

GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Interviews by

JOINT FISHERIES COMMISSION.

November, 1893.

Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. H. M. Seelye, No. 21,111

Interviewed by William Wakeham, Richard Rathbun
and Hugh M. Smith, Nov. 21, 1893,

Began mackerel fishing in 1820.

Has not been fishing for two summers.

Mackerel as a whole have apparently

decreased in abundance, but within
the last 2 years, seem to be increasing.

Thinks the cause of the
decrease is from killing so many with
the seines. In the first few years they

were in the business had no jiggers.

Would get large schools of fish than

we have gotten since. Would dress part of them and part of them would die, and the seines would burst and would kill more fish than they took. That

trouble lasted until about 12 years ago.

The first 7 or 8 years they started in were troubled with bursting seines, etc.

The way we ^{first} found the mackerel fishing was ~~first~~ going to the Bay hooking.

That was about 1872; and they were making good year's work; and in about

1875 or 1876 commenced game seining.

In those years quite a number had gone into it. Up to 1874 the fish continued in abundance, but there has been a decrease since until last year. If the seines were condemned, and a man was not allowed to use one, the vessels would make better catches of fish and more money.

Would fish more evenly. And another thing, the last time we had reciprocity with Canada, could get fish anywhere

then, were having good hooking in the Bay, and the consequence was the vessels had good fishing on that shore with seines, but after that all the vessels dropped the Bay and came home here and went to hooking, and from that time in the Bay the fish seemed to have thre and come on our coast. Thinks it was the bait they threw that held them. When they stopped throwing bait there the fish came on this shore

altogether. #) In about 1888 we lost
the fish and they went back into the
Bay, and the first 2 years there was
good fishing, but after reciprocity
run ^{out} ~~off~~ the fish left the Bay and we
could not find them anywhere. Then
we went to the Magdalenes and went to
throwing bait when we could not find
any fish schooling. The bait
fishermen claim that brought the
fish back, and they have been

catching them ever since. We used to run up on Fisherman's Bank and lay there and throw bait, and consequently it was not long before we would find fish there. D) It is his opinion that if every vessel was compelled to stay on our own shore, and throw a quantity of bait, we would bring the fish on our own shore, and would not care about mackerel or anything else. Thinks mackerel can be tolled by bait.

¶) Mackrel feed upon small munnoas and
the red feed principally. ¶) When we went
looking in the '70's would scarcely ever
have to on this Bank (think he refers to
Fisherman's Bank - m.), and if we did would
never get anything. When the vessels
came up then they went to heaving bait
on the bank, and the fish have been
on it ever since.

¶) The purse seine has done injury to
the fish. If it was abolished entirely

in less than 5 years it would be a benefit
to every man that goes fishing. Thinks,

also, that it breaks up the schools.

In the southern spring fishery at times
we killed twice as many fish as we
took to market. That was in the
beginning of spring. Undertook to
put them on the market, and found it
overstocked, and would have to dump
them overboard. If we salted the fish
taken on the southern grounds we could

sell them. They would average from
7. to $\frac{9}{10}$. a barrel salted. $\frac{9}{10}$ Went down
then between Cape Charles and Cape
Hatteras. Was down there in 1874.
They hook just as well down there in
the early spring as they do at the north
late in the season. Would catch a trip
and be home in time to go to the Bay.
Would go down to Cape Charles about
the last of April. They go now very
much earlier. In the early days of

the same fishing we would lose the most
fish in June and July. Would hurt
the seines often then. That would
be off Nantucket to the western part
of Georges. [#]I thinks if they abolished
the purse seines there would be more
mackerel taken on the whole, and a
better chance of their increasing.
If it could not be stopped entirely,
no use to try to stop it at all. Would
have to be stopped up to July anyway.

and that would make too short a season
for the pure seine. Would not
prohibit them in any one place. Would not
not prohibit them in the southern
waters in the spring, nor in the Gulf
of St Lawrence.

Apparently the fish must lay off
on the edge of the gulf stream in the
winter. Probably do not all go as far
south. The smaller fish may be
far south. The early schools, the

fish come in from the edge of the gulf
stream between Hatteras and ^{Cape} Charles,
and work castely; and some schools

will work in and turn this shore.

Fish would be caught just as readily
with hook and line as they ever were.

When there were many American vessels in
the Gulf that used toll bait they
took fish in large quantities. When
we had an abundance of mackerel we were
fishing rights along, and the vessels

throwing bait, all working easterly on
our own shore, and in fact right down
into the Bay. [¶] This year and last
year they have commenced to stay down
there and throw bait, and consequently
the whole of that ground is fishing
ground. Wherever they throw the bait,
fish come. Whether they come for
that bait or for other fish that feed
upon the bait, is a question. [¶] This
year they did first rate. Some men

should as high as \$600 or \$700.

Thinks very few owners from here would be in favor of abolishing the seines.

#) Mackerel spawn in June and July.
around Block Island in July. On the coast of Maine in July. Supposes the spawn is leaving them all the time from the 1st of June to about the middle of July. After the middle of July hardly ever see any spawn in the fish. #) The close time law was

passed because a few years ago when all
the vessels went south they had to put
the price down to nothing. Was not
a cent made. They supplied New York
with mackerel and got no benefit from
it, consequently there was no money in
going south, and then they went to work
to shut it off, as they thought it would
benefit the fishery. Thinks the
close season did some good. He
threw away 200 barrels at two different

times because he could not sell them at New York. That was in 1775.

The first 3 years he went for mackerel he went hooking, and averaged about 1,000 barrels a year. He did the best that was done by any vessel from here. After that started sailing, and never did so well, but the trouble was he did not know much about the business and had a seine that was not made right.

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✓ Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Sol. Jacobs, Jr.
" John Chisholm ~~Nov. 21. 1893~~
" Joseph Smith

Interviewed by William Wakeham, Richard Rathbun and Hugh M. Smith
Nov. 21. 1893.

Capt. John Chisholm has not

been fishing for mackerel for 3 years,
but did engage in that fishing previously, from the
time he came to this country, about 25 years ago. Is
He has been fishing for mackerel since
now a fishery merchant in Gloucester. Had 14 vessels
this year, of which 7 went mackerel fishing.
He came over, about 25 years.

Capt. Sol. Jacobs has been
mackerel fishing for 23 years. ^{now} ~~long~~

Captain of the Sch.
of and Ethel B. Jacobs.

Capt. Joseph Smith has been
mackerel fishing about 25 years. ^{now} ~~long~~

Mary B. Schaefer Mabel R. Bennett, but has interests in other waters also.

(a) The furthest south ^{he} ever saw mackerel was in 35 degrees north latitude, about the latitude of Bodie Island, just north of Hatteras. ~~He~~ At the same date has seen them some 3 or 4 degrees north of that. Once saw them the 18th of March in 38° 11'. That was a number of years ago. This spring the furthest south ^{he} saw them was about Bodie Island. (b) The southern

surfing fishing has been going on for
18 or 19 years. ⁹⁾ Has gone as far as
71° 30'. ⁹⁾ Would be some variation
where the schools first appeared.

I do not think the fish ever go to
the gulf stream. Thinks they occur
inside of the gulf stream from off
Body Island to Chincoteague. Those
machuel go north. They lay along
from Body Island to Cape May for
2 or 3 months, February, March and

April. Has sun fish in February
at the south, at the same place,
some 24 years ago, when down there
in the bark of J. S. Winslow. The
fishermen never go there to look for
them in February. ⁹¹⁾ A few stragglers
fish will be caught in the neighborhood
of Block Island in the morn about
May 10. Mackerel do not become
abundant there before June. ⁹²⁾ Then
the schools go north, and the school

that goes to the Cape Shore goes onward
around Georges, the southeast part of
Georges. Those go directly to the Cape
Shore about N. and E. N.E.

(Smith) We consider the biggest body of
those mackerel go up the Straits^(?) and
into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They strike
the Nova Scotia shore from Cape
Sable to Scatteri. They come right
in from the gulf stream. They strike
down about a certain temperature of

water and keep working east until they
get pretty well down the Nova Scotian
shore and strike right in.

do) 9) Has followed large bodies of fish
right down N. N.E., and they struck
right on the bell of the Cape.
They struck all the way down the
Cape Shore, and never struck down
Ganso until 2 days after they struck
the Cape. The main body struck
fish at Cape Sable. Some went

up into the Bay of Fundy. Got fish
on the Cape Shore 4 days before they
got them at the Magdalens this year.

(6) 9) The heavy body of those fish
come in from the southward and go
in from about N. N.E. Strike well
toward Sable Island and cross the
Western Banks.

(7) 9) Mackerel strike the Maine coast
about the 1st or 10th of June this year.
That would be rather earlier than usual.

The best schools come later than that,
about the 15th to the 20th of June.

I have caught them in the traps at
Yarmouth as early as the 10th or 12th of May.
About the 18th of May have fair fishing
at Yarmouth. The first fish that
go into the Gulf go right down
around Scattari. The Mollie Adams
followed them, and struck from the
Cape Shore to North Cape, right
in the field of ice. The ice was

late and the mackerel early. They go
right up between Magdalen's and L'Isle
Edwards Island. I hope you will follow
them up as far as Gaspé and let them
know whether they went up on the
Labrador coast or not. This summer
they traced them up pretty well, and
they went up on the Labrador coast.
Have followed them through the
Straits of Belle Isle. The first
school is much larger than the one

and comes in through the main entrance.
Goes mostly the same way down the
Cape Shore. Three schools go down,
3 to 5 days following. ^{each other} The second
school goes around mostly as the first.
The third school strikes the Cape
Sable shore. There are 3 sizes.
Some of the third school goes through
the gut of Canso, but not a large
proportion. Mostly go through the
main entrance. The second and third

schools do not go very far north, and come out earlier than the others.

This fall the 1st of November they were going by Halifax. Then the next school that comes are a little larger.

The schools around Prince Edwards Island belong to 2 or 3 schools. They go as far north as the Magdalens, and get on the main shore, on the New Brunswick shore; and some up in the Bay Chaleur. Does not think

they go up on the Labrador shore.
The first school will average about
100 bands. We caught them when
they would go 117 fish to 200 pounds,
They were about 16 to 21 inches long.
The largest body of mackerel he ever
saw was this fall about the first
part of November, from Louisburg
all along the Cape Shore. The
size of the second school is from 12
to 14 inches, and the third school

about 11 to 13 inches. 9) There are a
good many fish go into the Gulf of
St Lawrence. They do not school as
well there as in the Gulf of Maine,
and it is not so easy to take them.
They do not appear to show good when
they get down there. 9) The reason
they do not bite down there is because
they have so many gill nets; that
breaks them up and scares them.
Thinks if they did not have the gill

nets down there they would school better.
Gill nets are the worst thing ever put
in the water for any fisherman,
whether hook and line or anything
else. I used to get these large fish
in the old days with hook and line.
Used to get them on the north and
south sides of Prince Edwards Island;
and at the Magdalens. Large fish
at the Magdalens and north to North
Cape, and at 7 Islands; and around

Brun Island are some of the largest fish
that are caught in the Gulf.
about 13 or 14 years ago began to
follow the spring schools on the
Cape Shore. Jacobs made the first
trip to the Cape Shore that he knows
of. He was in the schooner Sarah
M. Jacobs. The next time he went
down in the Edward Webster and got
a trip. At that time they were
getting plenty of fish on our own

shore; that was the reason they did
not go down there, and the fleet of
mackerel vessels was small. He
had followed them down from
Georges right down to the Cape Shore.
In the spring before last Jacobs
was out about S.W. from Georges,
about 90 miles south by east from
South Shoal Light Ship, and those
fish were going right down N.E., and
he followed them right down the

Cape Shore to Canso. ⁹⁾ After the fish start to move north from the southern grounds until they reach the Cape Shore they are moving too fast to make it possible to catch them. They are moving at the rate of 5 miles an hour. Sometimes they go even faster than that. ⁹⁾ The fish coming out of the Gulf in the fall, as they pass down the Cape Shore, are only seen at night. No

not appear in the day time, and fishing has to be carried on mostly at night.

About 10 days ago, about the 10th or 12th of November, there were some of our fleet off Canso, some off Louisburg, some off Sidney, some off North Cape and off St. Paul, and fish were seen at all of those places at the same time, and all going in large bodies. Seemed as though there were 200 miles of them. Those fish were moving by

Sidney for 10 days, and going by Halifax
for 10 days. ⁹⁾ From Grand Manan to
Cape Cod, while there may have been
plenty of fish during the summer, they
did not school well, and very few were
taken. ⁹⁾ This fall a large body of
schooling fish were seen at the south
of Norman's Land out by Block Island.
That was in July and August; all large
fish. Vessels could do nothing with
them because they were going very fast.

There were thousands of them southwest of South Shoal light ship going to the northward in September, and the first thing we knew they turned up in Boston Bay about the 1st of October, from Cape Cod to Thatchers Island. All through Cape Cod Bay. Capt. Smith saw an immense body of fish at Monhegan at the same time, and they were reported at Mt. Desert Rock at the same time also all up along Portland. These

fish were about all large fish. They
staid about a fortnight. Had a noch
east wind, which broke them up.
They kept moving south all the time.
They got them up to the 20th of October.
Also other fish were present in
Massachusetts Bay subsequent to that,
and were taken in the nets at Truro
as late as November 10. Some very
large mackerel were taken during last
night in the gill nets in Ipswich

Bay. ⁹I about November 15 Capt. McGinnis
sch. Landsur, saw a large body of
fish S.S.E. of Barn Island, 10 or 15
miles, probably, in the night. ⁹I Capt.
Jacobs has caught them in Mass. Bay
as late as the 20th of November.
Capt. Smith has caught them about
the same time. Capt. Chisholm
has caught them as late with the
hook. Caught 17 barrels in
Barnstable Bay on the 17th of Nov.

That was about 1870. ⁹ Capt. Jacobs
caught some mackerel around Block Island
last year as late as Christmas. Taken
with the hook and line. This year they
appeared to leave pretty early. Does not
think there are any there now. ⁹ No southern
fishery in the fall, and therefore cannot
say anything about the movements of the
fish after they leave this part of the
coast. ⁹ Mackerel leave the coast of
Nova Scotia about the 25th of November.

There were larger schools this fall than
he has ever seen before. As a rule,
have larger schools in the fall than
in the spring. Capt. Smith thinks
they are in larger bodies while moving
along the coast up and down than
when they are practically at rest and
feeding. 9) None of these Captains
have caught mackerel in the winter.
Capt. Smith has known of small ones
taken out of fish on the southern

part of Georges, from the stomachs of
codfish. They were tinker mackerel,
and only an occasional one. Capt.

Jacobs caught about 20 last winter
down in St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland,
with the seines, with herring. That
was the 2nd of December. They were
about 13 inch mackerel, No. 1^o. Has
seen large mackerel come ashore and
die on the beach in December on
the Newfoundland shore. ⁹¹ They are

never so good on the Newfoundland coast
as they are on this shore. Never so fat,

In 1876 we went right down to the Cape
Shore and caught 450 barrels, when
the last school they got was about
N. N. E. from Scattari, about 25 miles.
They could see the ice plainly from
the deck of the vessel. All those fish
were apparently humpbacked; and were not
going fast at all. Had been going
last previous to this. This was about

the 4th of June. Lost them just short
of the ice. Seem to come up a little
bragg and they sink. Seem to be
frozen stiff. ⁹⁾ North side of since
Edwards Island from East Point right
up to the west Cape of Prince Edwards
Island, is the best fishing ground in
the Bay Chaleur for mackerel, and the
best feeding ground. Around the
Magdalen's is a good place to hook,
and Bird Island is a nice place to

hook. Often larger mackerel around there than anywhere in the Bay. The best hooking place in the Gulf is south from East Point. 9) On the Cape Shore there are not many fish excepting as they are traveling east or west. A few summer fish of small size.

A number of good schools taken in the Bay of Fundy up to last year, but nothing this year. That is about Grand Manan in St. Mary's Bay, some

seasons get some fish, but very small
size. That is on the west end of Nova
Scotia, about 30 miles north of
Yarmouth. In St. Mary's Bay is
a resting place, to some extent, for
them in the summer, but not at
Yarmouth. ⁹⁾ The Gulf of Maine
is supposed to be our best fishing
ground during July, August and
September. This year it was very
good in October. Block Island

is a good fishing ground. Our vessels found the best there this season of anywhere. Cape Cod Bay is a good place in October and November while fish are moving south. This spring from the 1st to the 10th of May found Mackrel about 80 miles off shore from Fine Hatham Bank Lights Ship, and about 120 miles from Sandy Hook.

⁹ Pudacious fish destroy more mackerel

than the whole fleet of vessels. The principal fish are the blue fish. Squid are very bad, and also dog fish. Whales also are very destructive. Also horse mackerel, bonitos and albacores. All the large fish appear to be after the mackerel. Gannet are about the worst thing yet. Get 10 or 12 of those small mackerel out of one gannet.

Pollack are just as bad as any fish. Gulls take the young fish, but not

big ones. Mackerel are found in the cod fish on Georges in the summer to some extent. Pollock prefer mackerel to

herring. ⁹⁾ The very small fish generally appear to go together. That is, the tinker and the larger fish go together until they get up to 12 inch mackerel, and then they mix together. The schools that pass down the Nova

Scotia shore in the fall are about all large fish. The fish they

catch on the southern coast, some are
large and some small. Generally
an early catch there are the largest
fish. They did not take many of
the small tinkerers seen last spring
at the south, and they have not been
seen since. Only one vessel took any.
Except three very small fish, the remainder
were about all large fish. ⁹¹ Capt.
Smith thinks that the number of
mackerel taken by man, compared

to the number killed by predaceous fish
and birds is as to a drop in a bucket
of water. In 1882 or 84 Capt.
Chisholm, coming from the Bay of
Fundy, southeast from Monhegan,
about 10 miles, saw a body of
mackerel which was being attacked
by dogfish. The mackerel were
caught whaling, and he decided to set
the purse seine about them and take
what he could. The purse seine

was set around both mackerel and dog fish, about 50 barrels of dog fish, and about 50 barrels of mackerel; and there were about 25 barrels of mackerel that were caught and mutilated by the dog fish, which had continual feeding upon the mackerel during the process of pursuing the sardine.

Capt. Jacobs, in setting for a pot of mackerel containing perhaps 10 or 12 barrels, which were chased by dog

fish, passed about them and took the whole business in, and found that the dog fish had about destroyed them all, so that there was no use attempting to save any of the mackerel. [¶] (They told several stories about the dog fish chasing mackerel in different places in Mass. Bay, doing much destruction to them.)

Capt. Smith says dog fish will cast-wheel around small bodies of mackerel and feed upon them. Probably about 50

barrels of dog fish in one instance as observed by him, and about 2 barrels of mackerel.

Capt. Jacobs tells of mackerel being frightened by horse mackerel and getting up alongside the vessel and small boats for protection.

Scattering mackerel are found over very large areas in the summer season,

over the mackerel grounds. Capt.

Jacobs thinks the percentage of large mackerel is greater this year than it has

been for 23 years before. Capt Smith says the percentage of large mackerel is fully as great as ever, - and that is Capt Chisholm's opinion.

9) Mackerel have different kinds of feed. They feed on a little fish we call sand fleas, and another little fish that we call alleys. The best feed is the red seed, and it is the most common, and they like it the best. The red feed will burn their stomachs

putty quickly, but the alleys -
a species of fish - will not.

At the Seven Islands they feed altogether
on lant. Mackerel with full
stomachs will not keep as long as
mackerel with empty stomachs.

These alleys are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches
in length. ⑨) The big mackerel
will eat their young. Will eat them

$4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches long. Find a great
many young mackerel in the old ones.

They feed on these alleys mostly in the Bay. This fall the mackerel on the Cape Shore were full of young mackerel, and last fall also, and this happens every year. The old mackerel will begin to feed on the young ones from the time they hatch until fall. Mackerel do not feed at all times. Do not think they feed at night. They must be moving around to feed. They do not feed during the spawning season, for

the reason that they do not have anything
in them then. When the spawn is
running from them, find nothing in their
stomachs. I Mackrel spawn from
Block Island up to Gaspe. Would
begin to spawn as early as the 4th of June
in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and continue
until the 1st or 10th of July, and some
times until the 17th of July. Do not
apparently spawn on the Cape Shore.
Never saw small mackrel at Swan Isd.

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during the summer. The mackerel evidently spawn at different times in the Gulf, because when the young of one year are passing out they occur of different sizes, from 6 to 9 inches. On the American coast they probably spawn somewhat earlier. Capt. Jacobs thinks that they spawn about the same time on the American coast that they do in the Gulf, even down to Block Island. He judges this by the fact

that fish born that year are about the same size at the two places. ⑨) The fish in the same schools do not all mature at the same time - Capt. Chisholm, Capt. Jacobs thinks there is not much difference in the date of spawning fish in the same schools. ⑨) Yet there during both day and night with spawn running out of them. It takes a fish 2 or 3 days to spawn, and it may take a week. ⑨) Fish remain

about up to the surface when they are spawning, about a foot or two under water. That is Capt. Jacobs' opinion.

Capt. Smith thinks they go down rather deeper under water when they spawn than what Capt. Jacobs says. Mackerel in the spawning season never show at the surface of the water.

Capt. Jacobs says 1 to 6 feet is as far as they go under water. He is quite positive of this. I all the

Captains think there are just as many mackerel to day as there ever was.

In 1881-2-3-4 were years in which there was an abundance of small mackerel. They were nearly all small ones, only a very few large ones mixed with them. They see more large fish now than they did at that time. The cape shore fish were small those years, but were not so plenty as they have been the last 2 years.

Capt. Smith believes there should
be no law to regulate the fishery.

Capt. Jacobs wishes there could be a law
made to regulate gill nets. Capt. Chisholm

thinks gill nets are an injury to the
fish if left out a week or fortnight or
a stretch. Gill nets are stationary,
and an obstruction to the fish. Cpts.

Smith and Jacobs think pound nets
and weirs destroy more fish than the
gill nets. They will destroy lots of little

cod fish. Capt. Jacobs does not think
the purse seines has ever done any
injury. Capt. Smith does not think
the purse seines are an injury any more
than any other method of catching them.
Capt. Chisholm is of the same opinion.
Capt. Smith has no doubt but what
the gill nets, pounds and purse seines,
and the hook and line fishing, tend,
if the ground is fished to any extent, to
scatter the fish and change their

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Capt. Smith has no doubt but what
the gill nets, pounds and purse seines,
and the hook and line fishing, tend,
if the ground is fished to any extent, to
scatter the fish and change their

course and habits, but not particularly
to diminish them. Thinks the nets
diminish them more than anything
else. Does not see how you could
regulate the purse seine fishing.^{Smith}
They do not think the close season
did any good. In the first place,
the southern fishery was carried on at
a loss, and yet a number of captains
would go early and probably be
fortunate enough to get a few fish,

and there were thousands of dollars lost in
the business one year after another,
and yet we could not bear to stop it,
so we got this law. Think that
it is the opinion of 90 per cent of
the men that this experiment did
no good. Capt. Chisholm had
two vessels there last spring and
caught one mackerel. Capt.
Smith had 2 vessels there and got
2,000. This law was put through

with the expectation that it might be
of some benefit, the business having
been carried on at a loss. We have
destroyed more mackerel by going down
the Cape Shore this last three years,
by killing those large fish which
were full of spawn, than we did for
the last 20 years by going south.
Thinks they do more damage by the
Cape Shore fishing in the spring than
they do with the southern fishing-fleet

To the last 5 or 6 years small
redfish along 3 to 7 inches long
have been very abundant in the Gulf
of Delaware, and these have not
been seen the following year in either
instance. These are preyed upon
to a great extent by the seals and
has been especially the case this year,
more so than he has ever seen before.
He also a large number of small
redfish this year than ever before.

Do not see any large quantities of two-year-old mackerel, which should be derived from these young ones. But a very small quantity of these two-year-old mackerel have been seen, principally around Block Island. The question is whether they have been destroyed by the squid, or whether they have a place where they remain unobserved until they attain a larger size. There may be some place off

and they were the
best vegetables I ever
had. I learned how to
make them last many
months you can make
anywhere else the same
way - the Malabar 9
days are good golden and
the best there is no other
as the best place to get
them is to go down and the

large schools 20 to 25 min.

Cape Journe thinks that the fish which keep up the supply are those born on the American coast, not on the Cape Shore or in the Gulf.

Hardly ever find very large schools in the Gulf. In the Gulf of Maine they get larger schools than elsewhere. Most of the traps are east of Yarmouth to Cape Sable, and some around Canso, on the coast of Nova Scotia.

A majority of the fish here are caught
between St. Mary's and Cape Sable.
The gill nets used from Cape Sable
down to Louisburg from 3 to 6 miles off
shore take the large fish which
pass up that shore in the spring.
Capt. Jacobs tolled a quantity of dog
fish around his net this summer
and tried to kill them with dynamite,
but would not kill over a dozen.
Dynamite tried on cod fish showed

that they would not come up to the surface from a depth of more than 7 fathoms.

9) Purse seines will not be used much in the Gulf of St. Lawrence inside of 16 or 17 fathoms, as the bottom is so rough the seines would be torn, and the mackerel are not schooling fish as they are on the American coast, and when they do school they are going all over the

water, and could not catch them.
Now will be carried on with
marked success. More been done
previous to this than will ever be
done again.

Dr. Cape Smith is decidedly against
any legislation that will prohibit
purse seining.

(Revised)

Gloucester, Mass.

Charles H. Pew.)

~~Nov. 21, 1893~~

of the firm of John Pew & Sons)

Interviewed by William Rotcham, Richard Rotham, and Hugh M. Smith

~~Nov. 21, 1893.~~

His business was established in 1848.

The purse seine came into use somewhere about 20 years ago. It developed slowly at first because they were used at first for sunfish, and then for mackerel. At that time when the purse seines were used for mackerel there was a very large fleet of vessels went mackereling with hook and line. Thinks in some years nearly 1000 vessels were engaged off our shores, Maine

New Hampshire and Massachusetts, catching mackerel altogether with the hook and line. And way back when the business was first started, say, for example, in 1831, there were something like 400,000 barrels caught off Massachusetts alone with hook and line. In 1890 the catch of Massachusetts was only about 19,000 barrels. There used to be periods of scarce years, but he does not think the mackerel of those years were really

scarce, but thinks the vessels did not reach
the proper grounds. ^⑧ Around Sable Isd.
used to be a great place for mackerel.
The very largest catches of fish used to
be made there. Of late years they have
all left there. Does not think the
mackerel are as scarce as people think
they are. ^⑨ The vessels then were small
and the crews were small, about 8 men
with perhaps 2 or 3 boys was the ordinary
crew. Some of the vessels now carry 20

To 24 men. This is very lately that vessels
would go mackereling the 1st of June.

Usually went after the 4th of July. This
used to be the time when they would leave
off cod fishing and take up mackereling.
But of late years they have caught them
the latter part of March. The vessels
that engaged in mackerel fishing in
those days also engaged in cod fishing.
One caught 700000 barrels of mackerel
now, do not know where we would market

them. Mackerel then were a better article, however, than they are as a whole to-day.

Thinks the purse seine and pound fishing both should have restrictions. There

is no one fishing for mackerel to-day,

with the exception of the pounds and weirs, and they are catching them along

from 150 to a high number of boats comes up every day from the provinces.

all the time. Mackerel are not a

prolific fish, there is no question

about that. Take the coast of Norway

for illustration. There is nothing usual

there for mackerel except the hook and line, and they have not to any great extent pursued the mackerel fishing ~~so~~ market to export to other countries. It is sold simply for local food; and mackerel are not plenty there to-day.

One vessel went to Norway this year, and said there were a few fish there, but could not catch them. ⁷¹⁾ Mackerel as a rule are surface fish. Only go into deep waters at times when they are

moving, or at spawning time. They
cannot take care of themselves as against
other fish. Take the blue fish, they
will take care of themselves, but mackerel
are a prey for most every fish that
there is. Not being a prolific fish,
and at the same time a defenceless fish,
if left alone they will not increase very
fast. Take all the modern appliances,
nets, purse seines, pounds and traps, and
they do not have a fair show. We have

come to the conclusion that mackerel cannot hold their own with the modern appliances that are used to catch them. In the old days did not begin to take fish until after the spawning season. Does not think, as a rule, mackerel spawn in the English waters until July.

In our waters they spawn a little earlier, because our waters are a little warmer. A fish that has a tendency to early fatness spawns earlier. Fish that are

poor spawn late usually. I thinks there
should be concurrent action between the
United States and the Dominion of
Canada in regard to the purse sein fishing.
He would say, have no mackerel caught
other by purse seines, pounds or gill
nets until the 1st of July. But it
would be pretty hard to have a one-
sided regulation or restriction.

Pound nets have been used ever since he
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has had any acquaintance with fishing.

Have used them all along the Nova Scotia shore and Cape Breton, and all up on the west shore, but mostly at the Magdalenes.

Not as many people are benefited by the purse seine fishing as used to be in the old times. For purse seine fishing they have to have all able bodied men.

Thinks the cod fishery of more importance than the mackerel fishery. In 1884 the catch of mackerel was nearly 400,000 barrels, and only 12,000 or 14,000 were

caught in English waters. As a rule,
when mackerel first strike this shore they
are small. Sometimes whole schools
will come on this shore year after year, and
increase in size, and you can track them
year after year. The large catch in
1884 were small fish. The large fish
that our vessels caught this year the
first of June were undoubtedly the
remnants of that big school of fish
that had been traveling year after year,

and they got down to a very small number
and very large size. ⁹⁾ Those fish went
into the Bay; the last catch was
off Sydney. Capt. Jacobs states that
he followed that school of fish way
up above Magdalens, and in sight of
Gaspé, and then they sunk and he
lost them. These fish are not
caught again until quite late in the
fall, and they are caught almost
exclusively by the nets and pounds along

the Nova Scotia coast. These fish are
the mother fish and are of more importance
in the supply of the new schools than any
other fish we have on our shores.

The loss of life is very much smaller by
the modern way of fishing than it was
in the old hand line fishing. Then
men used to fish close together and
when there came a gale they would go
adrift, and there would be a very large
loss of life. ⁹⁾ Georges Bank was a

very good fishing ground for Gloucester
vessels with hand lines.^(codfishing &c) Caught
what was known in the trade as Georges
fish, and they were the finest and best
fish to be had anywhere. Vessels
did not go ^{trawling} trolling there until about 20
years ago. Previous to that time some
years, perhaps 200 vessels would be fishing
on that Bank at one time. They began
to use trawls on that Bank, and to-day
you cannot catch any fish there with

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to use trawls on that Bank, and to day
you cannot catch any fish there with

hand lines. In 20 years' time that Bank
has been destroyed as a hook and line
fishing ground. Used to catch more
fish on that Bank than we caught
on all the other fishing grounds put
together. Today it does not pay to
send vessels there hook and line fishing.
Thinks it was a shame to allow vessels
to go fishing and catch those small
cod, (Supposed to be formerly planted by Fish Commission)
~~sh~~ down around the "Rips," The vessels
(off Nantucket)
have almost broken up that school

of fish in 3 years. They fished there
3 years, and this last year there were less
than before. The second year they found
them they had a large number of vessels,
and caught 4,000,000 pounds of them.
There were quite a number of vessels there
this year, but they did not do as well.
If they had left those fish and not
caught them for 4 or 5 years we would
have had a big supply of large fish.

9) The French Government in 1850

passed a law that gave a bounty of 50 francs to each man that went fishing, and that law is in force today, with some few modifications. And by this law to-day every French merchant that sells fish to a foreign country, caught by Frenchmen in French vessels, and exported in French vessels to the United States receives a bounty of 10 francs on the ~~quantal~~^{tonnel}. That bounty alone amounts, in some years, to the price at which the

fish are sold elsewhere. The French
merchant brings his fish into the New
York market; he pays a duty of 50
cents a ~~ton~~^{quintal}, or half a cent a pound,
and he pays a freight of 25 cents a
~~ton~~^{quintal}, and then he receives from his
Government \$1.25⁺ bonus upon every
ton^{quintal} that he sells. It would make
us richer than the Vanderbilts if this
Government would treat us that way.
That is the way they have drawn English

merchants out of the business to a great extent, and they have gone into the West India markets, and now they are coming into the United States markets. Knows of one man who has bought 6 to 10 cargoes of them, and the quantity is increasing each year. While such regulations are in force you must give our fishermen every latitude you can possibly, so that they can hold their own. Every fisherman that receives a bounty is registered, and the

Government can take those men whenever they want to. It is understood that they can take them for the navy at some future time.

I thinks the trawl line is a destructive method of fishing, but does not see how it can be given up simply because that to day is the only way of fishing. The supply would be reduced almost to nothing if we gave up trawl line fishing.
Some results set what they call the ground

~~so~~ so they extend 16 miles. of ground line,

7) The measurement for the small codfish

under ^{under} 22 inches. They measure it from the extended part of the nose. Measure the

shortest distance. Cod fish run
smaller of late years. Everything above

2 inches is a large fish. The

~~live~~ ^{for large fish} ~~curv's~~ measurement ^{and over.} is 28 inches. The cod

fish caught around Georges are the best

fish caught anywhere in the world.

The next grade below 22 inches is 15

inches. From 15 to 22 inches is medium.
Below 15 inches, we call them snappers.
The market for banded fish is limited
to May, June, and some very few in July.
These fish are simply salted the same
as all pickled fish. ⁹⁾ After cold come
from the vessel we want them to be in salt
for a fortnight, and then we take them
out of the butts and put them in piles
about 4 feet high and then we put
weights on them for perhaps one or two

days, and then a very nice dry northwester
wind will cure them for the ^{average} western
market. If we are going to cure them
for shipping fish, we have to take
3 different days. When you come to
take 85 degrees of temperature, at the
larger point where the glue that is between
the scales, will melt, and they become
what we call burnt fish. They have
a system at Halifax where they dry
fish that are not pickled and salted.

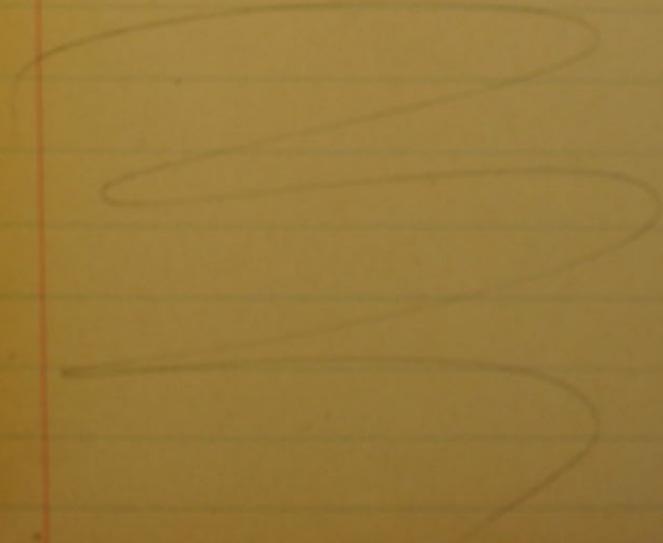
During the close season thinks the mackerel increased on this coast. If there was an early close season the fishermen would follow other kinds of fishing.

There is great damage done by the nets and pounds along shore. They do not catch many mackerel along the United States coast in ~~these~~ nets and pounds during the spring of the year, but at Nova Scotia they catch them all the time. A great many of our

Lishman think you must not put any restriction at all on the fishing, but he cannot see how you can have fish preserved unless you do put some restrictions on the catch. Take herring, mackerel and other edible fish, and the appliances we have will catch the fish, but we do not know the number of other fish that prey upon them. 9) Does not think mackerel or alewives are the natural food of the

cod fish. They feed upon fish that are
near the bottom of the ocean, crabs,
shrimp, etc. The principal food for
cod in the northern waters to the Gulf
of St Lawrence is the ^{Capekin} capeland. I do not
think you ever see cod fish schooling
on the surface on this coast. The
herring is a quicker fish than the
cod, and it is a very rare thing to
find cod fish with herring or menhaden
in them. Sometimes will see them

with squid in them. Sell the large
codfish for about \$5.25 a ^{quintal} ~~ton~~ and
the small ones for about \$4.25, and the
moppers would be \$2. a ^{quintal} ~~ton~~. The
moppers are sold in the United States.



Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. John C. Mills

interviewed by William Wakeham, Rufus Rathbone & Hugh M. Smith,
November 22, 1893.

Master to

Schooner Senator Lodge, Gloucester

Has been master of a mackerel vessel three years. Has had 12 years' experience mackereling. As a whole, does not think the mackerel have decreased. Thinks they are just as abundant now as they were 12 years ago. There have been more mackerel reported this year than any year for 7 or 8 years, but the catch has not been as large as in other years because the fleet is smaller. Does not think the purse seine harms the fish in any way. Does not think it decreases their number. Does not see why the purse seine should scare mackerel any more than the net. A purse seine is only in the water for a few months; not like the net that

is set day in and day out, to fight
the fish. Does not know what
object there would be to have any
regulations. Before they had the
close season, some did well, and
afterwards a number of vessels went
south and none of them did very well.
Of course it might be better next
year. Does not think the close
season did any particular good.
All the fish that are caught south
are spawn fish, and the less of them
that are caught the more tendency it
would have to increase them. Only
once in a while a year that there are
many fish caught south. Does
not see why it would be any protection
to the fishermen to have a close season.
Some fishermen go south and lose

woney and some go and make money.
Out of 30 or 40 sail that went last
spring, does not think 10 made a profit.
Has nothing to say about regulations,
because he does not know anything about
it. ⑨ All kinds of fish that are caught
with the purse seine have peculiarities;
some years there will be an abundance
of them, and some years will not be
any. For a few years there were hardly
any mackerel on the New England coast,
but now they are plenty enough, and
the purse seine has been in use all the
time. ⑨ He never did any haddock and
lum fishing. ⑨ Mackerel go to the
east and north in the spring, and
they are full of spawn when they go
down by Cape Breton in June. That
is anywhere from the first to the middle

of June. Some years they will stay a week or so. After we lose them there, we do not get any mackerel to amount to anything until along in July or August, and they are pretty much done spawning, so they sink somewhere down in that vicinity, and nobody knows just where the spawning ground is. Does not think any body knows when they go out of sight to spawn, or when they are done spawning. Occasionally will find mackerel along in August with some spawn in them, in the Gulf of St Lawrence. Does not remember of seeing any on this coast, but has in the Gulf. That is scattering fish that would have some spawn in them. ⁹⁾ The most important time

some fishing ground, as a whole, is the New England coast. The coast of Maine and Mass. is the most profitable. Of course we get no mackerel on the New England coast until about the first of June. Then they will begin to strike on the coast here, and we get more or less from then on to November. That fishing extends off shore to Georges anywhere from against the rocks to 130 miles off. They do not go to Georges much nowadays, except in the spring. There is very little fishing on Georges for mackerel, with this exception. The Bay of Fundy is quite a place for mackerel. Has been in former years, but this last summer not many fish there, but a year ago this

summer there was a good catch of mackerel there. ⁹⁾ A large body of mackerel go into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They go regularly every year. We know that by the nets on the Cape Shore. The nets catch more or less fish every year. This fall the nets have done remarkably well on the Cape Shore. If they have westerly or northerly winds the fish go closer to the land, but if they have southerly winds the fish keep out to sea, and do not go in near enough to fish with the nets. ⁹⁾ Some years they school as much on the Gulf as they do on the New England coast, and some years they do not. Was in the Gulf this year for 2 months — July and August. Was only as far as Gaspé. The Gaspésie and the Miramichi

made good hauls there, and the Minnie
Maudie, a Nova Scotia vessel, and
one or two others did well there. That
is around Margaree on the north side
of Cape Breton. About 10 sails
of Nova Scotia vessels out this year.
Most of them sail from around ~~St~~
Hanc and Liverpool. There are
two schools which go into the Gulf
of St Lawrence. Does not know but
what there are three. This last
year was fine weather on the Cape
shore. And more mackerel seen
than he ever saw there before.
The largest fish come first about
May. That is, they enter the Gulf
in May. They enter around by
Scotian and ~~south~~ ^{east} of Cape Breton.
The later fish seem to be a grade

smaller. Some years still later in
the summer a small school comes on
the Cape Shore. This summer there
was quite a large body of small
fish around the Cape Shore.
The most of the second school go
around Cape Breton Island, but
some go through the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Different years they take a little
different route. Do not always go
the same way every year. Of course
the weather has a tendency to vary
their habits a little. I do not find
many of these large fish of the first
school after they get into the Gulf.
Apparently these large fish do not
school much. The second school
distributes itself more over the
Gulf than the first school. The

second schools shows up in schools
more than the first. It is hard
to tell where the fish go to that ocean
so abundantly around S.C.I. and the
Magdalenes, because we generally
lose them for 3 or 4 weeks, and when
they turn up they are distributed all
over the gulf. ⁸ The fish may go
and come more regularly than what
we know of, on account of the weather;
they may keep below the surface.
If we have a run of fine weather
this year, say the 1st of June,
next year we might have a cold
wind on that day and they would
not show. If the net fishermen
are not getting any fish we know
they have not come along much yet.
Do not catch as many fish in the

right as there used to be. No particular difference between the spring and fall fish in this respect. ¶ This fall there have not been many fish caught on the Cape Shore. Capt. Jacobs got the largest school. ¶ This fall did not see but a few fish schooling in the day time. Mostly in the night. ¶ It is hard to say where the fish strike the Cape Shore first because it is seldom they strike two years in the same place and the same date. Most generally, in the spring, begin to catch their fish around Yarmouth and Cape Sable in the traps. From Halifax to Scattari they apparently strike within a day or so, as though it was a big body of fish come in from sea. Looks as though there were millions and

willions of fish that seem to move right in from sea. ⑨ Fish when moving from one place to another sometime will move about 4 or 5 miles an hour, and at other time do not seem to go any, apparently. Sometime in the spring on the Cape Shore they will average from 20 to 40 miles in 24 hours. The Senator Lodge, with a good breeze, would go about 10 or ⁽³⁾ ~~12~~ miles an hour.

⑩ Has never seen predaceous fish chasing mackerel much. Of course whales chase them some, and sword fish and dog fish, etc., harass them some. Blue fish chase mackerel more than any other kind of fish. Does not think squid have much to do with mackerel, although they

will eat them when they get them in
the net, but do not scare them. This
fall in Barnstable Bay, it was full
of blue fish, and no mackerel went
into the Bay at all while the blue
fish were there, while at the same
season other years they always used
to go there. That was in October.
After the blue fish left the mackerel
came in. Blue fish follow the
menhaden more than they do the
mackerel. Dog fish follow mackerel
as much as any other kind of fish, but
does not think they will drive the
mackerel as much as blue fish.
Do not see any dog fish on the Cape
Shore in the spring, but find them
quite plentifully. The first
dog fish seen in the Bay for 40 years
was last year.

Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. John A. McElroy,

curious by William ^{Matawan} Richard ^{Rabbit} Hugh M. Smith,
Nov. 22, 1893.

Master of

Schooner Norwichtown. Has been
17 years mackerel fishing with the
schooners. [¶]) The southern fishing began
before his time. The first spring he
went south was 18 years ago; and
they went quite a number of years before
that. Has been south every year
since that time, with the exception
of the last three years. [¶]) Most always
find the fish down ^{about} at latitude 37°.
Has seen them a little further south than
that, as far as Body Island. It looks
as though the mackerel come out of the
gulf stream north of Cape Hatteras.
Does not think there is a great body
of fish further south. ~~think they~~
~~strike in on the~~ [¶]) The fish
strike in all along the coast from the

direction of the gulf stream from near Hatteras to Cape Banks. The reason why he thinks so; there is a distance of 300 odd miles from Cape Sable to Cape Banks, and it is a matter of about 24 hours from the time they catch the first fish at Cape Sable until they catch them at the Magdalens, and we know that the fish cannot go that fast. The average rate of the fish is about 4 miles an hour. ⁽⁹¹⁾ See the fish in the southern waters first just on the edge of the soundings. Thinks they do not show off the soundings. Thinks some of the southern fish go as far north as into the St. Lawrence River. They spread out. Around Cape Breton they branch out every

way. No doubt some of them go up
on the Labrador coast. I think a
proportionate part of the mackerel
stop when they find a place that
meets them. They stop for fuel.
Used to be a good many fish go up
through the South Channel but ha-
ven't seen them much of late years.
Last year a large body of fish come
through there. The fish which
strike the Massachusetts coast, he
thinks go around over Georges. Those
fish which come up around Boston
Bay and the Maine coast must
come up through the South Channel.
The fish that go over the south east
bank of Georges, he thinks, go on the
long main Cape Sable, which splits
them; a part going into the Bay

of Trinity and a part following the
Cape Shore. I find the first schools
of fish on Brown's Bank, about the
1st to the 10th of May. And they
would be found at Cape North about
the 25th or 26th of May; that is,
scattering fish; and between the
2nd and 3rd of June the herring go
along. These scattering ones would
go three or four days before the main
body. On the 12th of June saw lots
of fish going up toward the Gulf.
There are two schools of fish which
enter the Gulf, the first being
larger fish and distributing themselves
generally over the Gulf, while the latter
remain about the Magdalens and
Prince Edward Island, etc. The
smaller fish leave before the large

ones. The small fish leave from the first of October on. It depends upon the weather a good deal. The fish work to the westward, going out the same as they go in. If the wind is off the land and nice weather the fish will turn the land very close but if the wind is on shore they keep off. The best fishing on the Cape Shore is very close in shore, from 10 to 20 miles off. ⁽⁹⁾ He followed a single school at one time, about 5 years ago, for about 6 miles and gave it up. Cannot follow a single school any great distance. ⁽⁹⁾ There is a patch of ground off the Delaware Breakwater where the fish used to lay and feed a spell. This year they lay there a little while.

The fish ought to be out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence about the last of November. They might catch a very few into December, but not many. Has caught fish there himself the 8th of November. That is the latest he has ever caught them there. Got fish north of Scatteri this year on the 7th of November. They were going out of the Gulf. After leaving the Gulf, the fish are on the Cape Shore only a few days at the most, and passing along. If the water is all right they may trim the shore as far as Cape Sable. Some may go directly to the gulf stream. Has never followed them out to sea, but along the shore. [¶] The latter part of September the fish begin to work west. Then was

a tremendous body of fish in the Bay of Fundy in August they left and went out S.S.E. to sea to the eastward of Georges. In old times they used generally to begin to leave the latter part of September and work slowly up west by Cape Cod. This large body of fish which were found late this year in Massachusetts Bay he thinks came in from sea. They were not seen before anywhere in the Gulf of Maine. It has been reported that there were fish on Georges during the summer, and that may have been the body of fish that came in so abundantly in the fall.

Mackerel have lots of enemies. The blue fish is a very bad one, and there are porpoises, sword fish, whales, gamuts, squids and albacores. They

destroy very many fish. Nine-tenths
of the fish that are destroyed are destroyed
by these enemies, and not more than $\frac{1}{10}$
by man. I sometimes catch mackerel,
and squid with them, and when we
get fish about half squid and half
mackerel, two-thirds of the mackerel
would be disfigured; the squid would
take a piece right out of them, and
it disfigures them so we cannot put
them on the market. That happens
about all over the grounds, depending
upon the season of the year, etc.,
Considers squid one of the most de-
structive enemies to mackerel. Last
year the blue fish got into the bays
inside of the mackerel and drove them
off to sea earlier than they would
have gone otherwise. This was about

the latter part of September. It was all along the coast down as far as Grand manan. ⑨) Gannets eat a good many mackerel. Find the gannets with them in the spring from Body Island, the earliest fishing, and they follow them right along. They go on into the Gulf. ⑨) In the southern waters the sea gulls are considered an indication of the presence of mackerel. These birds feed upon the food of the mackerel, not upon the mackerel. Gulls do not feed upon mackerel. ⑨) The fish school about the same when they leave the coast as when they come on, but they do not show quite as much, the ~~weather~~ ^{weather} being colder and more stormy. ⑨) The temperature of the water makes some difference with the movements of the fish in the spring, but when it comes

time for them to move along they go up nearly the same time; may vary a day or two, but that is about all.⁽⁹⁾ When the fish get down to a cold temperature it causes them to spawn further south than they would if the water was warm. Has been in the Gulf as early as the 25th of May. The earliest he has seen fish in the Gulf was the 3rd of June, but saw no ice then then. The furthest south he has seen the fish in the fall is Cape Cod, but others have reported fish as far south as off New York. He went as far as that one fall, but got no fish. But when they went in near the land to take the fish on their way south they heard that the fish were going south broad off from the land and

he got none. ⑨) The Captain speaks
of the great uncertainty of finding
mackerel. May be on the watch
for them for two or three weeks. He
has cruised for three months over the
same ground without seeing them,
and then they would come up all
of a sudden with no indication
of where they came from. ⑨) Has
known of fish being taken in March,
about the 15th. ⑨) Has seen trunks
mackerel in the stomachs of codfish
on Georges in the winter. In
Fortune Bay, in December, has taken
a few scattering mackerel among the
herring; about a pack of them out
of 40 barrels of herring. When
those small fish are leaving the
coast undoubtedly they fall in with

there herring and get mixed in with them.

9) The furthest off shore he has ever seen mackerel was 90 miles off the Cape Shore, south from Cape Sable. Saw a school of them there in the night. Those fish go over the south-east part of Georges, about 140 or 150 miles from Cape Sable. That would be the nearest land. 9) The best fishing he ever saw was anywhere from Cape Cod to Grand manan, but there is no best fishing of late years. The whole coast was alive with fish in old days. He considers that of late years people who have kept on this coast have done the best, but he has obtained the best results in English waters during the last 8 or 9 years.

9) mackerel are generally mixed in schools. Do not run exactly the same size. There are certain schools in certain localities that are pretty much the same. Tinkers will associate with the large fish, and the large fish feed on them to a certain extent. Has taken young mackerel probably 5 or 6 inches long out of the stomachs of larger ~~fish~~ mackerel; taken off Sidney, there being as many as 5 or 6 in the stomach of a single fish.

9) The last fish he caught he, there stomachs were chock full of sand fleas. Between P.E.I. and Cape Breton, especially, all this year the stomachs of mackerel were filled with the red food during about all the season. 9) Thinks there are as

many large fish in the schools now as
there were when they began fishing.

" Mackrel feed some when they are
spawning. They go down below the
surface when they spawn. Think
they go to the bottom when they spawn.
They will remain down thru weeks
sometimes. They are very dull, logy
and sick about that time. " Mackrel
spawn all the way from down south
clear up as far north as they go.
Never saw spawn running from
mackrel in the southern fishery.
All bodies of fish do not spawn at the
same time. In some the spawn would
be ripe, and others it would be hard.
They spawn in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
in June. The latter part of June
and in July the fish will show in

schools, indicating that they have deposited their spawn, but could not say that some do not spawn in July. Has seen them with spawn in them in July and August in the Gulf, just scattering ones. Around Block Island they spawn about in May. On this coast they spawn about the same time. Consider that June is the general spawning month. Does not think there has been any decrease in the quantity. He thinks the fish do not show alike every year, and therefore the catches will vary, but has no evidence to show that they have decreased. Has seen as many mackerel this year as he ever has in his life. The fish have not shown, or come onto the coast,

during the last 6 or 7 years, which accounts for the light catch during that time. He caught, in all, 6,000 or 7,000 fish south this year.

He thinks there should be no regulation regarding the purse seine fishing at any time. Does not think it has been any injury to the fish at all. Does not think the fish need any protection before they spawn. Thinks other fish destroy a good deal more than are destroyed by man. He does not think the close season did any good. Never saw so few fish south as he saw this year. That law was passed because some of these people thought they would increase the supply, but, you know, we are all liable to mistakes. They

hopeful to increase the supply by not catching the spawning fish. The idea of that is this; if they are going to stop people from catching these mackerel before they spawn, there will be nobody to catch them at all; because unless we can catch them in the spring, we cannot get them at all to amount to much. Cannot afford to fish if they only have a few weeks to catch them in. Does not see that it makes any difference whether the mother fish are caught with the purse seine or with the traps. It is just as bad to catch them in the traps as it is with the purse seine. Might not take as many with the hook and line. They will not take the

hook so well in the spring. Never caught them well in the spring with the hook and line in the southern waters, but used to take some.

For the last 10 years, all but one, we found there small mackerel in the Gulf waters that are that years spawn. Find them in abundance, but failed to find out where they go. But the next year do not find them same fish that should be a year older. Mackerel grow quite fast the first year. Grow to 5 inches before leaving the Gulf. Knows of one man who has caught 11 barrels of these small fish and sold them for \$11. a barrel, about 1700 or 1800 in a barrel. They make chowder out of them down south. These are what they call

jumbo fish. ⁸⁾ Ten bush mackerel this year brought \$1.50 or \$2.00 a barrel, - as much as the larger fish. He caught mackerel at the Magdalens this year that 110 or 112 of them made a barrel. ⁹⁾ The spring fishing is done at a loss to some people, but he never lost any thing in it, but a large majority would lose. People in this country always take their chances. ⁸⁾ These vessels cost \$11,000 or \$12,000 with stores and two boats, and if I commission a vessel and take no quantity of fish, it is going to cost considerable money. ⁹⁾ He has made money at the southern fishing. Has been down there 18 springs. The only spring he did not get any fish he picked up a three-master that was wrecked.

Mack & others only

Gloucester, Mass.

Sam'l Solomon of Gloucester,
interviewed by William Brewham, Richard Rathbone and Hugh M. Smith,
Nov. 22, 1893.

Aged 44. Master of ~~the Gloucester~~ the

Wm H. Gross, off Gloucester,
Made his last trip

this season in the Lotti Gardner,

which came in Nov. 20, two days ago.

Has had experience in the mackerel

fishery since 1857. Began in the

munkadon fishing in 1859. At that

time used to fish for munkadon the

1st of May, and on the 13th of May

would catch our first munkadon off

home. Would work until about the
15th of August with menhaden and
then would begin on the mackerel.

Menhaden were used for toll bait in
those days for the mackerel in the

Bay. I Went south first in 1874
with Capt. Charles Lee. Began to
follow the fish up to the Cape Shore
about 7 years ago. Some had
gone on the Cape Shore a little
before that, but not a great many.

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with Capt. Charles Lee. Began to
follow the fish up to the Cape Shore
about 7 years ago. Some had
gone on the Cape Shore a little
before that, but not a great many.

When the schools go north from the south, it looks as if a good many fish that go on the Cape Shore strike right in from off-shore. There is a proportionate number that cross Georges from the southward. When we first come in with the fish on the Cape Shore, do not have very hard work to catch them. They are moving along quite rapidly, but about every school we get a chance to set at

we catch. Before they get to the Cape Shore do not catch many, as they are moving fast. I thinks that when they sink they are on the spawning ground. There have been years when we caught them right along all the season. In 1874 the large fish that were off South Shoal light ship the whole of June and July, when they struck our coast, never sunk for the whole year. The bulk of the fish were caught that year with the purse seine. I fish a little every year with the hook and line. Do not catch as well with the hook and line as they used to. I sometimes see the spawn running from the mackerel. Has seen it as ^{long} ~~far~~ as from the 20th of June to along about the 15th to 18th of July, both on this coast and in

the Bay Chaleur; that is, the Gulf of St Lawrence. ⁹⁾ Was engaged in the hand line fishery two seasons, - 1862-3, from about the 20th of July. That would be all up and down Prince Edward Island and the Magdalens, and up to the northward. ⁹⁾ Does not think they find as many large fish as they used to. ⁹⁾ Does not think there are as many fish as there used to be. ⁹⁾ There are more seines catching them now. Used to be more hook and lines than there are now. The seining did not disturb the fish much, but made it difficult to catch them with hook and line. ⁹⁾ Fish these late years do not show as they used to when he first commenced to go with his father; who is the oldest man at the business in this place,

and the first man who started with
the pure sines. Capt. Rome's father's
name is Solomon Rome. His father
first began to use the pure sine in
about 1851. Never used to go further
south than Cape Cod and off Barnstable
Bay and Cape Ann, with the pure
sines. When they fished in the
beginning around Cape Cod and Cape
Ann, used to go about the 1st of May.
That is, when they first began to go
seining here. ⁹⁾ Does not know whether
the fish have decreased or not. They
do not show as they used to. Used
to have no trouble in catching fish.
Used to see them ringing right round
and round. Now they are going as fast
as they can go. ⁹⁾ Menhaden generally
go along slow, hardly ever caught.

The movements of the mackerel are regulated a good deal by the winds. S. SW. are the best winds for catching mackerel. Thinks the weather has a good deal to do with the fish; that is, in showing. There have been years when the pure seine has injured the fish, and other years it has not. It injured them when they threw away so many. That was about in 1880. He went south in 1885. Was in with 4 trips, and did not get enough to pay his expenses. Had 130 barrels the first trip, and did not get \$10. out of it. Caught in 1200 barrels and got \$600. out of them that spring. The more seines we set the wilder the fish seem to get. The more anything is hectorized the quicker it will get out

of the way. A year ago this summer we set 12 times and got 11 schools of fish. The next day did not set so many times, but they were harder to catch. He does not think any legislation should be put upon catching fish. If they have to go fishing, thinks they should go the whole ~~seas~~ round. The more fish there are caught the less there are in the water, but does not think the fleet that has been operating the last few years has caught enough to do them any particular harm. We commence a good deal earlier to catch fish now than we used to, but knock off earlier in the fall; that is, most of the vessels. The fish we catch in the spring before a certain date are full of spawn. If there were a million barrels of fish caught in the spring that are full of spawn; if

they were let go there would be just so many more fish in the water. I do not think the close season for the past five years has helped the fishing any. When we used to go south we could keep around the fish and do well. This year there were no fish caught there. This is the first year he has been south since the law was put on. There was a heavy body of fish south this spring but very few caught. I would not think it wise to make a close season early in the year. Thinks the close season ought to be from the 15th of June to the 1st of August. Haully thinks it would be advisable to have such a close season, as they have it haul enough now. Menhaden on this coast used to be very plenty, but since they got them large

oil works started on this coast menhaulin seemed to disappear, and are not as abundant as they used to be.

¶ The best fishing is from August to the last of September. That is, we get the biggest prices then, and probably the most fish. ¶ The Gulf of St. Lawrence is not a profitable fishing as a whole. Never make a great amount of money down there. ¶ Never saw more fish in his life on the Cape Shore going into the Gulf than he saw this spring. They were more abundant there than they were south this year. A large body of fish went into the Gulf this year. Has not been fishing but about 7 yrs. on the Cape Shore. Sus there fish going that way every spring he has been there. ¶ The fish strike the

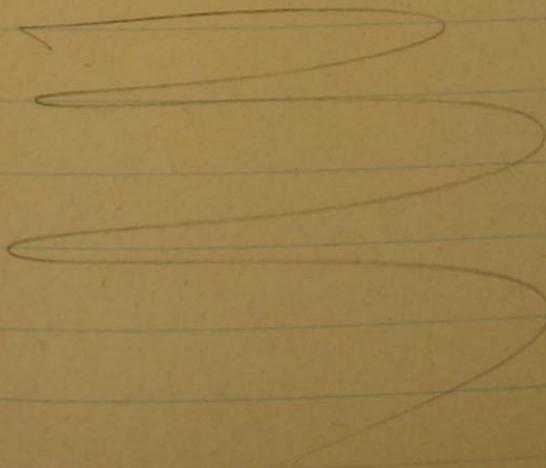
Cape Shore some springs at what we call Cape Nigru, about 30 miles east of Cape Sable, and other years further to the east. This year the first fish we saw ^{were} off White Head (a) 15 miles to the westward of Canso. The was down there as early as the others. They generally strike the Cape Shore about the 2nd of May, and from that to the first of June. The 5th of May is about the usual time. I think Capt. Joseph Sain got his first fish a little earlier than they were seen off White Head, at Egg Rock, probably 20 miles to the east of Halifax. And others caught them about 20 miles to the eastward of him. All this was before they saw them at White Head. There are large fish that go down at

Cape Shore some springs at what we call Cape Miggan, about 30 miles east of Cape Sable, and other years further to the east. This year the first fish we saw ^{were} ~~them~~ off White Head^(W) 15 miles to the westward of Canso. He was down there as early as the others. They generally strike the Cape Shore about the 25th of May, and from that to the first of June. The 5th of May is about the usual time. I think Capt. Joseph Swain got his first fish a little earlier than they were seen off White Head, at Egg Rock, probably 20 miles to the east of Halifax. And others caught them about 20 miles to the eastward of him. All this was before they saw them at White Head. Those are large fish that go down at

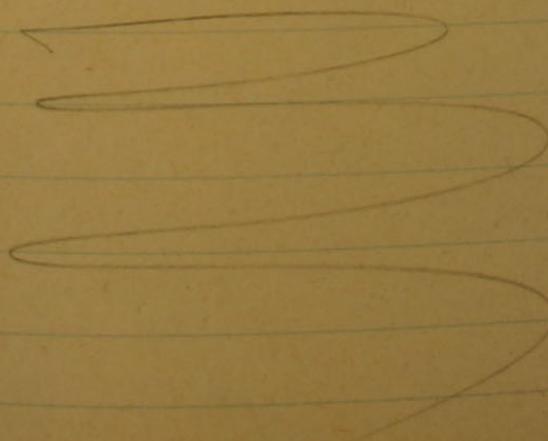
that time. They go in around Cape
North. Probably some ^{of this first school} go up through
the Gut of Canis. ⁹⁾ There is also a
second school comes along that is a
more medium fish - 1^o and 2^o.

They come about 2 or 3 days later than
the large ones. They generally go
through the Gut more than they go
around. ⁹⁾ He has been up to 7 Isds.
and 60 miles north of 7 Islands,
and has caught fish on the hook
up there in 1857. Knows of their
occurring up as far as that. Knows
of the medium fish which they suppose
to belong to the second school being
caught up as far as Magdalen River
and 7 Islands. ⁹⁾ The length of the
fish in the first school is from
14 to 16 and 17 inches. The second

school about 11 to 13 inches. There is another school that strikes them and stays on the Cape Shore all summer. You will find them most generally in the bays. They do not catch many of these. Those fish are about 6 or 7 inches which stay in the bays and rivers on the Cape Shore, up around Dover. So far as he knows, they are rarely taken at all. You will see them along about the first of August, and from that on.



school about 11 to 13 inches. ⁹) Then there is another school that strikes them and stays on the Cape Shore all summer. You will find them most generally in the bays. They do not catch many of these. Those fish are about 6 or 7 inches which stay in the bays and rivers on the Cape Shore, up around Dover. So far as he knows, they are rarely taken at all. You will see them along about the first of August, and from that on.



Boston, Mass.

Sept 19th 1873 M. H. C. P.
and William Baker Boston Mass. M. Smith
Nov 22, 1873

Dear Dr. Purcell Quincy, Jr.

You had 30 years' experience as
fisherman. All that time under
several fishery. When they went
looking altogether used to go cod fishing
at about the 4th of July, and then
start for the Gulf of St Lawrence.
I do not think mackerel are as abundant
as when he first went fishing. In
see he caught a try in a web with
the boats, and when he started for
home they were for 20 or 25 miles though
nothing but solid mackerel in every
direction. Now if you see them
extending for 6 miles you think it
is a pretty good bank. Has seen
them at Prince Edwards Islands, nothing
but mackerel, in shore and off.
In 1853 we went into the Bay, - left

on the 14th or 15th and about the 22nd
of June got to North Cape and caught
30 barrels the first day. The next
day we went around west of the Cape,
and took 60 barrels, and the next day 40.
Then we run up the Bay of Baffin and
caught 108 barrels in three days there.
Then left there and went on Croakers
Bank, and in three days filled our
vessel full. In just 28 days we got
back home with a full trip. ⁹⁾ There
was a large fleet there that year.
The whole American fleet, about 300
vessels. just as many fishing there
then as now, but the vessels were not
large, about 15 to 18 men, more or less.
About 65 tons would be the average.
Has been south fishing 8 or 9 years for
fish mackerel. But 2 or 3 years

salt mackerel fishing. ⑨ When they went hooking, used to start south about the first of May. Would meet the fish a little south of New York. Occasionally as far as the mouth of the Delaware. Then would go north with them. Would follow them as far north as Vineyard Sound, when they would have about a trip. ⑨ The fish then would sink for spawning, and you might not get any. They would be down about 10 days, and none would be seen schooling. ⑨ Then they would come home and go down to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some started as early as the first of June. Has known vessels to leave here the latter part of May, but the bulk of the fleet went in the Gulf along the

4th of July. That is, they would leave
here about the 4th. Get into the
Gulf about the 10th or 20th. That
fishing ceased about 1872. ⁹⁾ Commonly
they get lots of sunfish then. As the
sunfish increased the hook and line
fishing diminished, because there
was no bait heaved. ⁹⁾ The fish
work a little wider off now in going
down to the Gulf than they used to.
No fish on this coast at all now.
Thinks that the constant sowing of
fish at the south has driven them
off shore. He thinks that this
year and last year they have worked
in again, because there has been no
one driving at them for the last 4
or 5 years. ⁹⁾ Once if you began
sowing in the night would always

got a school of mackerel, but now
you miss them about as often as you
do in the day. There is a change to
be noticed in the habits of mackerel,
from earlier times. The ~~=~~ ^{cocks} trawls
drive ~~them~~ from one bank to another.
~~This is, end fish.~~ What kills
fish with the trawls so much, is
lots of fish lying dead on the bottom
on those trawls, and the fish will
never stop there. Will leave that
ground afterwards. A great many
trawls lost that way. They have
lost a whole set, and not got a hook
out of the whole set. A vessel the
other day lost 40,000 hooks at one
set. Trawl fishing injures shore
fishing. I have been catching
mackerel on the Cape Shore in the

sprung for 10 or 12 years. Did not go
before that because they did not know
the fish were there so early. Did not
think they were so plenty. Considerus
the Cape Shore, if clear weather, about
a sure thing. Some springs it is
so foggy that they get very few.
Needs to be good weather. ⁹⁾ The fish
then go right in to the Gulf and
feed on the bottom. If people
would have boats there as they used
to would catch them just the same.
Never knew so many fish off Marguia
and some of those places as there were
this fall. ⁹⁾ Has fished up the River
St Lawrence to St Amrs. Has seen
plenty of fish up there. Has not
been to the 7 Islands since about
1858. ⁹⁾ In 1881-2-3-4 there was as

and the Bay of Fundy
good fishing on this coast has we have
ever had. The vessel he was in
cleared \$15,000. one year. They used
to get lots of mixed fish up there, and
would throw the small ones away.
If the purse seine were given up, he
thinks the fishing could go on with
hand lines just as well as before.
Around Block Island and No man's land
every year about 100 sails, small
crews, go there to fish with hook and
line, and they have bait and keep
fish biting there every year. Would
make the close season up to the 1st of
July. About the first of June is
just the time when they are spawning.
Fish spawn around Block Island the
latter part of June. On the coast
of Maine and on this coast they sink

and you do not see many of them.
In the Gulf fish do not spawn
much before the first of July, and
into July. Has seen fish caught
the latter part of July full of spawn
that is scattering ones. ⁹⁾ Late this
fall a school of fish struck at
No man's land, and were just as
full as spring mackerel and full
of spawn. That was in October.
Would allow them to fish with hook
and line at any time. The more bad
they have the better it would be.
Thinks it would be better not to use
the purse seine at all. As a
compromise, would say that a close
season up to the 1st of July would do
some good. ⁹⁾ He was the first one
that ever went into the Gulf with

a purse seine. That was in 1854. We smuggled it over to fish with it. Got the seine here and got a Nova Scotia vessel and put it in. A part of our crew went from there. Did not have the right to fish down there then. That was the only vessel there that year. Did not go down there again with the purse seine. Solomon Raine was the first man to catch mackerel off here in deep water with the purse seine. That was in 1855. ^④ I thinks a larger number of people were benefitted in the old days of hook and line than now.

^④ In the spring the fish go about E.N.E. All the fish that go up in the Nova Scotia region come from

the gulf stream over Georges and down to the Nova Scotia coast. But those fish that strike Scatter about the same time were never out as far as Georges. The fish that are south get along about Nantucket and Block Island and then they stay and spawn. The fish here in Cape Cod Bay are the spring and the ones that strike down along the Delaware and Chesapeake. They work along in about 28 to 40 fathoms of water. The school that comes into Cape Cod Bay comes in through Nantucket Shoals and around there. Think some come through Vineyard Sound, because they catch them in the traps at Falmouth. Think these outer schools used to go down closer in shore before the use of purse seine.

Have had traps on the Nova Scotia
shore for mackerel about 20 odd years.
In returning south from the north
they used to hug the shore closer than
they do now. Used to catch so many
at Canso and How Island years ago
that they could not handle them.

There is a first school of very large
fish goes into the Gulf and then
there is a small one. They catch
the first school about the latter
part of May and the second school
comes along not long afterwards, and
then a small school comes along about
the last of July. Those fish that go
in late do not go far north. The
second school does not go very far
to the north. Not much farther
than North Cape or since Edwards Id.

Always large fish in the northern part of the Gulf, and the small fish around P.E.I. Never see small fish around the Magdalens. Fish at times go through the Gut of Canso. The second schools are apt to go through the Gut of Canso.

Calls Antigonish Bay, what Dr. Wakeham calls St. Georges Bay). The best hooking he ever saw was from Cape George to Pankelt Island. Those were large fish. When the fish are going south they go out through the Gut of Canso also. Thinks the wind has a good deal to do with it. Does not know when the large fish are all out of the Gulf. Has caught them on the hook the 16th day of November off

Georgetown. Caught 45 bands
one day and 65 another. Does
not know whether they stay later
than that or not. Has caught
mackerel the 25th of November on
the coast of Maine. Vessels
knock off earlier now than when
they went hooking. They will
fish around Block Island until as
late as December. Has sometimes
caught them there then. The further
off shore he has run fish at the
south was the edge of the gulf stream,
just about on the edge of ~~the~~ soundings
in about 100 fathoms of water.

Has now caught mackerel in the
winter, unless it was a few scattering
ones on Georges in codfish. Once
in a great while they will catch a few

scattering ones among the herring at
Newfoundland. While torching herring
last night in Ipswich Bay they caught
quite a lot of mackerel mixed with the
herring. Those would be this spring's
mackerel. A few were last year's spawn.
These were about 5 inches in length,
but a few would go 7 or 8 inches. The
best place for hook and line fishing
on this coast is around Block Island,
Gay Head and No Man's Land. For
purse seining it does not make any
difference. They will go until they find
them. Some of the best places to
hook mackerel are right off brooks
and such places. Never saw them
amongst the ice.

All kinds of fish prey upon
mackerel, that are large enough. Good

fish, porpoises, sharks, sword fish,
and all sorts of fish. On this coast
blue fish are the most destructive.
There is a fish that is worse than
any of them, especially in the Gulf
of St. Lawrence, and that is albacore.
Squid cannot trouble mackerel a great
deal, but will eat them up if they
get them in the nets, but they do
not drive them. Cannot do much
with them in the open sea.

⑨ Some years there will be all
sizes of fish in the same school.
At Block Island this year there would
be 3 or 4 different sizes. The first
school that goes in the Gulf of St.
Lawrence are all large fish. They
mix up more on this coast than
they do in the Gulf. Those big fish

in the Gulf keep clear of the summer fish. Some fish stay on the Cape Shore during the season. The first schools pass right along and do not stop. The first fish that come along go very fast; as fast as you can sail. Some of these fish go up to the 7 Islands. They are all the largest kind.

The red snet is the most common food for mackarel, unless it is along sandy beaches, when you get ^{the} sand fleas. They feed upon shrimps also.

All-eyes are a little bit of a fish about an inch long. Mackarel feed upon them a good deal. Find those all-eyes in the Bay of Sandy out of sight of land. Will see the water all full of them. Do not notice

that they are in schools. Never notice them in the Gulf. ⁹⁾ It is hard to tell whether mackerel feed much during the spawning season or not. Before they spawn they will feed. Will bite like everything on the hook just before they spawn. ⁹⁾ After they get the spawn out of them they fatten up fast. Will fatten a little before they get the spawn all out; for the reason that they stop going so fast when they get ready to spawn, and will then begin to fatten up. ⁹⁾ Does not think mackerel grow very much during the winter, because the small fish that have in the fall, the first you see in the spring are about the same size. ⁹⁾ Very early in the spring

never see schools about 5 inches in length.
One spring Capt. Gray caught a school
that were so small he could hardly
keep them in the net. That was about
12 years ago. This year out around
Block Island there were millions and
millions of 5 inch fish, and, in fact,
they have been there for 4 or 5 years.
Fish that were spawned the year before.
Mackerel come back to the same place
where they were spawned. I never heard
of mackerel being seen out beyond the
Gulf stream in winter. Saw fish in
the night in 1862, about the 4th or 5th
of January, down off the Virginia
coast, about 15 or 18 miles off shore.
Knew they were mackerel. Was going
down for a cargo of oysters.
Some day mackerel will be bigg

and the next day as wild as the dance.
Do not seem to be very logy just
before spawning. There are times
when they get sort of logy and dead
when they get filled with that red
feed. Some years we think there
are going to be large schools the
next year, and it turns out the other
way, and another year think they
are going to be poor, and it turns
right around the other way. Cannot
tell much about it, when there are
lots of small fish one year, whether
there will be large schools the next.

The spring schools in coming up,
will go about 15 miles each day and
each night. About 20 miles in 24 hrs.
Sometimes they will go about 60 miles in 24
hours. Has run fish in the middle of the day
when you could not keep up with them in a row boat.

Accts R.

Capt. W. G. Pool, of Gloucester.

(over)

November 15, 1892.

Aged 54 yrs. Been engaged in mackerel fishing about 27 yrs. Been a captain for 27 yrs. Was fishing for mackerel before that. ^{mainly of} ~~some of his~~ ^{several} ~~is the~~ George F. Edmonds, of Gloucester.

Mackerel are of different sizes in schools, but often find schools all the same size. They will range in length from 17 in. down to 7 inches. Sometimes the larger fish would predominate. The largest mackerel that school are from 14 to 18 inches. Does not remember taking any that were 20 inches in length. Might be a very few scattering ones. Smallest mackerel he ever saw schooling were probably about 6 inches in length. They were spawned ^{the same} ~~last~~ year. They were from 5 to 6 inches long; some probably not so long as that. That is, fish hatched in the spring

would attain in the fall the size of 5 or 6 inches. (#) thinks large mackerel are as abundant as they used to be, in proportion to the amount taken. Does not know of any decrease in the, ~~in~~ proportional size. Has not been south mackerel fishing for the last 6 yrs. Stopped going south when the close season began. Has taken mackerel as far south as the latitude of Cape Henry. These early fish in the spring, as a general thing, are all headed north. These fish are most all schooling, some scattering fish. The farthest north he has caught any fish in the spring was Point Mision. Could not say how far north the fish that start in off Cape Henry go. They have been trying to find this out for a number of years. Some go into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

⑨

2. You do not think that they stop at the Bay of Fundy, and other schools coming in further north are the ones which go into the Gulf?

⑩ It is owing to the season. Some go off shore and strike down by Cape Sable.

⑪ When he first sees them in the spring they are very poor. They are not all in spawning condition. Has picked out a few mackerel in the spring as far as in August, but only once in a while one. ⑫ Has never been able to trace a school of mackerel any distance with any surety. Thinks they do sometimes. ⑬ The farthest north he has fished was off Gaspé. Got fish there about the first of July.

⑭ Cannot say the fish are any different now from what they used to be in size. They run about the same as

when he first commenced to catch them with seines; and the movements of the schools are the same; and the condition of the fish is the same.

¶ The fish do not leave the coast very suddenly. Owing a good deal to the weather. If cold will leave quicker. A heavy cold wind will start them sometimes, especially a northeast gale. Some scattering mackerel left on the coast after the schools have gone. Take these scattering ones with hook and line, and with nets. On leaving the coast the fish generally take a southerly route. Never followed them farther south in the fall than Block Island. Some seasons they go off shore when leaving. Fish that come out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence follow up to Cape Sable, and then go south outside of Georges Bank.

The fish which are on the coast of Maine go down close to shore as a general thing. Do not know of any one who has followed mackerel south of Clock Island in the fall. Ease following them there because the weather gets bad. Does not think they travel south in the fall any faster than they move north in the spring. Does not see much difference. They make about 20 miles in 24 hrs. both in the spring and in the fall. Has heard of scattering mackerel being as late as the 25th of Dec., Christmas time, but after that do not see any mackerel at all. Has heard of mackerel being caught in January on traps, and on hook and line, on Jeffreys Banks; on the middle of the Banks. Have seen mackerel caught down

off New Brunswick in herring nets in February; probably there might be half a bbl. or so among a hundred barrels of herring, more or less. No 2 mackerel. They were caught at Beaver Harbor, Parhamagoudy Bay. These winter mackerel would be about 11 inches in length. would be very poor.

④ Q. When mackerel strike in at Cape Henry, how long before they get ~~to~~ to Cape Cod or ~~or~~ Block Island?

⑤ Well, we catch them there sometimes about the 10th of April. As a general thing about the middle or last of May, we get them at Block Island. Has caught mackerel off the coast of Nova Scotia about the 20th of May. Get them on the coast of Nova Scotia as early as at Block Is.

That would indicate that they might strike in from off shore. Mackerel strike in ^{at} to Cape Sable and two days after we hear of their catching them at Canso in the nets. Mackerel that go in at Cape Sable move right along the shore. Others strike in directly at Canso. On the Cape Sable shore mackerel strike about the 1st of June. ^⑨ Does not know of any part of the coast which they keep away from. ^⑩ They are more plentiful in the Bay of Fundy as a rule than anywhere else on the coast. Calls it the Bay of Fundy anywhere inside of a line drawn from Cape Sable to Matinicus. That is the best fishing grounds on our shore. More plentiful in the Bay of Fundy than in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some years when they are so plentiful

in the Bay of Fundy they are apt to be
scarce in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; not
always the case. They were the most
plentiful in the Bay of Fundy in 1884,
and were just as plentiful in the
Gulf of St. Lawrence. They were small
sized fish. ^{He} found mackerel the most
plentiful in the Gulf, in 1886, thinks
it was, between North Cape and
Escuminac. That is the only season
he ever found good fishing in the
Gulf of St. Lawrence. Vessels used
to do better hooking than scining
there. Do not catch as many fish
there now as they did then. Have not
for the last few years. During the
last 4 yrs. have not caught as much
fish as formerly. Seem to catch
the most fish as they are going into
the gulf, and coming out. Does not
know any particular reason why they
should not be as abundant there.

which generally follow the fish.
Westerly drift fishing ground,
will be the most plentiful.
The farthest off shore he ever found
it was about 120 miles. ^③ Has fed
school in July on Georges Bank.
They were working to the northward.
Has never fished much on Georges in
the fall. ^③ Has seen mackerel in
large schools right shore in shore
of the rocks, & on the beaches.
Saw a great many different fish
going after mackerel. About all
big fish prey upon them. They often
scatter the schools away. Blue fish
will drive mackerel off the coast.
Whales are as bad as Blue fish. Could
not say whether whales trouble them or
not; but they are found among the
schools. These predaceous fish drive the
mackerel away from our rocks turn
them from their course. Does not

~~I don't think sharks drive mackerel.~~
Dogfish will drive them. Always expect
to find mackerel when a large body
of blue fish comes on the coast. They
clear them out. Never see ~~bluefin~~^{bluefin} farther
^{or east} than the coast of Maine.

No mackerel caught on this coast last
fall.

① (Dr. Wakeham ^{stated} ~~reports~~ that at Grand
Manan blue fish had been seen, some
years ago, about 1888. The fishermen
coming home from the Banks reported
schools of blue fish about half way
between Matinicus and Cape Sable.
That was the year that the menhaden
reappeared on the coast of Maine,
after an absence of 10 years.)

② Mackerel feed on red seal, or
cayenne, on small shrimp, and on
small fish, about $\frac{1}{4}$ in long. Has
seen jelly fish in the stomachs when
dressing them. Never noticed any

particular kind of fish at one time
of the year and other kinds at another
time. Some years will not see much
salmon, and at those times do not see
large schools of fish on shore.

Is to be the principal thing that
the fish put upon. Has seen it as
far as he has been north. Has seen
it up in the Gulf of St Lawrence.
Herring feed on it also. Have seen
herring full of it off Newfoundland
in the winter. When mackerel are
in schooling they are feeding on the
surface. Does not think they put so
much in the spring when making their
passage. It is the red fish that have
the stomach. Does not know of any
other kind that does. It prevents their
being kept fresh. Cannot keep them
very long without ice. Used to lose a
good many. Now we have pocket
kettles we turn them into, so we do not

lose any at all. Socks are rigged on
the side of vessel, made of heavy twine.
Turn the fish out of the seine into these
pockets. All vessels carry these pockets.
Get fish in warm weather, put them
on deck, and they would get soft before
we could dress them. Some fish die
in the pockets; those that have been
injured. They would live long enough
so as to dress a large school. ^(D) The red
cod has no particular distribution.
Find it more or less every where.

^(D) Mackerel spawn as soon as they
go in the bay ^(Gulf of St. Lawrence) is a general thing. Some
spawn will be ripe when they first catch
fish in April or May. Will find them
ripe at Block Island by the time they
catch them there. Never catch many
fish on the coast of Maine with
spawn in them. Most of them
spawn before they get there. Spawning

along Block Island, Nantucket,
Georges and Cape Cod. They find
spawning fish in the Gulf of St.
Lawrence the last of June. They
catch mackerel with spawn in them
the middle of July in the Gulf of
St. Lawrence. Could not say how
far off shore they spawn. Thinks
they spawn on Georges. Do not
know whether they spawn at the
surface or not, but thinks they
spawn at the bottom. Does not
know whether they spawn during
the day or night. They disappear
during the spawning season. They
disappear the last of June, and it
is the middle or 1st of July before
they come up plentiful again.
Get only scattering fish during
that time. [¶] The fish in the spring
run before spawning are very poor.

They begin to fatten up some by the middle or last of July.
Find very few sick mackerel. Lazy mackerel are very poor, sick fish. Never saw dead mackerel at the surface. They seem to be very dull about the spawning time. Take mackerel in the spring on the Nova Scotia shore, generally catch about every school they set for, because they appear to be less active then. The first schools on the Cape Shore are nearly all large and full of spawn. Nothing smaller than 11 inch fish.

④ Does not think there has been any decrease in the abundance of ~~herring~~ mackerel, As many as when he began fishing. Some seasons more plentiful than others. Large catch of fish in

1884. Caught over 4000 lbs.
that year. For 5 or 6 years
before had not caught over 200
lbs. Since then has not caught
so many, although he has made
good catches. This summer we
supposed there were no fish on the
coast, and they struck in here
all along the coast, and some
got good catches, although I did
not happen to be one of them.
They struck in October 1, off
Matinicus, then all along the
coast of Massachusetts, and
large catches were made, lasted
about three weeks.

⑨ Does not think the purse
seine has done any harm.
Years ago when I was a youngster
used to be 700 or 800 sail on
the coast all fishing with hook

and line. Purse seine has no effect in breaking up or scattering schools. Does not think the purse seine fishery should be regulated in any way. Does not think it is necessary. ⁽²¹⁾ Does not think the close season of any benefit to the mackerel fishery. They have been no more plentiful since the close season than they were before. Would be no object in prohibiting purse seine fishing prior to June 1. Many of these fish are sold fresh. Certain market for poor fish. Get fair prices for them. Do not get the biggest prices in the spring. Prices average all the way from $\$10$. to $\$15$. for these poor fish. South mackerel fishery would pay first rate if they did not get too many

vessels down there. Does not think there is any great advantage in starting out early, not before April at least. Is in favor of keeping up the early mackerel fishery. Has followed it up about twelve years. Made it pay on an average. Does not think mackerel need any protection. Thinks they spawn more some seasons than others. Does not think there is any region where purse seining should be prohibited. Does not think purse seining hurts the hook and line fishing along shore. More mackerel destroyed by predaceous fishes than by fishing. Total amount of mackerel taken only a small proportion of the mackerel they see. Purse seine fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence not very profitable. Did very well there one year; caught two trips. Thinks it was in 1883. Does not

I think there would be much opposition
to the prohibition of purse seine fishing
in the Gulf of St Lawrence. The Gulf
used to be a famous fishing ground with
hook and line. ^(D) Has not fished much
with hook and line. If vessels would
not take any seines now, and would
fish with hook and line as they used
to do in old times, would do just as
well as they ever did. Hook and line
fishing would do well on our coast.
Never saw fish bite any better at
Block Island than they did this
summer. ^(D) No difference in quality of
the fish, between the purse and hook
and line fish, since they got the
pockets over the sides of the vessel
for holding the mackerel alive. ^(D) Purse
seine fishermen would not want to go
back to the hook + line fishery.
Thanks about $\frac{1}{13}$ of the mackerel taken

by U.S. fishermen, are caught with
purse seine. Fish caught on the coast
of Nova Scotia, etc., not included in
this proportion. Fish are caught more
cheaply with the purse seine than by
other methods, else it would not be
kept up. But it is a more costly
outfit. Vessels get more fish with the
purse seine. ^(P) Seine will last, if well
taken care of, 4 or 5 yrs. Average
cost of seine \$700. Purse seine now
is a great deal longer and deeper than
when he first began to use them.
The first seine he had was 140 fathoms
long and 500 meshes deep. Now they
have 240 fathoms long and 1000
meshes deep; about 17 fathoms in
depth. Used 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch mesh in
purse seines. Never larger than 2 in.
Size of mesh in gill net 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 in.
stretched. ^(P) Does not know much about

the steam launch. Says Capt Hartly used one this summer. Does not think he got enough more fish in his purse seine to pay the extra expense. It requires the same crew. Boat greatly heavier to tow. Risk of losing greater. Cost about \$2200. \$250. for new boat.

(D) There is not much feeling on the part of the shore fishermen against the purse seine. Does not think the purse seine frightens the fish away from the shore. might for an hour or so, but not materially.

(E) Thinks pounds the most destructive things in use

Thinks there is a certain school of mackerel that strike onto the coast of Nova Scotia, and go into the Gulf. Does not think purse seines would particularly affect

their abundance after they get into the Gulf. Our seines are used on our coast more than anywhere, and does not see that they have driven the mackerel away any. That goes to prove that they would have no effect on them in the Gulf of St. L.

① As a general thing mackerel are by themselves; no other fish with them. Have caught "blue backs" with them. They are mixed with mackerel more than any other species. Also find some shad, but very few. Do not catch blue fish with mackerel very often. Mackerel clear out when blue fish put in an appearance. No blue fish around when they first see mackerel in the south.

② Thinks mackerel must lay off on the edge of the gulf stream, but has spoken square rigged vessels in

the spring that said they saw fish
on the other side of the gulf stream
in April.

① Mackerel are at their best in September. Begin to get poor as they start to go south. Does not think they grow much during the winter. Mackerel grow very fast in the summer season, until they get up to a certain size, about 11 or 12 inches. Does not think they feed much in the winter.

① Thinks some seasons there are lots of mackerel going through the Gut of Canse, late schools. Has known them to come out that way. Has seen them schooling in the Straits.

(Dr Wakeham has known Leandre Michel, at Meccatnia, to catch over 50 barrels; were caught with

drag seine, lerring seine, in September. Others have been taken at Bon ^{Es}sprance at the end of the Straits of Belle Isle. Does not know of mackerel being taken in the Straits).

① Has known of mackerel being taken in White Bay, on the northeast coast of Newfoundland. Thinks they must have been going through the straits of Bell Isle, as he has never known of their passing by St. Johns, on the southern coast. But mackerel have been taken in Fortune Bay.

② Dr Wakeham thinks they are not taking mackerel at Mecatina

③ Capt. Harry Smith took 100 bbls. or more mackerel on a hook about St Georges Bay, the southwest corner of Newfoundland,

(24)

about 15 years ago, in the last
of October, in a snow storm.

23

R.
1914.1.1

Interviewed by William Wataham and Hugh M. Smith
November 16, 1893

Capt. Geo. M. McLain,
of Provincetown, Mass.

Aged 53. Master of vessel
22 yrs. Has been fishing since he
was 11 years old. ^{Master of vessel} Marguerite Haskins.

Has not been south since the
close season ^{began}. Before that went
nearly 20 years steady.Leave
here about 25th April, and meet
the fish abreast of Delaware.
Hardly ever went farther south.

Twenty odd years ago went south
as far as Cape Henry. One day got
2 wash barrels just inside of the
light. Never went south before
the purse seine came into use.
Went south 3 or 4 years before
with hook and line. Did not go
so far south as with seines. Met
fish when jigging hardly east to
the south of Delaware. Mostly

off Cape May, along about
the first of May. Followed them
up abreast of Sandy Hook, New
York, and down Long Island.
After got to running them south, and
to go further south; down as far
as Hatteras. Never got any (himself)
mackerel as far south as Hatteras.
Never got any mackerel in the ^{4th} stream.
Never saw any there.

Sometimes they would take
the hook early, other times they
would not; just as it happened.
As a general thing would not get
very big fishing in the spring at
first. Would be in heavy bodies
some years when we first met
them, some years in small bodies.
When first going running south,
the first mackerel were all large;
after we had been a spell were all

In the early years and
at least until about 1860 we
had many more of them than we
have of late years. First met
up with the procession in
not much finer sailing
than spring before that. I then
learned that Capt. ^{Henderson} Hurd, was the first man
about 1765.

When we first see them
off the south, in the region of Long
Island, they are going about parallel
with the coast, about north west.
When they get abreast of
New York they head more to the
westward. When he sees them
they are sometimes sailing
and sometimes scattered, just as
happens. When he finds
them they are poor, and full
of spawn. Does not think there

is much difference in the size of spring schools and those that come later. The size of the schools has been growing smaller late years, very much so.

The fish in the schools are mostly in the surface, previously were super bodies. Has followed these spring schools as far north as Cape Breton. Followed them right along shore across Georges, and strike them on western part of Nova Scotia and Cape Sable.

Sometimes would strike them down at Canso. They do not always strike on the western part of Nova Scotia and follow the coast right down, but seem to strike all in one day, as though they came right in within 24 hours. Would strike Canso as quick as they

and strike Cape Sable. This
is of the schools seen south in the
spring stop on the ~~bay~~ shore
near Motia Shore as they go
long. but thinks there is another
that comes in from off shore
at the edge of the Gulf Stream
that strike further to the
eastward than any that go in
the spring here, that strike
the Cape Shore and go into the
Gulf of St Lawrence. Would
expect to strike that later body
at about the same date eastward.
They do not vary much. ^② The
earliest he ever caught fresh
water was about the 22^d of April.
They were about half way from the
freshwater to the bays of Baja California,
about lat. of Chincoteague. never
got any before. ^③ greater distance

we saw mackerel straight off
the coast was about 50 miles.
But sometimes they get them south-
east from New York 120 to 130
miles off. but could not be over
70 or 80 miles off the Jersey coast.
To the eastward of New York get them
little nearer in. ② When the fish
are in the fall they follow the
wind about the same as they do
in the spring. They take a north-
and south course until they get close
to the coast. See them in large
bodies in the fall when they get
ready to leave. Does not think
they move much faster in the fall
unless they are a little late or it
comes on heavy weather. They
travel about 12 to 15 miles in 24
hours. Has not followed them
very far south in the fall, at

Rock Island, 20 to 30 miles offshore from Roman's Land. Then they were winding up in the fall; that is as far south as he has been. ⁽²⁾ The fish are as fat about the middle of September as they will be that year. When they get ready to go south they lose flesh a little. ⁽³⁾ No mackerel here now. ⁽⁴⁾ Has never caught mackerel in the winter. Has heard of their being taken out of other fish on longings in midwinter; small mackerel, about 7 or 10 inches. Never taken there in great numbers; just scattering fish. Fish have been caught in the winter down around Grand Manan in some of the years not many years ago; cannot say what month, but after the

gulls have knocked off.
Have seen signs that we thought
certain bodies of fish worked
up the Cape Shore and struck
here, but did not know for
certain.

The early run of fish are
large; of late years all we get
on the Cape Shore are large.
never catch any small ones.
No difference in the size between
fish caught here and those
caught at Cape Shore. If
they find a large number of small
mackerel south in the spring.
it does not follow that they
will find them small on the Cape
Shore. Find them at Grand
Manan, or thereabouts. Not
many fish on this coast that
size. After June they find the

best fishing from Cape Cod to
Brisk Island; sometimes off shore;
and sometimes in shore. May
come into the South Channel and
play off shore 30 or 50 miles
perhaps from land, and may
come on the coast and go right
into the bays, just as it happens.
Of late years more apt to go into the
rivers and bays; all along the
coast of Maine from Portland
to Eastport. Have known fish
to go up the rivers into the "gunks"
as we call it. Have caught them
up the rivers, in Johns Bay, and
up around Georges river. Rockland
Bay, and up Penobscot and around
Kennebec, up in the Machias ~~—~~
river; Casco ~~eg~~ Bay is a great
place for them. Apt to find them
inshore more than offshore of

late years, especially in the summer months. Thinks one reason why they go inshore and up the bays and rivers is to get better feed, sometimes to get away from blue fish; generally something forces them in, — scares them. The schools are affected by other fish preying upon them. Has known blue fish, bonitos or allacore to cause periods of scarcity in mackerel. Often times will drive them so that they do not know where to find them.

Find different sizes of mackerel in the same school quite often. They range all sizes; sometimes down to 8 or 9 inch mackerel, up to the very biggest ones. Would not expect to find any school with the fish all the same size.

This year the mackerel appeared
to be mostly large, and have
caught about the same size.
Very few small ones seen this year.
Saw them all along shore, especially
around Barnstable Bay and
Plymouth. Caught large schools.
These little fish, he thinks, were
born this year, for the reason
that they are so tender and trans-
parent; skin is so tender.
Has occasionally found large
mackerel in schools. They gen-
erally come just before what
we call the main body of fish.
That would be about the 15 to
20 of May. Does not think there
is much change in the size of the
fish. The size varies. This year
about all large ones. A few years
ago, for about half a dozen years

water, we got all small ones,
but the price of small ones
was very down to nothing, and the
price of large ones was very high
and did not seem to get any big
catch for a number of years.
In the older small ones have
increased, and what we get now
is all large. As large this year
as we saw them. Does not
know whether the close season had
anything to do with it or not.

Could not say how early
they begin to spawn, but thinks
it begins in June is about the best
answering month, but they go on
late as July. Has seen spawn
them as late as shot. Might
have been mackerel that did not
spawn. This was on our coast
but they spawn all along the

wash; from back side of Block Island close in shore; into shallow water. Do not know what depth, but quite shallow water. Do not think they can go down in deep water and spawn. Has not observed whether they spawn during the day or night. The first ones we get in the spring are hardly ready to spawn. If we catch them when ready to spawn it will squirt out of them. Do not find any fish that have spawned in the spring.

Mackerel are not as active about the spawning time. Often times we will set a seine for these fish that are going to spawn about the 5th or 6th of June, and if we sit around them and get our seine

together in shape at all; they
will hardly ever get away from
me. Thinks they feel kind of logy
and sick when it comes time for
them to spawn and cannot go
down in deep water. Thinks that
why they do not dive the ~~water~~:
they are less ready to take the
hook at that time; do not bite
much. More apt to be lying
near bottom. Sometimes we
will lose them. They are liable
to disappear most any time.
They appear to sink about the
spawning season, and do not
show themselves for two or three
wks. Often times have a
school come up on top of the
water ^{to} feed. If we are there
at that time can catch them
quite easy. After that, the

last thing we know they are gone and do not see them for long time. Then the spawn is out of them and they are poor refat on them until the spawn is out. After that they fat up very quickly.

Does not think they are as abundant as they were 20 years ago, take them as a whole, both large and small ones. This year there has been a fair quantity of large mackerel; about all that size. No mixed schools to amount to anything this year. He considers that kind pretty shy; hardly ever get a big catch of them.

The cause of the decrease is pretty hard to tell. Diseases may do part of it, and may not

and may be owing to nature.
Spawn may not have come to
maturity for some reason.
The quantity of fish is not as
large as it used to be in 1846.
And a great many more fresh
then. About 1875, for a few
years more caught them in 1846.
When there ~~are~~^{is} small mackerel in large
quantities one year, generally look for
them to come back the next year
with another years growth on them.
But some years they would not seem to
(the same fish) would not be as
many of them, and would not seem
to correspond in size. Does not
always follow that a large body of
small fish is followed by a large body
of large fish the next year.
⑤ Is not certain whether the close
season did much good or not. Does

not think it did a great deal of
harm. But does not think it protects
spawning fish much, because by
the first of June not a great many of
them have spawned. Considers the
object of the law was to protect the
spawning fish; to let them get the
spawn out of them before being caught.
Thinks they should put it later than
the first of June, because many
spawn after that time.

The southern voyage has not been
profitable one as a usual thing.
Some vessels will do well, but on an
average, not a paying business, even
from the earliest times. If they got a
good catch, would get them all in a
lump, and would make a glut on the
market, so that they would not get much
for the fish. (D) Cannot tell whether the
purse seine has any effect on the

mackerel or not. Is inclined to think
it scares them rather more than the
old method. The old method was
an inducement for them to come on
the coast; gave them something to
eat. Purse seine is no inducement.
Does not think it much use to legislate
on it. If the fishing scares them,
we have got to go out of the business
of course. If it does not, they will
come back on their old grounds.
Would not personally advocate any
regulation of the fishery at the
present time. Let it regulate itself.
Has not been in the Gulf this year.
Was not down the Nova Scotia coast
this year. Used to do a great deal
of hook + line fishing in the Gulf.
Does not know that it would be a
very serious deprivation to stop
purse seine fishing. Would make

It pretty hard for some for a
fellow. ② Would not be a very
grave matter to mackerel
fisherman to give up fishing
only with flag with seines.
Night go, possibly, and do nearly
full with the hook. ③ If the
seine was given up on our coast,
we not believe they could catch them
as they used to before they went
sining, but might bite just the
same if they went the same way.
They's used to be, would sometimes
fill in with a large body of fish
shaking on worms; and we would
have bait into them, but they would
not look at a hook the first day,
but we kept at it, and they would stop
shaking; then as a general thing
would go to catching them. Sometimes
we live as fast as we could beat them

Do not know why we could not
do it now. Used to be a great deal of
that fishing done in the Gulf. Has
not been in the Gulf lately fishing; not
in 4 or 5 years. Do not many go there

Thinks the purse seine has a
tendency to break up the schools.
Having seines at a body of fish sometimes
breaks them up in a short time. They
change their position and go out of
reach. Pretty hard to account
for the small catch of mackerel on
this coast during the last five years.
Whether it is the seines that have
caught them up; or whether the
seines sheered them off in some other
direction; or whether it is the lack
of fish coming to maturity. It may
be from natural causes, or it may
be they keep out of sight caused by

desires securing them.

Never followed mackerel further than Cape North. Has been in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the spring. In the summer season has been to Baffin's Land. Did not go south this year, but his vessel went with another man. Caught about 200 lbs in one trip, about the 10th of May. Probably got about 400 lbs. while south. Did the best of any vessel down there. Got 200 lbs. at one haul.

Mackerel feed upon different things, judging by what we find in them. Consider ^{as} the natural food these little bits of things, about the same as mustard seed. Well the water sparkle with them some red, others gray; - all colors. What we call seed. That is the natural food for mackerel. They are

be contented when feeding on that, and get fat then. Find it all over the coast some years very plentiful. Some years not much of it. Sometimes a great many mackerel and not much feed; and sometimes a large amount of feed and not many fish. Sometimes catch mackerel full of this feed, and yet do not see the feed. It may be under the surface so that we do not see it. There is a kind of feed which burns the mackerel. It is what we call the cayenne. Different from the red seed. It is soft so that it will run, and is very red. When we find that in them it will rot them very quickly. They will not keep. Seems to burn their bellies right out. It does not affect the quality of the mackerel at all. They are just as good quality, if we can take care of them in time, but they will

sail quickly, especially in warm weather, and if they are very fat. His "gunk" is pretty well distributed along the coast, in the summer months especially. Does not know that he ever saw any early in the spring. Find other things in the stomachs of mackerel; sometimes little fish; sometimes sea fleas. This fall in Boston Bay, the surface of the water was solid with these little sand fleas, about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long.

Caught most of my fish this year in Boston Bay, this fall. Not very good fishing on the coast in the summer; very small catch. The fish showed all ~~summer~~ by spells, say for 10 days or so, but this fall they schooled pretty well off Boston Bay along in October. These fish, of course, must have been to the eastward during the

summer months, probably around
the coast of Maine somewhere.
When they showed up this fall in
Boston Bay, they were also schooling
down at Monhegan and off the coast
of Portland.

No particular parts of the
coast that they seem to avoid. May
expect to find them anywhere, whenever
there is sufficient water for them to
play in.

The largest number of vessels
he ever saw working together was
about 300; in the vicinity of Boston
Bay, along about September or Oct.
Has not fished off Block Island
this year.

If mackerel get no better than
they have been of late years, hardly
think they will make a success of
the steam seine boat. The vessels
having the steam seine boat have

done no better this year than other vessels. There is a saving of labor in the steam seine boats. Do not have to row any. Do not think they can purse the seine any quicker than we can. Can go around the fish quicker, however. It is much costlier, and heavy to tow, and the risk of losing the boat is greater. Cannot take it on board. The patent purse has not been used very extensively yet. Has not put it in his boat yet. Understands it works well. A thousand mesh full length seine will cost about \$1000. General length about 215 to 225 fathoms. Will last 3 or 4 years if well taken care of. Cover them with coal tar. Salt it when we stow it away; that is, if there is any "gum" in it. Keep them wet all the time, until winter.

when we dry them and stow them away.

The cost of the outfit for sealing is much greater than for hand line. I ship my men on shares. The work gets extra pay. Have 16 or 17 men for two seines. Have both seines at the same time. Vessels have been carrying two seines quite a number of years, perhaps 15 yrs. Nearly all vessels carry two seines now. All use pockets for preserving the fish. Pockets cost about \$1.00. Dimensions of pocket about 100s meshes deep, made of very heavy twine.

Sometimes catch other fish with the mackerel; sometimes get herring; sometimes get what we call kyacks. They are nearly like the herring; about like an alewife. Has been much destruction

of mackerel with the seine in past years. Have lost a good many fish in years gone by from having to heave them overboard. Were not prepared to salt them then.

Sometimes used to get menhaden with mackerel, but not many now. Hardly ever catch blue fish with mackerel. Have seen blue fish as far east as Mount Desert Rocks. Have taken shad with mackerel quite often. Sometimes they are mixed, half shad and half mackerel. Mackerel will not attack a full grown shad. Full grown shad is larger than the mackerel. Mackerel will eat the scales off the backs. Get some large hauls of shad sometimes separate from

mackerel. Sometimes it pays very well to catch them. Great place for them in the vicinity of Kennebec. Catch them along in August. They are not heading in any direction sum to be playing around and feeding. Have no spawn in them then. They are fat at that time. Hardly ever catch them in the spring in the seines. Sometimes catch them on the Cape Shore, just a few. No spawn in them then. That is along in June and the spawn is out of them. ⁽⁹⁾ Never took salmon in the seines. Caught a little one once, that is all. Could not remember just where it was. Does not know whether the shore fishermen are interfered with by the seines or not. They used to growl considerably at the seines, but not much now. The netters

are not interfered with hardly
any by the seines, for the reason
that the fish they catch in their
nets we cannot catch in the seines.
Hardly ever get any fish from schools.
Our fishing is with scattering fish.
We do a good deal of our seining
at nights. Did not use to fish
nights. Probably 15 years ago
was the first we undertook night
fishing. Now whenever the
water fires we are looking for
fish. They are less shy at night.
Can catch them very easily as
a general thing. Have all kinds
of methods of fishing at night.
Sometimes water does not fire much
and the skipper goes on the masthead
to see them better there. Cannot
do anything on moonlight nights.

Capt. Eliphalet Wharf of
Gloucester interviewed by William Wakeham and Hugh M. Smith.
November 16, 1893,

Aged 63. Has had 40 years
experience in mackerel fishing. His
first experience was in 1851. ^{Master} ~~Hand~~
^{Sch.} passed "Notice" of Gloucester.

Has been south 8 or 10 years
sining: And was hooking when he
was a boy. When he was a boy
found fish off Cape May and
Sandy Hook. That was the
southern limit. Was about 11 yrs
old then. Used to have bait
and toll them up; were not in
schools then. Has used the seine
about 6 years. This last 4 years
been hooking. Has not been south
in the last 4 years. Been hooking
in the North Bay. Before that
was sining on this shore. Got
down to the North Bay in July.
Do not intend to be there before
the 1st of July. In the Bay after

the 4th of July. Made for East Point, and then Magdalen Islands.
Go down the Bay, because think
we can get better hooking than on
this shore. Do not make a practice
of hooking on this shore, because
think they do better at other places.
Thinks seining interferes with the
hooking. Remains about 3½
months in the Bay. 10 or 15
years ago were no hookers around.
Averaged about 20 bbls. a year.
Went hooking before the use of
purse seines. Could average
about 500 to 600 bbls. Has been
in the Bay 15 or 16 years. Could
fill the vessel. All the rest of
the vessels used to get them about
that time. Much larger fleet
fishing in the bay then than
now, about 200 sails. Has
been as far north as Gaspe.

never been up in the St. Lawrence river, nor on the North coast. He was the first that started hooking.⁽¹⁾ Got 220 bbls. in 1779. Cod fishing in July has run his business, and then go for mackerel. ⁽²⁾ Gave up skinning 4 years ago because he had a vessel with another man, and he sold out, and after sold his vessel, this vessel happened to suit me, so I concluded to fit her for the Bay. ⁽³⁾ Go down to the bay about the beginning of July, and generally stay until the 1st of November. Last year left the 6th. This year came away the 15th of Oct. There were mackerel there when he left. In the hooking business of late years, after October comes in do not have many fishing days, and the reason we do not stay is, we only get about

one day a week, and the men get
disatisfied. If we had a sime would
stay longer. \oplus Mackerel not as
abundant in the bay as they were
in years gone by. Could hear
vessel to in any part of the bay,
and toll up fish and catch them,
short as many as you could take
care of. More fish this year
than he has seen for 3 years.
Are getting rather scarce, however.
For three weeks on Cape Breton,
have seen fish as far as the eye
could see. One vessel caught
270 bbls. in 6 days. Went to
the Magdalen Ids. about the 1st
of July and staid until the 1st
of Sept. Got most fish off
Brooks([?]) Island. Did not go
over by Miscau. Was up as far
as North Cape last year and
this year, but did not do anything.

Last 4 yrs. what mackerel he has caught have been caught from East Point to Magdalen Ids. ② Thinks mackerel spawn in the bay about June 25, or along the 1st of July. Spawn was all out of the fish he got this year. Most of them spawn the first of July. Was there about the 15th and did not see any spawn. ② The mackerel he caught the 15th July at Magdalens were the fattest fish. The first mackerel were better than the last ones, but cannot tell much about that as they are different schools of fish. The fish on the north side of the Magdalens are larger than what we get off East Cape. They are the largest size fish there are. At the Magdalens got

wind mackerel this year; a good deal smaller than in years past. The first two years I went there got 16 and 17 inch mackerel. Now they average about $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 inches. ① There were 25 or 30 sail there this year, all seiners. Shallow grounds mostly, some places they can seine and some they cannot. ② The shore fishermen did well this year. The average boat got from 35 to 40 barrels to a boat of three men. Did the best in July, and the most fish then. ③ They come out of the bay down through the Gut. Never saw any mackerel enter the Gulf through the Gut. Thinks of late years most of the fish go around Cape North. See a good many fish when they go down, but in the fall do not see them come back, suppose on

account of the weather. Did not see many fish on his way home. Was rather too early for them. Thinks the fish that they get at the Magdalenes are the same ones that pass along here in the spring. When they leave the bay in the fall, does not think they come this way now, but they used to. Not many go inside Cape Sable now. Go out the other way, and come that way too. Fish on this shore never trouble the bay any, of late years. Has been on the southeast part of Georges laying at anchor when fish were going down by: - all those fish strike Cape Sable, and when they go home, go the same way. (D) Does not know what the mackerel feed on in the bays. Does not think they feed on anything

late years. Can see this feed
in the water, these small fish they
are chasing. Have not seen any
say more this last 4 years, but
used to.

It takes longer to raise fish
now than in the early days.
Will lay now, probably two or
three hours without raising any
fish, and then again will raise
them in half an hour, not a very
big body. They do not appear to
large bodies of fish at all.
Has seen bigger bodies this year,
however, looked rather like old
times. They came up on top of the
water this year. Several times,
thinks they had 50 to 100 bbls.
under their bottom, but had
no seine to catch them.

At Magdalens hardly ever see
any fish. They do not show.

When vessels are fishing
with hook and line, they
keep the fish together. The
vessels spread apart more and
find the fish. The first year
he went in the bay, there was
nobody down there but him-
self, except a cod fishing
vessel. I found the fish and
did well; other vessels would
have done the same had they

been there. Caught them on
the same ground that I caught
them this year.

Mackerel are not much
preyed upon by other fish.
Do not see blue fish in the
bay. What disturbs the fish
in the bay is the dog fish.
Never saw dog fish before until
last year. They were in great
numbers at Magdalens. They

or something new. Mackerel
do not like squid very well,
although there are plenty of them.
I thinks they get bigger fish with
the seines than with the hook +
line. When you have a seine
and get around a school of fish
you get them all as a general thing.
In laying too for fish, you pull
them out; the small fish come
to the surface of the water and

the big ones stay under.

Thinks the seines are destructive to mackerel. If you have a hundred schools of fish and a hundred seines there, they are going to catch every one of them. Since the seine has been in general the amount of mackerel taken is not as large as it used to be with hook and line. There were more fish then than now. More

fish between Cape Cod and
Cape Ann. Have not seen any
fish for 12 years that I call
fish. Attributes the decrease
of mackerel to the seines. ⁽⁴⁾ When
the mackerel first ~~come~~ ^{Came in at the} south
we used to catch them on the
hook close in. Mackerel had
a regular route to go. They used
to come up off Block Island
around in shore all the way along.

we they strike way off. Do not come up as close inshore as they used to on account of the seines. Mackerel would have been scarcer than they are now if the close season had not been put on. Ⓣ thinks the same mackerel which they find on the southern ground come up on the New England coast later in the season. Ⓣ He would favor the close time law. Would do away with the

pursesines altogether, that is how he would regulate them. Thinks a good many fishermen are of that opinion. Does not think it would cripple the industry. Thinks they would do better. They would take the hooks as they used to do. Might not catch so many fish, but would make more money. Could catch enough fish with the hooks to supply the market, at any rate.

Cannot catch near the amount of
fish on Georges Bank that they
used to. Large quantities of young
mackerel have been destroyed by
the seines. More destroyed than
we ever brought into port; by
catching small fish, getting them
meshed, and filling the seine, and
then drawing the seine and throwing
them away. Have had 500 lbs. in
the seine, and picked out 20 lbs.

and let the rest go. They were all dead.

Other vessels catch 4 times as many
as I catch: - murder barrels where I
murder buckets. ^(D) Weirs do a good
deal of that too. Of late years they
have not been mashed so much, as
they have been big; that is, for
about the last 12 years. ^(E) If they
catch mackerel before they spawn
it will make them much scarce.
some mackerel are all full of spawn,

and are poor. The best mackerel we get are in August, then they are fat. Thinks the mackerel along this shore spawn earlier than they do in the Bay. (A) Thinks a regulation prohibiting purse seining in the bay would be a good thing. That would not cripple the industry to any great extent, and would encourage the hook and liners in the bay, and everywhere, for that matter. (B) Only

+ hook and lines from Gloucester
this year. Does not know whether
there were any along this shore or not.
not much hooking done along here.

About every boat has a seine. Boats
of any size have a little seine in the
dory. ⑨ Find sick mackerel in the schools.
Find mackerel just as poor in Sept.
as in the spring. Supposes it is the
result of some disease, that they do
not feel like eating.

very seldom find other fish mixed
with mackerel. But catch dog
fish on this shore. Never caught
my blue fish with mackerel,
but has caught whole schools
of blue fish. Lots of blue fish
caught off Block Island; also
shad and butter~~g~~ fish. All kinds
of fish there when he is catching
mackerel. (2) Would favor doing away
with the purse seine. Always behavioral

in hooking, but lots of captains
would not agree to that. They prefer
to go seining. It is a quick way to
catch fish. Can get 500 bbls. of
fish in 2 to 10 minutes. These
purse seines clean the ocean right
out. Everything they see in the shape
of mackerel they capture. If there
are 100 schools of mackerel and 100
seines, they will catch them all up.
② There are lots of little mackerel growing

up. Saw a good many this year.
They were this year's mackerel. They
say mackerel only grow an inch a year
after the first year. Has sun fish
in the bay and at Magdalen's one
year, and the next year would not
see them. Did not know where they
went. #) Mackerel spawn right where
you catch them. Off Magdalen's
there is a place called the Grun
Banks where he thinks they go to

spawn, and then come back to the shore again. ^(D) They take the hook
bait before they spawn. Catch
them as soon as they get in the Bay,
the first of June. Does not think
they bite as freely about the spawning
time, but they always used to
catch them then. Last year he
went seining, they said when we
got off No man's Land we would
not catch any mackerel because they

are getting ready to spawn, but we
did catch some. Has never taken
mackerel with the spawn running from
them that he knows of. Has caught
them when the spawn was pretty ripe
but not ripe enough to be running.
The most he has seen this last 4
years, the spawn was all out of them.
Used to find them down south near
New York with spawn that was
hard. ④ There has been vessels

some 30 years ago that have caught
1700 barrels a year. Had some
bad years when vessels would not
average 100 barrels a year. He
never went in the bay but what
he got a full fare. (D) Does not
intend to follow the fishing business
much longer, but would like to
see the seining stopped. If you
put 50 sails around the Magdalenis
with seines, ~~and~~ they would clear

them entirely out; boats would
not get 20 barrels of fish; because
it is a small place, about 4 or
5 acres, and they would catch them
all up, and drive away what they
did not catch. There would be
a good many complaints made at
the Magdalens if the sinners
were to stay there, but it is a
pretty hard place to scim and
they might lose a good many

vessels by running on the rocks.

There are many bad places in the

bay besides the Magdalenes

where it is hard to go into for
a vessel drawing about 14 feet of

water. [¶] Tonnage of his vessel 63.

Would be lots of money made at
hooking if there were no seines.

Thinks mackerel are more shy than
they used to be. In years past
used to jig sometimes all night on

the west part of Georges. Got
100 wash barrels in a night.

This happened when he was young.
Sailing is easier than jigging,
but it is a more expensive outfit.
He got 130 barrels this year.
That number of barrels would
not pay a seines. They have
a large crew - 15 to 20 men,
and the cost of seines and seine
nets. All it costs us is our

boat, which costs in the neighbor
hood of \$150. Getting two
vines ready for sea would cost
that much. A vessel under
ordinary circumstances would use
from 50 to 60 barrels of bait
during 3 months' fishing. We
carry about 60 barrels and
generally use it all. We use
what we call pogies. It costs
us \$1.50 a barrel and put it

up ourselves, but if we buy it
steady put up it costs us about
14⁰⁰. Not as easy to get
men to go hooking as it is seining.
My crew are made up of old men
mostly, from 40 to 65 yrs., and
some 70 years old. We find men
about 50 are the best men on the
hook, because young men have
not got on to it. My crew
go on shares, every man for himself.

gets half his fish. All the
hookers have that arrangement.

The other vessels with him this
summer got about the same as
he did. Their names were, the—

"M. H. Perkins," "Christie Campbell"
and "David Sherman." They
carried about 15 men.

④ Clams, we think are better
than menhaden for bait. Take
clams generally for change of bait.

Mix them in with the pogies, about
10 bbls. of clams with 50 bbls of
pogies. ④ Does not think there was
larger mackerel fleet sailing
this year than usual. Used to be
great many hookers at one time.
This harbor has been packed full
so that you could walk from one
vessel to another right across the
harbor. Has seen 500 or 600 sail
vessels when he first went sailing.

I have chased the mackerel to Cape Cod and Cape Ann. That is the last we get. That was the close of the season. They were very large fish too, some years. One year they were small. [¶] This year had a good show of fish on our shore; all taken with seines. Last year did not do as well. Did very well at Block Island, for the reason that the blue fish did not trouble them.

I did not hear how the lobster
fishing was; guess they did
very well at the Magdalens.
One man said he, with two boys,
made \$15.00, with lobsters and
mackerel. Get the most
mackerel ~~about~~ south Beach
at Magdalens.

R.

Gloucester, Mass.
Capt. Benjamin T. Payson
Nov. 7th, 1893
Interviewed by William Wakeman & Hugh M. Smith.

Has had 40 years' experience
as a fisherman. Has fished for
mackerel the last 35 years, with the
exception of 4 or 5 years in the army
during the war. Captain of vessel,
Name of vessel,

A.T. Maker of Gloucester.

Used to engage in the southern
fishery before the close season. Has
been in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Used

purse seine. ② In the southern

bisher has found the fish off the
west in the latitude of Cape
Henry. The fish are then heading
to the north. Find them in
schools. Has followed the schools
from Cape Henry to the Gulf of
Lawrence. That is, not seeing
them all the time, but following a
body of mackerel. ^(D) The fish that
caught in the spring are very

(2)

they have found the fish off the
coast in the latitude of Cape
Henry. The fish are then heading
towards the north. Find them in
schools. This followed the schools
from Cape Henry to the Gulf of
St. Lawrence. That is, not seeing
them all the time, but following a
line of mackerel. The fish that
were caught in the spring are very

poor. No fat fish among them.

Fish do not get fat until later in

the season. ⑨ Has followed mackerel

as far north as navigation goes

in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; up

as far as English Bay. Once we

went down to the north end of

Anticosti and ran into ice bergs.

Was up to the Gulf 3 years after

them, but did not make much of

a success of it. (4) Has followed a school of mackerel 10 or 15 miles on top of the water without losing sight of it. Have followed a body of mackerel for days sometimes, keeping with them all the time. The fish they get south are not the same fish that they get in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The fish we catch south in the spring, as

a general rule, are the fish that stop
on this shore. Sometimes they will
go into the Bay, but if they do, it
will be a good deal later. This body
of mackerel that we find on the southern
shore, if they go in the Bay, it will
be late in June or the first of July.
The mackerel that we catch on the
Nova Scotia shore in the spring come
from off shore, outside of Georges. They

follow them from Georges ^{Drynk} Bay to
the Nova Scotia shore. They strike
way off shore there. They are
then heading to the north. ⁽²⁾ Have
ever seen schools offshore any further
than out of sight of land. Have
seen them on ~~the bank~~ ^{Le Have Bank} in the spring
in the southwest part of Western Banks.
Was catching cod fish in April of
this year, and they never saw the like

of mackerel. One vessel captain was telling me they never saw the like of fish, but when they got out to them, it was all those large bill fish. Some thought they were mackerel, but they were not. Bill fish are a long, slim fish, with a long bill on them. Mackerel strike on all parts of the Nova Scotia coast. The

first mackerel used to strike on the
Nova Scotia coast at Yarmouth,
and between Yarmouth and Cape
Sable. They strike about the 24th
or 25th of May. Then we used
to go down after them, and would
go to the eastward. We thought
they would strike up that way, and
since then we have found out that
there is a day's difference between

that and when they strike Scattori.

The mackerel here come in from off

shore. Get them at the Magdalen

Islands pretty near the end of May.

There is very little difference between

the Magdalens and Scattori.

The left of the spring run come and

go around North Cape. The fish

are going down as a general thing when

they go through Canso. I think

they make a mistake. I think they
intend to go around North Cape, but
fish going down the Nova Scotia coast
go up into the bays when they go
back in the fall. Have seen
mackerel go up to Plymouth and then
turn and go down around Provincetown,
and then start and go back up into that
bay, but they did not calculate to go
there; and that is the way at Canso.

They make a mistake. The fish
we get off here are supposed to be a
later mackerel, because they are
later mackerel. They are the rear
schools, and are faster than the head
schools. Have seen about the same
size mackerel in the Bay as I have
off here. Mackerel generally leave
this coast about the first of Nov.
and we do not know where they go. Have

never followed them in the fall any
further south than to Cape Cod.

Then they were heading to the south

and going quite fast. In the fall

they are generally in schools; at least

when the weather is fine. They

follow the Cape Shore as far as

Cape Sable, and then they go to

the southward. Have been seen on

the north edge of Georges going to

the south late in the fall. It

is reported that mackerel are on

borders in the winter some years.

They leave the coast by degrees in

the fall. ^(D) Does not think mackerel

swim over 4 or 5 miles an hour.

They generally go when schooling

about 3 to 5 miles an hour. ^(D) Find

the best fishing grounds at different

years in different places. All the

way from Mount Desert is the
general schooling ground. Most of
the fish that have been caught by
the Gloucester fishing fleet have
been caught between Cape Cod
and Grand Manan. (I) Have seen
mackerel as far off shore as 40 or
50 miles. About 10 years ago we
fished on Cashier's ^{Ledge} ~~Ledge~~. (I) The
movements of the mackerel are influenced

quite largely by other fish preying upon them. Whales and porpoises dive mackerel. Dog fish prey on them all the time but do not dive them. They go right around with them. Porpoises are the worst fish; also blue fish, bonitos and albacores. I have known mackerel to be driven ashore by these fish, last year; and the last two years before this the

bombers and blue fish drove them
off shore; so far that they did not
see any for the last month they
went fishing. ⑨ Find different
sizes of mackerel in the same
schools. Sometimes find very large
and very small fish in the same
schools. But as a general thing
haven't the same size. ⑩ Does not
think there is any change in the

relative size of mackerel as compared
with 20 years ago. Have to have
tinkers before we get mackerel. They
grow up in about three years and
out to be pretty good mackerel.
Have not had big tinkers here for
good many years.

Mackerel spawn from the
tip of Delaware to the Gulf of
St. Lawrence. The spawning season

in different parts of the coast is
from the middle of May to the
first of August. The farther you
go, the later they spawn as a
natural thing. Sometimes catch
mackerel the last of May that
have all spawned, and then have
caught them the last of June.
But think the best of the mackerel
from the 1st to the 15th of June.

The fish we take in the southern spring fishing have plenty of spawn in them. Some of them have spawned in the last part of the fishing, late in May, but a very small proportion have spawned by that time. ^{If} The fish generally go down about the time they are ready to spawn and stay down. The spawning process generally lasts two or three weeks.

This dull spell occurs on our coast
in June, but sometimes get very
good fishing then. Appear to
lose the fish at that time. They
sink along all parts of the coast,
no matter where they are, and when
they raise, they raise all at once.
When they first come up they are
poor. They grow fat gradually
until the last of August. Do not

get any fatter after that.^{II} Very
seldom see sickly or logy mackerel,
without they get hurt. Never
found dead mackerel at sea. They
sink if they die. ^{II} Those Cape
Shore mackerel are easier to
catch just before they spawn.
After they spawn they are shy and
hard to catch. ^{II} thinks mackerel
have decreased within the past

20 years, although we always had good years and ~~always~~ had bad years fishing. In 1851 had the biggest catch that we ever had, and had not the facilities to catch them that we have now, although there were more vessels at then than now. I would attribute most of the decrease to other fish preying upon them. Does not

think what the fishermen catch
decreases them very much, but
of course it does some, but
nothing compared to the fish that
prey upon them. The reason
of the scarcity of mackerel is that
the young have not come to
maturity. It is due to natural
causes. I caught but very few
in the old days before the spawning

season. We never went mackerel
fishing in the early years until the
herring season came on. Perhaps
a dozen vessels would go out as far as
New York, and they would not go
until the first of May. The
regular hook and line fishing began
on the coast after the 4th of July.
Very little was done before that.
Most of our fleet here used to go to

Georges. ⑨) Used to go south in
the days of hook and line fishing.
We used to get full fares sometimes.

They were salted then. The best
fishing grounds in those days was
North Bay, (Gulf of St. Lawrence);
and some years on the Shore,^(?) but
the Bay used to be the best place.

In known years when there was a
large body of small mackerel on

the coast, and that body of fish
was followed the next year by a
large body of large mackerel.

None seen years when we had those
big schools of tunkers; only worth
4. or a barrel; could catch abund-
ance of them the whole season; and
the next season those small fish
come back a size larger, and
the next year a size larger still,

when they would be getting quite
big.

Thinks the purse seine helps
to decrease the mackerel, in a
small way. Does not think it
is unnecessarily destructive in any
way. Would not put any restrictions
on the purse seine fishing. That
time is passed. If they had put
it on when they commenced it
would have been all right, but

it is too late now to put any
restrictions on it. ²⁾ Had no
objection to the close time law;
thought it was a good thing.
Vessels never made a success going
south. If they got plenty of fish,
had to give them away almost.
But did not like the close season
the way they got it up. It did not
satisfy us nor anybody else. They

said we should not catch the fish
until the 2nd of June. Those fish
would strike in May on the Nova
Scotia coast, and there traps would
be all set from Elizabeth(s) to
Yarmouth; and they would send them
to Boston market; and the Nova
Scotia boats would go down there
and fish and send them into our
markets. We would go down there

the last week in May, the fish
would be schooling, and their vessels
catching all the way from 125 to
150 barrels apiece — they catching
the fish and we looking at them.
They would put that law so we
could compete with Nova Scotia
& would be all right for us, but
then they put it a week too late
& does not benefit us. The object

of the law was to increase the mackerel; that is, by not catching them until they had spawned, but the bulk of the mackerel never spawn until after the close season is over. If no one could catch mackerel until after the 4th of July you would increase them. It would not be any use in legislation at all. If they have any legislation, make it.

unusual, and make the time later
than it is now. D) thinks the purse
seine, to say the least, does not do
the mackerel any good. It tends to
drive them away. A body of mackerel
might be started from one place to
another, but hardly think it would
drive them off the coast. Never
knew of such an instance. Have
seen perhaps 30 or 40 seines working

at one time. Have seen over a 100 vessels laying under their main sails, with the pockets alongside dousing out of them, in a small space.

The fishermen have different opinions as to the benefit of the close time on the mackerel; some think it is a good thing, and others think not. Thinks there would be strong objections to a renewal of the close

time. Could not catch as many
with hook and line if the purse seine
was given up. Thinks that day is
over. It would take longer than
a line to get it back again. Thinks
mackerel have changed. There are
so many fish after them and so
much feed in the water. More feed
in the water than there used to be.
The water this year appeared to be

full of feed everywhere we went,
and they will not bite a hook when
that is around. D) Very few vessels
go into the North Bay now from
this coast. Last year 4 or 5
hookers down there, and year before
last 3 seiners. I was one of them.
This year have been a good many
seiners down there. Probably 25-
30 vessels would go from this port and

down east for the spring fishery.

Most of them from here. J^{D} The

went south this year. Did not

catch any fish. Saw some fish,

but they were wild. Only 2 or 3

vessels got any, and they got only

a few. J^{D} thinks it would be a

hardship if fishermen were prevented

from fishing with seines in the

North Bay. ~~Vessels with hook~~

and we have not done as well
as sev'les this year. ~~E~~ One

vessel, the Norumbega, ^{is} band home
with 450 barrels, taken with the
purse seine in the North Bay.

We have no privileges there now.

Cannot buy anything there in the
shape of provisions, etc. Would
not buy the license to go into the
North Bay. Would steal first.

They used to allow us to fish in
the Magdalens, but now they
do not. Their vessels will hook
mishore just as they please, but
we cannot do so. Would not
get any privileges there even if
the duty was taken off by the
United States. [¶] There has been
a large body of mackerel in the
Bay this summer, but we could

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a large body of mackerel in the
Bay this summer, but we could

not catch them they were so
wild. They were out on Bradley,
and all up and down the Island,
Cape George and Margaree.
Very few mackerel go through
the Gut of Ganso; most of them
go the other way. Those that
do go through I think go by
mistake. Has known fish to
go through there, the last of May.