the Gulf, but as a usual thing, the fish that come from the south, come somewhers from the edges of the gulf stream, and the fish.
bound to the Nova Scotia coast even George

back and strike about Cape Sable, and

then they go down the shore. The

fish that spawn in the Gulf of St.

Lawrence are very apt to return there in

 succeeding years. Some causes, as

late in the season

for example, cold weather and ice, might

prevent the fish from going into the

Gulf, and turn them back on this coast.

Used to catch the fish on the southern

fishing to some extent with the spawn.
in them, but generally when they are in spawn, do not take the hook well. They start away from here about the 1st of May, and by the time they got thus the fish were casting their spawn, and would take the hook to some extent, but they were poor fish.

Never used the gill net for the southern fishery, but simply got what he could by baiting. The southern fishery was never counted on yielding
there was quite a large fleet went there, from Newburyport, and more or less from Gloucester. That was about the height of the hook and line fishing at the south. There were certain numbers of vessels that went mackerel fishing together, and they would go south perhaps on the early trip, and then go to the Gulf. Another class went into the Bank fishing. Would fish for mackerel and return the 1st of July, after they
get through their banking voyage.


Fish leave the coast of Maine and
Mass. now about the 1st of October, and
by the 1st of Nov. they are practically
gone from the coast. Might some
schools come along later, but not as
a general thing. They reach the
Gulf later in the spring and stay later.

There may be a stray fish
occasionally taken in the winter time;
might catch them on the trawls when.
fishing for other fish. Has been cases where they caught them among herring and other fish, and sometimes they take the trawl line. That has been off shore. Has heard of their being caught on Georges, and also on the coast of Mass., about 40 or 50 miles off. "Has known of mackerel being seen on the western bank of the Thames but as a general thing mackerel does go up and down the coast, go along
perhaps 8 or 10 miles off, and from that shore along the shore. In moving upward along the coast of Nova Scotia they get from 10 to 15 miles off. Fish taken on the bottom in the winter are just stray ones. Has heard vessels speak of seeing marked on the latter part of the winter, probably in February, on the inner edge of the gulf stream, as far south sometimes as Florida. Thinks they go out until they strike the
right temperature of water, and there they spend the winter, as a general thing. Does not think they feel much during the winter. Thinks the 6 inch mackerel which appear on the coast, come back next year with another year's growth on them, and they go away again and we find another year's growth on them when they come back again. But thinks they grow on the shore during the summer, and do not grow much in.
the winter. Five years' growth makes a good fish, about 12 to 15 inches in length.

Mackerel are likely to be anywhere along one coast from the Cape of Virginia northward. They may be found any day of the season at any place along the coast. May be in one place this year and somewhere else another year. In particular place where the fish become more abundant than at others.
in one place, and another season in another.

In the Gulf there are certain places where certain seasons they are more likely to be abundant. 3) There are particular times when the fish are off shore. Late in October, lunch around Cape Breton shore is the best place to look for mackerel. Would not go there much in July for them. Would be around Marguerite. The last few years there have been schools of fish all the time around Block Island.
have been caught there all summer until late in the fall. Thinks there is a school of fish which stays there. They are mixed some large and some small. Bull eyas are not caught to any extent north of Block Island. Never catch mackerel six or 70 miles off our shore. They catch them in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Did not do much fishing on the Cape Shore in this time. Never much done there previous
10 years ago. They would not take the
risk then at that place. Used to see
them there, however. Does not know
why the French seines did not go there,
except that they had not got in the way
of going in that direction until 10 years
ago. F) Since spinning, as a whole, in the
Gulf has not been successful. They would
be more successful now in the Gulf if
they depended entirely on the hook. In
shore, the nature of the bottom is such
that it tears the sines all to pieces, and
most of our sines would be likely to touch
bottom where the fish can be readily
taken. Around Magdalena’s it is rather
rough bottom for a long distance out.
Mackerel have been found as near shore
as they can go. Never heard of mackerel
entering brackish waters.

All the different families of sharks
are very destructive to mackerel; and
whales are also. Blue fish are very
I consider no harm in fishing with pound nets in Buzzard’s Bay during part of the year. Has been chairman of the House Committee for 2 years, and is now in the Senate.

Some schools of mackerel are about all one size, but they are frequently mixed up, all sizes. Fluid scattering fish all along the shore during the mackerel season. As to the general catch, there...
are not as many large mackerel in proportion as there used to be. The same season takes more of the small fish, otherwise there might be just as many small ones as formerly.

Mackerel spawn from the latter part of May until about the 10th of June on this coast, from Block Island to the Bay of Fundy. Do not think they spawn south of Block Island very much. They go into the right
temperature of water to spawn. In the Gulf they spawn from the middle of June until the 1st of July. Thinks they spawn at the bottom. Has seen it along the entire shore when you would not see one solitary mackerel, and when the Bay was full of them. That is when they are down spawning. They will disappear probably for 10 days or so, and would not see any during that time. After spawning, it takes about a month...
in 6 weeks for them to get in good condition, and then they are in good condition until the end of the year, when they go off the coast. Never observed any disease particularly. Sometimes there is a substance that they feed upon which seems to injure them. They seem to be poor and smell bad. Never observed many logy mackerel. Never found discarded fish among them. Never saw dead mackerel in any abundance. The fish
we not so sappy along about the spawning
attime seem to be more stupid and still.

Thinks there has been a decrease in the
abundance of mackerel of late years.

Inspection Reports as early as 1876 can
be obtained at the State House in Boston.

Information of the same character
also in the Reports of the Boston Fish
Bureau. Thinks the fish scamps has
been the cause of the decrease. The fish
scamps have diminished the quantity of
mackerel by catching large quantities.
f mackerel at times when they are not fit for food—not large enough—and that de-
stroyed them in that way by not letting them grow to the proper size. Does not
think the presence of frighten the schools much, they have certain places
where they are bound for when they come in the coast, and if circumstances are
not against them, if the bait is there, they will go where it is, and will be
changed more by circumstances than
by anything else. No mackuel found in white water — it drives them away.

This white water will run along sometimes for 50 or 100 miles, and when they strike that there are no fish.

I think there should be an international law prohibiting the taking of all mackuel, in pure sense or otherwise, before a certain date — say, before the 1st of June. Does not believe in prohibiting the pure races and not
prohibiting nets, pounders, etc. The pounder
and gill nets should have the same pro-
hibition as the purse seine. This
has been a great destruction of fish
from human agency. In addition to
the natural destruction of fish, man
comes in with other appliances, and
he comes in before the fish have a
chance to spawn. If a school is
allowed to spawn, a new school will
be produced. If they are taken before
they drawn there is no chance for that.

There were so many vessels went south and they destroyed so many fish, that they concluded to stop it, and have a close season for five years. As the fish came down along shore they took them in traps, nets and other methods, and then when the fish stuck down about Cape Sable, they had lots of traps, and caught lots of fish. They would see those fish pass right down
along the shore, and were not allowed to take them. That caused dissatisfaction.

Should have a close season to come the spawning time. A certain class of fishermen would go against this, especially those who make a business of nothing else but mackinling. But thanks the fishery business as a whole would look at it in a fair way, and be willing to adopt that which seems best for the continuance of the business as a whole.
and would benefit the greatest number.

He looks at it in this way: they do not want to do business for a day, but must look out for the future. The whole world is interested in the food supply, and fish is the chief food of the poor people. But does not see why the fishing interest should not be willing to cooperate with the Commission.

Thus was a much larger number of vessels engaged in the mackerel fishing.
under the old system before the introduction of purse seine; engaged in the summer mackerel fishing; and a larger number of people employed. The average gunnison was better in those days than it is now. The outfit did not cost so much. Employed less men at less expense. Cannot employ big men now, which they used to be able to do. The tendency now is to ship able-bodied men. Under the old system the old
Men were almost as useful as the actual men. Boys 12 or 15 years of age would go and catch a very good share of haddock. Men today over 40 not much are in the seine boat. In the old days used to carry about 4 hogs perhaps 14 or 15 years old, and when they got home in the fall, some would make a very good yearly work of it, and they would be learning the business.

The introduction of the seine seine...
has been the greatest cure to the bugs
of anything that has ever occurred.
Fish could be taken with the hook
and line just as they used to be,
but would have to educate the
fishermen to catch them. How to
get out in May and come back with
200 barrels of shad. Would sell them
for fishing bait, and that makes
quite an industry, catching menhaden
for bait. Does not think the
practices of taking back fish for
pulchir has been a good one. This
has been destructive to the fishing.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Wm T. Greenleaf

Received by William McKeehan: Richard Kathleen Hughes

aged 45. Commenced in the

mackerel fishing when he was 12

years of age. Was fishing this year.

Went out in the Mary Clark,

but not as a master.

Cannot tell when mackerel spawn.

Has found them with spawn from

the 1st of June to the 20th of July.

Has seen them the 1st of June on this

cost. Would not say they were near

to spawn, but pretty near to it.
They begin to let their spawn out by the 16th of June on the Mass coast. Has some them spawn the 20th of July on the Bay Shalow. They do not all spawn at the same season of the year. There is a difference of 6 or 7 weeks. Never fished at Block Island except some little time when coming home in the spring. During spawning time fish are not so apt to come to the surface, especially in the
Buy Chum. More so than than anywhere else. Before they spawn they are poor. Get fat about 2 is weeks after spawning. They fattened rapidly after spawning. Late in the fall those fish commence to lose flesh again. Mackerel weeks ago were very fat; today (June 2) are not so fat.

There has been a decrease in the abundance of mackerel. Do not
The same kind of fish that they had at first. In 1871-2-3, were very heavy catches. Had his vessel built in 1772. Entered in the business at that time and followed it up until 1872. Since that time there has been a great falling off in mackerel, but whether there is not as many in the ocean is not prepared to say. I should say there were more large mackerel according to the quantity caught. Not many
small mackerel on the coast this year. Did not go south this spring. It is not

not prepared to say whether the purse seine has had any effect on the abundance of mackerel or not. The seineing must surely break up the fish and scatter them. Anything that will arm the fish and disturb them will certainly separate them, but in regard to diminishing the quantity, does not know that it does.
that blue fish [mackerel] mackerel, but
they draw them and scare them. Does
not think whales among them much.
the horse mackerel probably would
drive them.  

Does not think the
horse seine needs to be regulated in
any way.  

If that is really the
cause of diminishing the catch, which
he does not think it is, let it go
and see.  

Does not think much of
the close season. Would not sign
The petition for a close season. It is not late enough to protect the fish. Everybody should know that the spawning season is at that time. Would not advocate extending such a season to the 4th of July. Would not regulate the sea in any way. The southern mackerel fishing never is to their advantage. A close season might be a protection to the owners of vessels, but otherwise does not see that it is any benefit.
There is no way in which he would regulate the mackerel fishing. His idea is: "catch them when you can." Would not protect them in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Has been in the Gulf and up to 1866-67 before the war, about 1858 and has caught as scarce there as they have ever been since, when the heaviest try that came out, excepting one, was 94 barrels. That is 24 years ago, this summer, cannot say positively as to the above date.
If mackerel were given up, mackerel could be caught with hook and line as they need to be. But thinks it would take time to adapt the fish to the habit of taking bait, but they would learn in time. Does not know whether hook and line fishing would give employment to more men or not, but probably it would increase the fleet about double, and that would tend to give more work to more men, and give the boys a chance.
But it would make the shore a great deal smaller, unless the price on the fish should decline. Has known them to come home and sell extra large fish for from $17. to $19. a barrel. This year they paid $20. a barrel for the extras. Vessels are a more expensive way of catching them. Vessels generally carry 2 seine - a few only have one. A large purse seine costs about $400.
To fit a vessel out with hook and line does not cost anything comparatively speaking. Perhaps $15 for the year. But they use more bait.

Our vessel went in the 1st of July, and commenced fishing, and would use from 65 to 80 barrels of pogies and clams in a season. Used to pay $5 to $6 a barrel for pogies and $7 to $9 a barrel for clams. Would use 300 lbs. of pogies to 7 or 8 barrels of clams.
In the hook and line fishing days, it began as early as it does now. They used to go as far as Sandy Hook, and from there on north. Would get to Sandy Hook about the 1st to 5th of May. Only about half a dozen sail would go down there. Did not take much account of it. The 1st of July expected to see them all preparing for the Bay Chalms. Some would not go until the 10th or 15th of July.
Words that took 200 bands considered it quite a fine catch, in the southern fishery. I do not think they got any fancy price for them. D) Did not begin to run fish push into New York until they used the purse seine, although some might have run a few in. D) It is within 10 years that vessels have begun to follow fish along the Cape Shore. D) Curious to that they used to enter the Gulf of St. L. directly, at the proper season. When
The vessels formerly winter in the Gulf. They did not arrive there until the spawning season was pretty well over. The earliest he has ever been in the Gulf was the 1st of July. After the 1st of June they used to bite quite well until they settled, apparently to spawn. They had then a very small fleet, perhaps a half dozen to a dozen. Did not use gill nets then. Only knows of 2 vessels that carried gill nets. All the
gill nets he ever saw used there were used by the Nova Scotia people at the Magdalen's. In 1883 some 4 or 5 seasons commenced around Lockport, N.S.

Has not been in the Bay Chaleur for 5 years. Never went minkhead fishing.

As a general thing when you find a school of fish, do not find much difference in the size. Some schools that are No. 1 st have a few No. 2 nd
meid with them. Some years ago when
trikes were very plenty they would
haul up considerable quantities of them,
and as they did not want them would
throw them out. I do not think the
introduction of the purse seine has
been a good thing. If the purse
seine had never been invented, and
the trawls never put in the water,
consider how fishing industry would
be just as well off. The fleet as
whole has been benefitted by the use of the purse seine. They are benefitted every year by the use of them. Hence, the trawl has been vigorous because it is apt to clean the fish up faster than they multiply. The trawl line and purse seine have cheapened the price of fish because it introduces more on the market. Always has been a demand for all the fish taken. For the last 3 or 4
In years a smaller number of vessels engaged in fishing than there used to be. In good years a greater number of vessels pursue salmon than there ever was with the hook and line. The percentage of large fish is just as great now proportionately as ever. They have been larger this year according to the number taken than for some years before. No mackerel lost by the gut burning their stomachs; that is
for the last 3 or 4 years, because they have not caught them in large enough quantities. Now we hunt the same after pursuing and do not kill them. Probably out of 100 barrels would be 1 or 12 barrels that would get killed. The loss from this cause was the greatest in the southern fishing.

Was fishing south in 1884-85-86. There was a great many fish brought in during these years, and as people
did not want them, had to leave them
unboard. nothing else to do with them.

I have known of scattering marks as being caught in the winter months down
on Brown's Bank. They were small fish
Would be taken from the stomachs of cod
fish. Could not say what caused them
to be there, but probably were spawned
in the Bay Chaleur and came out late.
I have known them to be caught there in
January. Has heard of marking
King taken with the sword at Newfoundland in the winter, in Fortune Bay. Was seen then in January and also in February. They would be medium size fish. Good No. 2 fish. Never saw larger ones.

Mackerel stop in the Bay of Fundy as long as anywhere. After they once get there in the middle of July will find them all the rest of the summer. They catch them later, however, around Block Island than anywhere else.
It was sunfish around the Sable Islands in August. Does not know which way they were going. About the 16th of August every year they see fish schooling around the Sable Islands, that is, people living around there.

Mackerel generally strike Cape Sable in the spring about the 12th of May, and sometimes as early as the 9th Cape. Adams thinks it is a little later, about the 18th when they are taken in the
traps at Yarmouth). They enter the Gulf of St. Lawrence before that time. They are seen after the first spring tides in May. Those early marked go in around Cape Breton. The second run begins about June 10. They come around Cape Breton also. Very few go through the Straits. A few go through the Gut of Canso. Does not think large schools go through the Gut of Canso. Remembers one
year, thinks it was 1845. A large school went in through the Straits of Canoe, but they were small fish.

That year (1885) he went through the Straits of Canoe about July 5, and from the time he went in to Chelataco Bay they never were out of sight of fish. They were taken mackerel, and were in abundance, but those small fish do not remain long in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and do not go far north. Probably not so far as North Cape.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Nelson C. Cantilley

Written by William Whipple, Richard Parker, and Hugh M. Smith, Nov. 21, 1893

Aged 33. Captain schooner Herbert M. Rogers. Has had 11 years' experience mackerel fishing.

Does not think mackerel have decreased for the last 8 years. For the last 2 years more abundant than the previous 5 years. The first three years of his experience they were plenty. In 1884, 5-6 were the most abundant of any time, except one.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Nelson O. Cantello

Written by William Macklin, Richard Pottbaum and Hugh W. Smith. Nov. 21, 1893

Aged 33. Captain Schooner "Herbert"

M. Rogers. Has had 11 years' experience mackerel fishing.

Does not think mackerel have decreased for the last 8 years. For the last 2 years more abundant than the previous 5 years. The first three years of his experience they were plenty. In 1884-5-6 were the most abundant of any time, except one
year before his time. Does not think the
furnace smoke is doing any harm. Does not
think it is causing any decrease in the
fish. It may make the schools wilder.

This year at the mouth the fish were
just as wild before we set for them as
afterwards. Could not catch them at
all when we first saw them. They were
often salt mackerel. Did not attempt to
run in fresh ones. Got about 20 bbls.

salt mackerel. If they stopped
catching mackerel with the seine would
have to stop catching them altogether.

Cannot catch them with the hook and
line now to amount to anything. [3] Does
not think the close season was any
good at all. The fishermen thought
it was going to help them. They
thought the early fishing drove them
off the shore up here. [3] Would not
regulate the fishing in any way. Would
let it go on just as it is. [3] Nowadays
There is no one to catch fish with the hook. One man might catch 2 or 3 hakes and another man not familiar with it would not get so much. Does not think, even though they told bait was thrown to some extent around here it would be any good. Does not think there is any use having a live season on the purse seine at any time. Suppose mackerel should have protection before they spawn, but the only trip they
can depend upon now is the Cape Shore

Mackerel spawn all through
June and into July, to the 10th of July.

Never caught any fish around Block Island
with spawn in, but never used to fish
that much. Go there in the summer
mostly after the spawning season is over.

The ones we catch after the 20th of July
are all fish that have spawned.

Catching so many fish full of spawn
will certainly tell on the fishery.
This fall down in the Bay, as far as we could see were these small mackerel, and the question is where do they go to.

Dog fish and blue fish are about the only ones that harm mackerel.

Blue fish drive them, but does not think they destroy them. He is from the Cape Shore now, got 180 barrels. Supposes they got altogether, 5,000 barrels and lost them by the same hunting. Started on this falls till the 1st of
August. Got mackeral down at Magdalia the 24th of August, blowing a gale. There were mackeral all around there then. Lost our boat in that gale and lost their sails and anchors.

Mackeral first ready to spawn will not take the hook. Will not take it until after they are done spawning. Do not seem to have any appetite. They go to the bottom when they are spawning, so that we cannot see them then.
They stay down perhaps 2 or 3 weeks. Has been fishing on the fall on the Cape Shore for 7 or 8 years. About the same number of vessels go there every year. Haddock came around and around Cape North this year and came in close. There are mostly two schools come into the Bay. The first school comes out last. It goes in about the last of May and stays in until November. They go around Cape
North. Come right back the same way they go. The second school goes down about the 1st or middle of June, usually the middle of June. There are smaller fish. They go around Prince Edward's Island. Does not think they go any further than that. They go in both ways - canoe and around Cape North. Some of those will go out as early as August. They come out both ways too. Those small
fish would be all out of the Bay about the 1st of October. Mackeral are just as large now on an average as ever since we began fishing.

Has heard of mackerel being caught in the winter, on the bottom with the trawls, around Georges. Has heard of their being caught off Cape Cod once or twice. Never heard of their being taken late with the herring.

Mackerel are found in the greatest
numbers around the Cape Shore in the spring. Last year they collected in large numbers in the Bay of Fundy, and also the year before. The mouth of the Bay of Fundy is around Seal Islands, about 25 miles west of Seal Island.

Has seen mackerel off shore on Georges. Has seen them 90 miles off New Jersey. Very often go over Georges, and between Georges and Brown's Bank. They go even to the outside of Georges. The fish that
numbers around the Cape Shore in the spring. Last year they collected in large numbers in the Bay of Fundy, and also the year before. The mouth of the Bay of Fundy is around Seal Islands, about 25 miles west of Seal Island.

Have seen mackerel off shore on Georges. Have seen them 90 miles off New Jersey. Very often go over Georges, and between Georges and Brown's Bank. They go out in the outside of Georges. The fish that
go across Georges all go to the Cape Shore.

The fish that come on this shore, come up along by Cape Cod, between Nantucket Shores and Nantucket. Come through the South Channel and keep right along the coast. Strike in at Barnstable Bay and follow the shore right down.

All the fish that go into the North Bay first strike the Nowsa Seabra shoe. Very often they strike Cape Sable.

But of late years they go away down to
the eastward of Halifax. Generally report to strike them between Halifax and Canso. Has known them to strike at Halifax and Canso before Cape Sable. Has followed a single school for 5 or 6 miles. That is one school, but has followed a body of fish for hundreds of miles. Very often get scattering mackerel in the Gulf as late as Christmas, but the most of them are out of the Gulf by
the middle of November. At the Cape
Shore they disappear about the same
time. Ser fish the 10th of November
off Banze. Late in the fall fish
get poor. The late schools along
the Cape Shore are going along the
shore in a W. S. W. direction. The body
of the mackrel leave the coast of
Maine the last of September and go
down into Barnstable Bay. Probably
stay there 3 weeks, and then work out
around Cape Cod. That is the last we
see of them. Those at Block Island
are the native ones that come there to
spawn. Fish around Block Island
remain there. Have been mixed fish
during the last 4 or 5 years, but before
that used to get more large fish.
There is a body of fish around Block
Island all through the summer. There
is a lot of boats fishing there now, and
he thinks they feed them so they stay.
Get all signs there at the same time.

Get them there about the middle of May.

Get them there this spring the 10th of May. They stay there at Block Island until in November. When the fish leave the coast they leave in larger schools than when they approach the coast. They follow the same course on leaving the coast as they do when they come. It is always the outside schools that go over or around Georges to the
eastward. The mackerel schools in the spring are generally a smaller fish than the outside schools. I saw a great many small mackerel coming out of the Bay this year. More than I ever saw before about 7 or 8 inches long. They were hatched this year. I measured some of them and they were 7 inches. A year from now they will be about 10 inches. I do not believe mackerel grow much in the winter. The next year they would be
about 12 inch fish. It takes 2 years to
make No. 2. The smallest length
for No. 1 fish is 13 inches. Would
require 4 years to make a No. 1 fish.

The quality of the fish does not depend
upon the length, but upon the condition.

The first fish that enter the Gulf of
St. Lawrence and the last to come out
are a darker and darker bellied fish
than those which we find along our own
shore, and, practically, than all the others.
Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Thomas C. Parke

Nov. 21, 1893

Has been mackerel fishing 25 years. Seining for 17 years.

Has been mackerel fishing 25 years. Seining for 17 years. Obtained a strong

of vessel Lottie Gardner.

Does not think the mackerel have increased as a whole. Thinks they have

increased for the last 4 or 5 years.

Had a spell of bad fishing. Those good

years preceding bad ones were 1882-3-4.

The best year, he thinks, was 1883.

Beginning with 1886, it was bad up to
3 years ago. Does not think the purse
snare hurts the fish any. Thinks this
summer down the Bay were wilier than
he ever saw them before. Thinks it
was caused by the feed. They were
chasing a little shrimp. This fall
after the feed had left they seemed to
be quite easy to catch. Thinks the purse
net should be allowed all the time.
Would not have a close season. Does
not think the close season that was
w. force helped the fish any. The close season would not protect the fish during the spawning season, because wherever you catch fish in June they are all full of spawn. The fish swim to spawn and it is difficult to find them then. Would not advocate a renewal of that close season, or of any other close season to come the spawning season. When he was a small boy he engaged in the
hook-and-line fishing. Thinks perhaps they might do better hook-and-line fishing than with seines, but it would take some time. When they go hook-and-line fishing now, they use the same methods that they used to, as near as he knows.

In particular region where the first seine should not be used. I got a few class of fish from the south. Has never been a profitable fishing taken as a whole. A few years ago
The were some pretty good springs work.
Was with Sol. Jacobs in 1893-94, and
that was the best he ever did.
Would not have any regulations with regard
to mackerel fishing. I have fish taken
before the middle of June, or perhaps
the 20th of June have spawn in them.
Thinks June is the spawning month
they spawn in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
he thinks, in June. That is the
month they spawn the most anywhere.
at least wherever he has been. They
spawn perhaps a week earlier in this
shore than they do in the Gulf. The
fish are more easy to catch just before
they spawn than at other times. More
easy to catch along the Cape Shore
than down south. Never went fishing
south with hook and line. The
furthest south he has taken fish
was 7 years ago, about 40 or 50 miles
this side of Wataugas, as near as he can
remember. Was in the Ellen M. Adams at that time. Those fish at the south are heading north. Some years they go much inshore than others. Fish are both schooling and scattered at that time. Some years they see them way to the south of Georges, and they go down off Woman's Land. I think that part of the fish from the southern school come in at Block Island. Others strike off
around and over the southern part of Georges Bank, and there are the fish which go into the Cape Shore; that is, most of them. Some strike into the Bay of Fundy. The fish that come on this part of the coast, some of them come through the South Channel, and there go close in shore; and some which go over Georges come on this shore. The fish reach Block Island region about the 10th to the 20th of May. They strike
the Cape Shore about the last of May, from the 21st of May to the 1st of June.

A few years ago they used to catch them off to the westward of Hans, but of late years they seem to strike in further east of Halifax. The first year he went down there was 7 years ago.

Thinks that the Cape Shore fishing has been wanted to for at least 10 or 12 years, and perhaps longer.
about the 2nd or 3rd of June. Those fish are large. They go around Cape Breton Island. I. There seems to be a big body that strikes nearly to the north from the Cape Shore, the second school, and they go along for a week and then go into the Gulf. Some years this second school remains on the Cape Shore for the biggest part of the time, and other years they may go in as early as a week after the first school.
the half of the fish of the second school

go around Cape North. Some go

through the Gut of Carse. The smaller

fish in the Gulf go up as far as West

Cape, as far as Mission. They go out

earlier than the other schools. Does

not know just when they leave. This

year somewhere about the 1st of November

they commenced to go up the Cape Shores.

That is, the small fish go out about the

1st of November. The large fish
remains there sometimes as late as the 25th of November. Have been caught as late as that. The fish they have been catching lately are the large fish that are coming out. This fall they were very nice fish, mostly 1st and 2nd. The fish are in the best condition in September and October, and about the same in November. The fish strike Portland, Maine, some years in August and September. That is called the
Last month on this shore. Sometimes they go there earlier. Sometimes very small schools caught there in June and July. They get into the Bay of Fundy in July. Some years they do not go to the Bay of Fundy. Fish used to be much more abundant in the Bay of Fundy than they are now. I think most of the fish that come on our shores come from the south. Never saw fish when they could not see. Might be a scale over
their eyes, but they could see.

The shift of the fish probably leave
the Gulf about the 10th or 15th of November.

There are about 2 schools that come up
in the fall — one in the last of October,
and from the 1st to the 25th of November.

Would be found on the Cape Shore
about a week after they leave the Gulf.

On the coast of Maine they seem to
leave pretty early. Last year they left in
October, about the 1st to the 10th. This
year they hung on a little later. I would not attempt to follow the fish south in the fall. When the schools are leaving they are about the same size as those coming on the coast. I never caught any mackrel in the winter. Has heard of their being caught. A few scattering ones caught in other fish on Georges Bank.