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Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me.

Interviews by  
Joint Fisheries Commission

November 1893

✓ Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Levi N. McLean.

(Nov. 17, 1893)

Interviewed by William Wakeman and Hugh M. Smith

Aged 63. Has been in the business since he first began to go fishing 49 years ago. Has spent 43 years in the mackerel fishery. Name of vessel, "Herald of the Morning".

Went south this year for mackerel along the first of April.

Did not get any fish. Saw the first fish down off Chincoteague.

could not remember the date.

They were about 30 miles off shore.

Heading to the N.E. Has been  
south a number of years. Usually  
find the first fish down off the  
capes of Virginia, about 60 to 70  
miles off shore. They are heading  
to the Northeast generally. They  
are in schools when we first see  
them. The schools are generally  
moving fast, but not always.

A) Has followed these spring schools down back of Nantucket. Has never followed a single body any great distance. Has followed a body of mackerel from off Cape Henry down to Five Fathom Light Ship off Cape Dover; with them every day. These early fish follow the coast. Do not go any near the shore of late years. Keep right along about such a distance until they get up to

Nantucket, then they come a little  
nearer than they used to 10 or 12 years  
ago. Strike in right along close  
off New York, within 3 or 4 miles  
of the land. <sup>¶</sup> Never followed any  
of these early schools over Georges.  
They go that way, but he has never  
followed them any further than  
Nantucket; then he generally goes  
home and refits and goes down onto  
Georges, but never found them, but

of course they go that way. ¶ They do not stop at Georges in the early part of the year, but keep right on. Some come in this way on our coast and some on the Nova Scotia coast; that is his opinion. ¶ The farthest north he has been mackeling is 7 Islands. ¶ When the fish leave the shores in the fall thinks they take the same direction about that they do when they come in, but

of course, does not know for certain.  
All he knows is that sometimes he  
sees them going on the same track.  
Never followed them any farther  
south in the fall than Block Isd.

④ Looks for the fish on the Cape Shore,  
around Cape Sable, generally about  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of May to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.  
The fish then are following the shore  
right along. Some strike right  
in from sea. Others strike to the

westward and follow the shore right down. They travel pretty fast on the Cape shore. I never followed them any further than down to Cape Bruton in the spring, but along in July or the last of June, has gone into the Gulf. Never followed them on one straight route. Always came home and then went back again. His reason for going home at that time is that they are generally

looking for them to sink, and then  
we have a slack time, which he  
supposes is the spawning time, and  
they do not school. 9) While these  
fish are going down the Cape Shore  
there is generally a body of fish on  
the New England shore. Find them  
about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June on the New  
England shore. Used to find them  
all the way from Fire Island  
down to Nantucket, and some

around this city the first of June.

¶) No particular difference in the size of those on the Cape Shore and those found here, usually about the same.

Sometimes they are small fish here; then there is a difference. ¶) Generally large fish go down the Cape Shore.

But later in the season a small school. As a rule the first school are larger than those that come afterwards. Look for the second,

about the same time, perhaps 3 or 4 days, or a week later. The second school goes around North Cape in the same way that the first does.

Has known fish to go through Canada in the spring, and come out that way also. II) Has caught mackrel in the winter, but not any quantity. Years ago when he used to go to Georges before we had frozen herring, used to go there and catch our bait. Has

seen half a dozen mackerel in the net in the morning. That was in the month of February. Their condition was poor. They would generally be a medium sized fish. Would catch them on the surface. Was setting herring nets at the time. That is 35 or 40 years ago.

Has not noticed any blue fish this year, because he has not been in the way of seeing them. Has

noticed blue fish following schools  
of mackerel. Generally see the  
first blue fish at Block Island,  
and then they come all along the coast  
of Maine. Never saw any blue  
fish across the Bay of Fundy on  
the other side. Blue fish dive  
mackerel, and also bonitos.

When they meet the mackerel  
down south they are very poor.  
Do not fatten at all before the

spawning season. No fat on them until after they spawn. ④ The spawning season along the coast is at different times. Thinks they spawn a good deal earlier here than they do on the eastern coast; that is down in the Bay. Thinks they spawn here along about the middle of May. The fish that they run fresh into the New York market have not spawned. Lots of the fish on this coast spawn

around Block Island, and they spawn  
in the Bay of Fundy. The fish that  
we catch on the Cape Shore are full  
of spawn, and very ripe sometimes.

The spawning season for fish in the  
Gulf of St. Lawrence is in June. Finds  
that the fish go down about the  
time they are ready to spawn.

They remain down about a fortnight,  
and when they come up they are poor;  
about the same as before they spawn.

Do not always school immediately after coming up. Some years hardly school at all. Do not get fat very rapidly after spawning. Not so fast there (Gulf) as they do on this coast.

Fatter earlier here than they do there.

The fish seem to get somewhat logish and sickly just before they spawn. They are easier to catch then than after they spawn. Are pretty lively just after coming up. As lively as

at any time of the year. When we get them in the seine before spawning they are dead like.

Catch as many large mackerel as we did 20 years ago, and more in proportion. Do not have as many small mackerel now, in proportion to the large ones as we used to have. See more of late years of the little ones, about 4 or 5 inches long. Never saw so many

small ones in his life as he has this year. Saw them to the south of Prince Edwards Id., in the South Bay, Nova Scotia shore, Cape Breton and east of Cape Breton, around Sydney — the water has been alive with them. In proportion to the number of fish, we catch as many mackerel as we did 20 years ago. The average size fish has not decreased. Of course 20 years ago we used to catch a great many small size mackerel,

which now we do not catch but  
very few of.

Mackarel feed upon different  
things. There is what we call shrimp  
and there is this red feed. This feed  
seems like hay seed, only of a different  
color; - And there is something they  
get off the bottom that looks like  
curd; almost white, and at other  
times I have seen it green. And  
then there is this sun jelly.

Do not find this red fish all along the coast. Used to have it on this coast every year, all along the coast, but of late years have not found it.

Only particular times you get a school of mackerel that has it in. Most apt to find the red fish of late years around Block Island.

Find lots of it in the southern fishing. Did not see any this year, because we did not catch

any fish. Has seen it in the water when it would look just like kelp. Has seen patches of it for a mile. Thinks it is not as common as it was some years ago. Do not see as many shrimp now as we did 5 or 10 years ago.

⑦) The red food burns the mackarel. And it will burn the hands. Have seen a man go to work at dark in the summer when it was short nights,

and at 11 o'clock slip his mittens off and the blood was running right off the ends of his fingers.

Do not find as many mackerel now as we did 20 years ago. Do not see ~~110~~ as many as we used to see then. Do not know what has become of them. They are not there, and that is all I can say. Have no reason to give. Does not think they have been caught

up. Of course there has been  
a great many fish caught up,  
but there is a reason besides  
that for the scarcity of mackerel.  
Has no opinion on that subject.

Does not know of any man who  
can give one. <sup>(D)</sup> Used to be a  
common occurrence when one year  
we had small fish, that the next  
year they would be large, etc.  
About 8 years since they began

to disappear. Those young fish in the fall are about 8 inches long, on this coast. There would be hardly any difference in the growth of those fish in the spring, but along the next fall there would be considerable difference. A mackerel hatched in the spring is about 8 inches long in the fall. They are all

sizes, and thinks the reason for that  
is the different time of spawning.

④ Has often taken them out of the  
stomachs of large mackerel.

Has done so this fall. ④ Has  
been south ~~south~~ in April and  
seen mackerel so small they  
could not save one in the seine.

Every one would go through the  
meshes. Not longer than 3 to 4

inches. Saw them down north  
of Chincoteague about 15 years ago.  
Did not see any bodies of very small  
fish there this year. Saw a good  
many fish there, but does not  
think they were very small.

Was not in favor of the close time  
law, and never thought it was  
any good. Does not think it  
was any benefit to the fishery.

Supposes that some thought by  
having that law passed it would  
give the fish a chance to spawn  
before they were taken, but he  
does not think it did. Of course  
some of them spawned before  
that, but the majority of the fish  
did not get on the spawning  
ground before the close time  
expired. Does not think deep

sea fishing, the catch amounts to anything. <sup>(A)</sup> Does not think they need any protection. If there were nothing to prey upon fish but the fishermen, does not think we should have any trouble. <sup>(A)</sup> Could not account for the present long period of scarcity. All that he knows about it is that when the young

do not return, of course we cannot have them. Does not know the reason why they do not return.

⑦ Does not think any regulations are necessary in the mackerel fishery.

Some of the fishermen used to think so, but not many think so now as before that close season. Does not think many of them would like to see that law renewed.

None would that he has talked  
with. ⑩ The southern fishing  
used to be a very profitable one.  
Of course it is like all other  
fishing. Some men never accom-  
plished anything in the southern  
fishing, and others did. The  
majority of them made money.

⑪ Do not fit out any earlier than  
we have for the last 20 years.

In the old days of hook and line  
fishing did not fit out until  
about the 1<sup>st</sup> of May to go south.

Would go north along in June.

Get in the North Bay somewhere  
along in June - from June to July.

② All the fish that are taken before  
a certain date have not spawned.

In the old days of hook and line  
fishing took a considerable many

before the spawning season. All  
that we took south was before the  
spawning season. Did not take  
so many in the Bay. <sup>(9)</sup> Did not  
take so many fish south in those  
days as they have of late years.  
Along about the first of July the  
left of the fleet used to commence  
to go down the east coast. Was  
probably 200 or 300 sail then.

got most of their fish along the west shore; that is up on the New Brunswick shore and Bradleys Bank, and around North Cape.

Thinks the fish spawn all along in the Gulf. In the South Bay, Prince Edwards Island, up on the west shore, up around all the islands. <sup>(D)</sup> Sometimes they begin to go out of the Gulf

along in September, and supposes  
they keep coming out until Dec.  
Some years they commence to come  
out a good deal earlier than they  
do others. Has always found  
that when there was any great body  
of fish down between Prince Edwards  
Island and Cape Breton, they  
generally started out earlier than  
they do when not so many.

This year he caught about 150  
blbs. off Prince Edward Islands, off  
East Point, and the rest they  
caught around Sidney. Did not  
catch any in Bay of Fundy. Made  
only one trip. <sup>(P)</sup> Mackarel are  
different in regard to their movements  
from what they used to be. When  
they are abundant they are tame.  
Fish do not school as well as they

wed to when they were plenty.

Does not think the old fashioned way of baiting kept the fish together. Has always used bait as long as they could catch fish.

Thinks they have changed their habits in that respect. Since the seining, fish seem to school more than when we went hooking. If they should give up seining and

go to hooking, does not think they could catch as many fish as they do with the seines. ⑨ Since July he has been throwing bait every day when on the fishing grounds, and would raise the mackerel and get a few, but not so many as we used to. They will not stay there as long as they used to, used to stay all day. Has been down

in the Gulf when mackerel were as  
plenty as you could wish, and yet  
could not catch them on the jig.

Has been throwing bait where he  
knew there were plenty of mackerel,  
and could not catch one, and  
perhaps in a few hours time would  
be schooling all over the water  
around us. Their habits have  
been changing for the last 20 yrs.

9) Not many seines going into the Gulf now - about 10 or 12 nets.

Most of the seining is done on the Atlantic coast and this coast.

The Gulf never was much of a place for seining. All the vessels now carrying seines take bait along with them, in order to raise the mackerel around the vessel. Caught most of his fish

that way. ④ Mackerel leave  
here earlier than they do the Nova  
Scotia coast. The first fish  
that goes down is the last that  
comes back; that is in the Gulf.

⑤ Never followed fish along the  
Newfoundland coast. Never saw  
any down there except stray ones;  
that is in the winter, in January,  
February and those months, will

see an occasional struggle among  
the herring. (A) Was at the Magdalens  
this summer. The boats did well  
there, up to August 25. He left  
there then. (B) Does not think de-  
ree of seines is injurious to hand  
line fishing. Thinks the vessels  
do better off Block Island hand  
line fishing than they used to.  
Where they fish cannot do much

sinking, because the bottom is too  
rough; would tear the sines all  
to pieces. (A) The cost of our  
sines is about \$6.00. Will last,  
with ordinary care, about 3 years.  
Has used them 4 or 5 years, but  
not very often. The wings will  
last 6 or 7 years. Made of  
lighter material than they used  
to be. (B) Thinks the steam, some

boats are too expensive to get in  
general use. ① The spring  
mackerel are all now 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Fresh  
taken with spawn in make  
nothing but no. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. There is  
no food in them. There is a  
difference in the quality of fish  
caught down the Bay and those  
caught here. Mackerel here on  
this coast in September are as good

as at any time, but down the Bay  
do not get as fat in Sept. as in  
Oct.

There was a large body of  
mackerel about Marguerie. The  
vessels did well. Got all they  
wanted. One of the vessels was  
the Norumbega, the other the  
Yosemite. As much fishing  
done about the East Point of

since Edwards Island as there has  
been during the last 4 or 5 years.

Bay Chaleur used to be a good  
fishing ground. Does not  
think any vessels went up to the  
7 Isls. this year



Gloucester, Mass.

Capt. Wm J. Huddles

~~Nov. 11. 1893.~~

(Half-brother of Capt. <sup>Sol.</sup> Jacobs. )  
(over)

Age 32. Has been fishing  
ever since he was 9 years old. Has

been mackerel fishing for 15 years.

Sethomer

Name of vessel, Rapid Transit of  
Gloucester.

Went south for mackerel  
this spring. Used to go south every  
year for mackerel before the close time  
law went into effect. Look for  
mackerel off the coast about latitude

(2)

37°, to the north of Cape Henry,  
about 35 miles off shore. Look for  
them there about the same time  
every year. Some years you will  
find the fish in shore if the winds  
are to the north, but if you have  
lots of westerly winds you will find  
them off shore, in about 25 to 35'  
fathoms of water. Would expect  
to meet them there about the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of March; that would be the

fish. Have been in New York  
by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March with a  
few. ~~I~~ the fish when first seen  
are heading to the north, but  
when first seen they are laying  
quiet. Do not see the fish  
coming in from sea. May see  
them in the night the first thing,  
but may see them in the day time  
if it is fine weather, but if it  
is stormy you will see them in

the night. It is about 55 or 50 miles from the gulf stream where we get the fish. ♂ Mackeral have never been seen to the southward of the gulf stream. At least he never heard of it. The farther south he has seen them is off Cape Hatteras, - Bodie Island. Does not think mackeral cross the gulf stream to winter. May go to the edge of it and stay there

all winter and feed. <sup>(g)</sup> They are  
generally poor in the spring when  
they come back. <sup>(g)</sup> Then early  
schools go about N. N.E. when they  
begin to move up the coast, until  
they get up off the Delaware Break-  
water, and then they strike about  
E. N. E. and go to the southward of  
Georges to Cape Sable. Never go  
to the north of Georges. Catch  
them every year to the southward

of Georges. Reach Georges  
about the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of May.  
All those fish go on the Cape Shore.  
Reach there about the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>  
of May. <sup>①</sup> About three weeks after  
this first school another school  
comes along. This later school  
go further to the south — come  
in near Cape Hatteras. They  
come closer in shore than the  
others. <sup>②</sup> the small fish are

always behind; large fish ahead. First you will see the large fish, and about three weeks afterward see the small ones. About 8 or 10 years ago both of these schools were all large schools, but now come in small schools, about 10 to 30 bands. The smallest school he ever saw ten years ago contained about 50 bands. There are so many

seines and vessels that they make  
the fish wild, and they get in  
smaller schools. Find these fish  
in small schools at the very  
beginning of the season before  
they have been followed by the  
vessels at all. (¶) Have followed  
the schools right from Cape  
Henry to Prince Edwards Island.  
Was following the same school  
all the time. We would keep ahead

of the schools, and so we know it  
was the same schools. They do not  
show up on the surface so well  
when the weather is cold as when  
it is warm. Mackinac will school  
whenever they feel like it, but, of  
course, warm weather is the best  
for them to school. That school  
which touches the shore up Cape  
Sable, is the first they strike.  
Some of that early school run

up by Yarmouth in the Bay of Fundy. They catch fish at Yarmouth before they get them in Cape Cod Bay; sometimes a week before. It is not much colder there than here. When the fish leave this coast they take the same direction that they do in the spring when they come. Have not followed those fish any further than Block Island. Has

not followed them directly from  
Cape Shore to Block Island.

Off Nova Scotia shore in the fall  
the fish are right in the Bay  
about 4 or 5 miles from Halifax.

Never saw any fish off on ~~the~~<sup>Le</sup>  
Home or the Western Bank.

When the fish leave in the fall  
they go very slow until the last  
of November, and then they go  
very lively. Will not see any

fish on the Cape Shore off on the  
10<sup>th</sup> of December, but are found as  
late as that every year. They  
remain later on that shore than  
they do here. They remain in  
schools up there as late as the  
10<sup>th</sup> of December. Has seen them  
of Scatelli as late as the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Can tell any other kind of fish  
from mackerel in the water at  
night. (¶) Has known mackerel

to be caught in the winter, but  
not in any quantity. The men  
catch them on their hooks. Not  
before last one time there was a  
heavy sea, and there were some  
mackerel on the deck of the vessel  
very often. That was about the  
5<sup>th</sup> of February. They were washed  
on our deck by the sea. Has  
taken mackerel in cod fish or  
haddock a number of times.

Sometimes find mackerel on the Banks in the winter, if it is not a cold winter. (P) The movements of these schools are affected sometimes by other fishes. These schools are sometimes driven off the coast. This year the blue fish drove mackerel way down to the Bay of Fundy. Were driven 10 miles from Grand Manan. Horse mackerel also drive them. Shad

do not drive them. Blue fish  
are the worst. Dog fish will  
not drive mackerel. (¶) Frequently  
find mackerel of different sizes in  
the same school. Does not think  
he ever got a school but that there  
were different sizes. Sometimes get  
small tunks about 7 or 8 inches  
long, with large mackerel, and  
sometimes will get them 9 or 10  
inches - all sizes. (¶) Sometimes

in this spring when the fish are going to the Cape Shore, the head schools are about all large and uniform. Those are the No. 1's. This early school contains larger fish than the ones that come later. They are always larger. The large fish are always ahead.) The largest mackerel he has ever seen weighed 4 pounds. Does not know the exact length.

That was caught off Cape May

in 1882, about 35 miles offshore.

⑨) The smallest mackerel he ever saw schooling were about three inches. Has seen them in the Gulf of St. Lawrence this summer.

Has never seen such small fish on the southern coast. These small fish were about two months old. Were hatched that spring. They got to be about 6 inches by fall.

⑨ Thinks the fish average a little  
larger this year than they used to,

2. Last year were not so large.

Only the Cape Shore fish - the head  
schools were about the same size.

The fish we caught on the shore were  
better this summer than last. Have  
more No. 1 fish than we did 10  
years ago. Ten years ago were  
about all No. 2<sup>o</sup> and 3<sup>o</sup>. Now about  
all No. 1<sup>o</sup>. Get better mackerel

than we used to. (#) Mackrel feed upon these little shrimps, we call them, about an inch long. The water is solid full of it sometimes at certain seasons of the year.

Most apt to see it in the fall.

Saw more in September in Boston Bay this fall, than ever saw before. Never see that feed on the Nova Scotia Shore or down the Bay. All you see there is this little white

stuff, about as white as snow. Does not know the name of it. Find that in the North Bay and on the Nova Scotia shore. Find it here in the spring, but not after the warm weather comes. Has taken little bant about 2 inches long out of mackerel when dressing them. Has found them with this red feed lots of times. They are poison then, and they will spoil rapidly. It will

make your hands sore. Can keep  
those mackerel just about 12 hours.  
Might keep them about 10 days on  
ice. They spoil quicker than  
those without the red feed in them.  
It burns them and softens the fish  
right up. The bones will come  
out through the meat they are so  
soft. It will bring the blood  
right through your hands just  
in one nights dressing. Does not

seen to take the skin off, but  
draws the blood out. Generally  
get the feed down south; sometimes  
find it off this coast, but not  
very often. Never see it off the  
Cape Shore nor in the North Bay.  
Get most of that feed in the spring  
when the fish get up about the  
Delaware Brushwater, about the  
15<sup>th</sup> of May. <sup>91)</sup> Does not notice  
any particular relation between

the abundance of mackerel in any given place and the presence of this food.

May see large quantities of this food without any fish around.

This fall in Boston Bay there was lots of this feed and no fish. You would see the feed all the time.

whether the fish are there or not, but as a general thing, thinks the fish and feed go together. I have found mackerel with ripe spawn

about the last of May, down off  
Cape North; that is the early fish;  
not all that way. The large fish  
get in the Bay as quickly as they  
can in order to spawn. Has been  
there the 5<sup>th</sup> of June and found them  
there then. They get fat shortly  
after they spawn. Thinks they  
would find fish with spawn off  
this coast about the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.  
None of the fish which they land

fish in New York in the spring  
have spawned. Not much spawn  
in them at that time. Sometimes  
take fish in the Bay of Fundy in  
May with spawn in them.

Thinks the fish go close in shore  
to spawn in the Gulf of St Lawrence.  
Thinks they spawn right around  
Prince Edwards Island, close in shore.  
Mackerel spawn in the shallowest  
water they can get in. Does not

know whether they spawn during the day or night. Has seen eggs and milt running from fish when they were caught. Has seen this in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. ♀ Mackarel seem to get sickly just before they spawn. Sometimes you will get a school <sup>about</sup> ~~all~~ ready to spawn, and you would think they were all paralyzed. They are stupid. Sometimes we throw

hem down there and set 25 times  
in a day, and not stop a fish.

This year had poor luck catching  
fish in the south spring fishing.

Hardly to catch south <sup>now</sup> than ever  
they were. When the fish come up  
after spawning they are very lively,  
although they are poor. Has never  
seen sickly or lazy mackerel, but  
has seen dead mackerel; picked  
them up off the beach where

they have drifted ashore. Does not think they were caught in a seine. They were poor. That was off Newfoundland, in Fortune Bay, near English Island. Sometimes catch mackerel about the coast of Newfoundland, not many this last two years; a few in White Bay. Has seen thousands in ~~the~~ White Bay in years past. Used to use them for bait. Thinks

they go further north sometimes.

Has caught lots of them on ~~the~~ cod  
hooks off Newfoundland. <sup>D</sup> Does  
not find half so many mackerel  
now as when he first went fishing.  
just about a quarter as many as  
15 years ago when he first went.  
Could row out 15 years ago and just  
set around and purse them up and  
bail them in. The decrease is  
caused by so many vessels, so

many seines and so many men  
catching them. Probably 25 or  
more vessels go out of Gloucester  
now. Each vessel has 2 seines  
and 2 boats. Thinks if the few  
seine were not used at all there  
would be as many mackerel on  
the coast as there were 20 years  
ago. Thinks thousands of lbs.  
are wasted. There has not been  
so much waste in recent years.

Has run 400 or 500 bbls, turned  
out of a seine at one time, - small  
fish about 7 inches long. Those  
fish were dead. They do not die  
very quickly after being hunted  
in the seine unless they are jammed  
up pretty tight. It will be  
5 or 6 hours before they die if  
you give them plenty of slack.  
Does not believe much in the  
purse seine. If the purse seine

were done away with, will get  
fish with the hook and line;  
get more than we ever did. Will  
get fish as many fish as we do  
with the seines. Would not be  
much trouble to educate the men  
to fishing that way. When  
fishing with hook and line you  
are throwing over his bait all the  
time and it keeps the fish around.  
Gold catch 7 to 10 barrels every

day this fall when fishing with  
hook and line. (D) thinks lots of the  
mackerel fishermen would be glad  
if the purse seine were done away  
with today; that is seiners. Thinks  
they will get up a law by and by  
to stop these purse seines. Does  
not think the people would object  
much. But thinks they ought  
to have a few years notice, say  
about 2 or 3 years. They could

get rid of all their old stuff in  
2 or 3 years. (2) The only regulation  
he would suggest would be to do  
away with the purse seine altogether.  
If you could not do away with it  
entirely, does not think the close  
season would make much difference.  
The southern fishing never was  
very profitable. Does not think  
the close time law was any benefit  
to the fishing. It did not cover

the spawning season at all. Thinks  
if there was a law gotten up to stop  
purple swimmers from catching them,  
he would put it from the last  
of May until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July,  
or would stop the fishing in June  
and July. But thinks the  
fishermen as a rule would not  
approve of such a regulation.  
Thinks his brother (Soljacich) would  
go right against that, because

he is so used to the purse seine  
he could not catch any fish with  
hook and line, would not get  
enough to eat. June and July  
would cover the spawning season.  
That would apply to the whole  
coast. If they prohibited  
seining in the Gulf of St. Lawrence  
that would cover the whole business.  
It would keep it for those who  
fish with the hand lines, and

would give the netters a chance.

He thinks the seine has a bad effect  
on the shore fishing to some extent.

This year his crew shared about  
\$496.<sup>00</sup> That represented about  
1300 bbls. All they got in the  
northern fishery was about 40 bbls.  
fresh. About \$1500<sup>00</sup> Got  
30 cents each for some of them.

He likes the new class of  
vessels very much - been enough

weather vessels than the old class,  
but they draw too much water for  
some harbors and bays. Has  
been in the Rapid Transit about  
a month. Was in the Abbie M.  
Deering early in the season. Was  
not in her last year. Was in an  
old fashioned vessel last year.

3

over dynamite cartridges, and  
that bounces the fish so we can  
pick up a good many, but they  
soon come to — that is the way  
they are when spawning; rather  
stupid. If you get a seine  
around fish in the spring when  
on the Cape Shore, you are sure of  
the fish: no trouble at all to catch  
them in the spring. It is not  
the same at the south. I have

Gloster, Mass.

R.

Capt. John A. Critchett

Nov. 17, 1893

Interviewed by William Wakeham and Hugh M. Smith,

Age 56. Been fishing

since 1852. Has been living in

Gloster 27 years. Been master

of a vessel 27 years; mackerel  
fishing all that time, except for the  
last 4 or 5 years. Name of  
vessel, <sup>Soh.</sup> Richard Lester of Gloster.

Has engaged in the southern  
spring fishing a number of springs.  
But has not been there for 6 years.

The furthest he has been is down off Cape Charles, and most generally met the fish there. Some meet them most down to Cape Hatteras, but he has not been that far. Met them about 40 or 50 miles off shore. Mackerel used to tend in shore further than they do now. <sup>2)</sup> There is a school of mackerel goes into the Gulf of St. Lawrence regularly, and they tend

way off in the gulf stream. They  
are a big school. I) Has a chart  
prepared by Eldridge which  
shows how the fish will go; that  
is, as to latitude and longitude.

It gives the cold and warm water  
bands. It is a regular coast  
chart. I) When he first went  
south mackerel came closer in  
shore than they do now; that is,  
years ago. When he first met

the fish in the spring fishery they  
were heading about E.N.E. Sometimes  
they varied a little from day to day,  
but that is the general trend. The  
body of mackerel does not touch  
this shore. It is the same school  
that we catch off Sandy Hook.  
Down south see mackerel from  
5 to 20 miles off shore. Used to  
follow them as far as Cape Cod.  
Vessels that go south now follow

the same course.

Mackerel generally go the same route they come. They would strike the Nova Scotia coast generally about the first of June or 25<sup>th</sup> of May. I have known mackerel caught off Cape Sable, some 6 or 8 years ago, the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Capt Smith caught a school of mackerel the 20<sup>th</sup> of May off Cape Sable, some 20 miles

off Browns Bank. ¶ When the fish first approach the Nova Scotia shore they come in from sea. Regularly every spring a school strikes in among the Cape Sable Islands, and they catch them in the weirs. Some of them go up the Bay of Fundy. They have caught them up as far as Digby. In Saint Mary's bay in past years, the people there

would set their nets, and in high water the mackerel would play around the nets, and in low water they would pick them out of the nets.

Some of those mackerel go into the Gulf by the Gut of Canso, and some come out through there. The large schools in the spring generally go around the North Cape. Has been there the 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of June, but vessels do go there earlier than

that, but not very often. Seiners do sometimes. Has been in there hooking about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 10 of June. When the mackerel first come in the Bay they strike about North Cape, then follow the land up to New Brunswick and further north, where they go to spawn. Has followed them up to the Magdalens lots of times. Those Magdalen Island fish are large. The first school

that comes are large mackerel.

The second school smaller size.

The first school strike the  
Magdalens about the 5<sup>"</sup> or 6<sup>"</sup>  
of June. Has known of mackerel  
being caught there the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.  
Some schools go as far as 7 Ids.

When we first see them in the  
spring they are poor and full  
of spawn and milt. The  
spawn is not very well advanced.

They do not get to be that way  
until they get pretty well eastward.  
The schools that come about this  
coast do not spawn. Thinks  
they spawn further south, along  
the New York and New Jersey coast  
and off Long Island. There is  
nothing in them when they come here.  
Has not followed mackerel any  
further than Block Island in  
the fall. Has never caught

mackerel in the winter, but has seen them taken out of fish in January — taken out of cod fish. They were small mackerel about 6 inches long. Seen them taken out of fish on Brown's Bank. One winter was down the Bay of Fundy buying herring, and saw mackerel caught in nets there in January. They were in good order — fat. The school of mackerel that

comes in the Gulf spawn as soon  
as they get there, probably along  
about the 15 or 20 of June, judging  
from their appearance. Thinks  
there are mackerel that do not come  
north, and they spawn about the  
first of June. When we catch  
them in Boston Bay there is  
nothing in them. 2) Late in the  
season mackerel are abundant  
along this coast, between the Bay

of Fundy and Cape Cod.

A school of mackerel struck in the Bay this fall, and we did not know hardly which way they came from. Think they came right in from sea. They were not down the Bay of Fundy.

We did fairly well this year. Caught all of our mackerel out around No man's Land, Block Island and back side of <sup>Martin's</sup> Vineyard.

Herring. Our first trip we  
caught them all in our seines.  
That was along about the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
July. Then they were fat. Get  
fatter mackerel on this coast than  
they do in the St. Lawrence.  
Those mackerel that we get off  
Block Island have followed  
the coast down, probably 15 to  
20 miles off, and come right in  
from a southwest course.

Have caught mackerel at times  
when the spawn was running, and also  
milt. Catch as many sometimes at  
the spawning time as any other.  
The mackerel they catch on the Nova  
Scotia shore have the spawn in  
them, and the milt has about come to  
maturity.

Mackerel travel very fast—  
about as fast as a vessel would  
sail with a keen wind. When they

strike that shore, might see a school  
off Cape Sable this afternoon and the  
next afternoon be most down to Halifax.  
They are in a hurry in order to get on  
the spawning ground. Would expect  
to meet them with a certain regularity  
at a certain date; and the same  
with the mackerel in the southern  
waters.

Mackerel feed on live food -  
what we call shrimp. Does not

think they take any food that is  
suitable to them, but has found  
them with food in them that burns  
them - what we call cayenne.

Has seen that in the Bay of Fundy.  
Has found them just full of it. Has  
not noticed so much of it of late years.  
Out around Block Island and back  
of Vineyard Haven this summer the  
water was covered with ~~shrimps~~<sup>fish</sup>  
about 6 inches long; - we call it

lant, and wherever that would be  
there would be mackerel. When  
we find a large body of fish at  
sea we expect to find mackerel.  
Sometimes these signs fail, but we  
have to rely upon them as a general  
thing. I very often ~~catch~~ <sup>find</sup> other  
fish with mackerel; such as  
herring or pogies. Catch  
herring sometimes with mackerel,  
and sometimes get a school of

mackerel and herring together,  
mixed up; and sometimes albacore  
with mackerel, and sometimes  
squid. Sometimes along the  
Maine coast might pursue some  
up a school, thinking they were  
mackerel, and find they were  
porgies or something like that.  
Has caught shad with mackerel.  
Never caught blue fish with  
mackerel, but have mistaken

blue fish for mackerel. Has  
chased them for mackerel. Blue  
fish eat the sardines up. Take  
~~the~~ big herring and sometimes  
they will school just like  
mackerel. 2) Blue fish will drive  
mackerel, and so will horse mackerel,  
but blue fish are hard on them.  
Dog fish are harmless among the  
mackerel - do not drive them any.  
They follow on behind the schools.

They will eat them, but will not  
live them. #). I was once down the  
~~head~~ of Maine coast. Had been  
laying there for 2 or 3 days on  
account of bad weather — this is  
some 12 years ago — and we all  
came out in the morning, and when  
we got out about half a mile off  
I saw a long with two men in it  
with a dip net, dipping right out  
of the water. Could not tell what

it was at first, but thought it was herring. Did not think it possible it could be mackerel.

I says to a couple of our fellows, 'go out and see what they are doing; and there they were hauling mackerel right out of a school into the dory. My men began hauling also, and they hauled a dory about half full of mackerel; big ones, about 15 to 16 inches. The school was at the surface all

this time, or just below the surface. These mackerel were ~~#~~ kind of paralyzed, and were just as close as they could get. These dog fish and these bonitos had them all surrounded so that they could not move, and sharks "something had them paralyzed so they would not move."

When the mackerel spawn they very often disappear for a time.

After they spawn they come up  
to the surface and go to shore.  
You can catch many mackerel in  
the Bay with the spawn in  
them.

Mackerel are more shy than  
they used to be 20 or 30 years ago.  
In the season that they are driven  
to death; very greatly by winter.  
They are more shy now and less  
than what they used to be. Not

so many go into the Gulf of  
St Lawrence as there used to be  
years ago. I have been there  
and caught three trips of fish  
years ago. Now you can go and  
lay there and not get hardly  
any. The seines have had  
the effect of shying the mackerel.  
Has done the most of his  
fishing with seines. Has done  
a good deal with both seines

and hook and line. Less number  
go on the coast now than 20 years  
ago. Last year caught a whole  
~~market.~~ <sup>9</sup> Those fish were  
found only in Boston Bay this  
fall. Quite a number of vessels  
made fares there; could not say  
just how many; probably 25  
vessels fishing there. These fish  
did not stay long in Boston Bay.  
One night got the biggest haul.

The next night they did not get any. Got some scattering schools afterwards.

Does not know how to account for the decrease as compared with 20 years ago. It makes them scarcer by being caught up. When a large number of vessels were fishing off shore they would shy the fish. If you were to set for a school and miss them it

would scare them so you would  
not see that school again.

- 8) Does not think the purse seine catches  
too many, or ever did. And to  
get these small mackerel, where  
they would mesh in the seine and  
sink it down, and they would  
be destroyed, but not much of  
that lately. It was just the  
same in the southern fishing.
- 9) Does not believe the 5 years'

dose season amounted to anything.  
Did not affect the mackerel any.  
Believe there would be just as  
many mackerel without it. The  
year before there was a big body  
of mackerel at the south, and  
all the vessels got more mackerel  
than they could sell - only worth  
\$ or  $\frac{1}{2}$ . a barrel. The next year  
they thought it would be best to  
pass a law not to have anything

to do south for 5 years, so they  
got it passed. During that 5 years  
no mackerel came on the coast.

This summer quite a number of fish  
came on the coast. It did not make  
them any more plenty on this coast  
than they were before. Very few  
mackerel taken with the hook and  
line now. This law was for the  
spawning season also; - to give them  
a chance to spawn before they caught

them. That was on the Nova  
Scotia shore also. Could not catch  
them there until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of June. But those mackerel were  
just as full of spawn ~~before~~<sup>as far</sup> that  
as they were before. The close season  
did not cover the spawning time.  
Does not believe that law would do  
any good if it were in force again.  
He would not advocate it. If does  
not think they would get as many

mackerel with the look and live as  
they used to even if the vessels are  
in the same number. Does not  
know the reason exactly, but the  
mackerel seem to have different  
habits now. They want different  
bait. Have seen it in the Gulf,  
when there appeared to be just as many  
mackerel, but when we heaved bait  
on the water it would scare them  
and away they would go, but you

ago it would not frighten them  
so much. I have heaved away 25

buckets of bait myself in that gulf.

If there never was a seine manufactured,  
and that fleet of vessels kept going the  
year around, believe they would probably  
do just as well. There were more  
mackerel caught in those days than  
now. It does not behove purse  
seining hurts the mackerel any,  
but, of course, if they use it before

the spawning season it reduces the  
water. #) Used to go to the Gulf of  
St Lawrence after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July,  
years ago, and would catch more  
fish than we do now, and better  
quality. Could handle them  
better - not so large a quantity  
at one time. #) Pretty hard to tell  
about regulations for the purse  
seine fishing. He never goes  
sining until late in the season

anyhow; that is, July and August.  
Does not go in for the spring  
fishing. Goes cod fishing then.  
Thinks it would cripple those who  
do nothing else but fish for  
mackerel to shorten the season.

Thinks if the Gulf of St. Lawrence  
were reserved for hook and line  
fishing it would be a good thing.

Thinks if they let the Cape Shore  
alone and let those fish go into

the Gulf and keep spawning there for sometime, there would be more mackerel. All the fish caught on the Cape Shore in the early part of the season have spawn in them; that is, they have not spawned.

It would be better for the fishermen if they did not catch them until after they had spawned. I have been down the Newfoundland coast a good deal. There were certain

parts of Newfoundland years ago  
where mackerel used to be very  
plentiful, especially on the western  
part. Used to get them in St.  
Georges Bay, many years ago, but  
not now. Has caught mackerel  
way up to Herring Island.

These fish that come out of the  
Bay come very late. They stay  
later on that coast than they do  
on our coast. The mackerel on

this coast go south quicker than  
they do there. Thinks the mackerel  
on this coast go farther south than  
those that come out of the Gulf of  
St. Lawrence.

A few mackerel about here  
now. Caught a few in Provincetown  
Bay in the nets, and a few about  
Newport in small boats.

Gloucester Mass.

R.

Capt. Joseph S. Graham

(Nov. 12, 1883)

Interviewed by William Wakeham and Hugh H. Smith

Has been fishing 20 years.

Mackerel fishing about all of the time, with the exception of about two years. ~~Name of boat - Sch.~~  
Captain of ~~boat~~ - Sch.,  
Hattie M. Graham, of Gloucester.

Was down at the southern fishing this last spring, usually take the spring schools off about Gaffetas, Cape May and along that bore. Sometimes 20 miles off; sometimes 100 miles; all the way

from Hatteras north. At that time they are heading to the north and east, N. E. About 35 miles off shore we first met them. Step about that distance every year. The first <sup>show me one</sup> fish have in large schools. Have followed spring schools; - that is one school, from the time we strike south; that is about the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April; have followed them about 3 weeks; possibly a distance of 100 to 150 miles. The first part of the season they do not move very fast; probably about 5 to 6 miles an hour; sometimes more, sometimes less; especially when they strike places where they feed. Do not move much then for a week at a

time. They are small fish and very poor. Have noticed spawn in these early fish. The small ones do not have spawn.

Another school comes about three weeks afterward, large fish, - what we call 1's and 2's. Have noticed the spawn in them.

This second school comes in the same direction, just as far

south as the other school.

The small ones are not too young

to spawn; they are no. 3 fish,

about 10 inch. I have found

mackerel as far north as the

Bay Chaleur about 30 miles

north of Prince Edwards Island,

Was a place near 7 Islands in

years gone by, about 80 or 90

miles north of Prince Edward Is.,

where they have been caught.

I have fished on the Nova Scotia shore this spring. The fish were taken as they were going down to the eastward. Never saw them going in from off shore. Have caught mackerel all the way from 5 to 15 miles off that shore, but have been seen as far as 35 or 40 miles off shore.

(C)

usually first strike them on the shore  
at Cape Sable, or a little south of  
that point, say 5 to 10 miles.

They come in from about S. S. W. along  
the eastern edge of Georges. and  
go up in the Bay of Fundy. They  
catch them up as far as St. Johns.  
Does not think the same fish which  
occur on this coast appear on the  
Nova Scotia coast and in the Gulf

of St Lawrence. They follow them out of the Bay in the summer time until they lose sight of them, at Brown's Bank. They were going about S.S.E. The farthest is about 70 miles S.S.W. from Cape Sable. <sup>¶</sup> Most of the fish that struck our coast last year were No. 2 fish. Never struck this coast this year at all. Do not

know where they went to. All the fish which we got here this year were large. #1 Has followed schools in the fall as far off shore as Chatham. They were heading to the S.S.E. out through the Channel. Have followed them off the Nova Scotia shore in the fall. Sometimes they are in close and sometimes off quite a distance. Generally lose them

about Little Hope, Nova Scotia.  
They take the same course going  
back as they do going in. When  
they leave in the fall, they leave  
gradually; about the same as they  
come. Come on in schools and  
leave in schools. When last  
seen in the fall they are in  
schools. Do not notice any  
difference between the size of early  
schools and the late schools. The

fish are at their best as regards fatness, in October. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of August to the last of October, after that they begin to lose their fat. I) Has never caught mackerel in the winter. Has known them to occur in winter off this coast. Shore fishermen have caught them in their trawls in the winter; about 15 to 20 miles off shore from Cape Ann. A few are

caught most every winter, in the months of December and January.

Does not know their condition, but thinks they are poor. The trawls

are set in all the way from 35 to 70 fathoms of water. I) Look for the fish to strike about the same part of the coast every year. Always fish about 30 to 40 miles off, and find them every spring about the same. II) Generally strike them on the

Nova Scotia shore from the 20<sup>th</sup>  
to the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Seiners get  
them there at that time. Do not  
know if they strike at one point on  
the Nova Scotia coast earlier  
than they do others. They get them  
at Yarmouth in traps before they  
do at any other part of Nova Scotia.  
It is pretty hard to tell where the  
best fishing grounds are on this  
coast. In the fish part of the

year all along the coast from  
Monhegan to St. Johns. Fish  
there about the first of October  
and then work to the westward.  
The fishing grounds vary with  
the season. ¶ The movements of  
the schools are influenced by  
fishes preying upon them.  
Last year ~~we~~ saw what we call  
blue fish drive the mackerel off  
the coast sooner than they would

have gone otherwise. Blue fish come about the last of July. Look for a spell of bad fishing after the blue fish come. Fish called bonitos also prey on mackerel. Do not know of any others. Dog fish are hard on them, but do not drive them. Do not think whales hurt mackerel any; not half as much as blue fish. Have never known

blue fish to drive them out to sea. Has known them to drive them on the shore. Blue fish this fall around Cape Cod the first part of the fall kept mackerel from coming there altogether.

Find different size fish in the schools. Find some schools containing fish of uniform size. No particular

season when we look for the same size fish in the schools.

The largest mackerel I ever saw measured 17 inches. Had a number of that size this fall, probably 15 or 20. Caught them about 6 or 7 miles off Cape Ann.

The smallest mackerel I ever saw schooling were about 4 or 5 inches long. They occur generally in the fall, about October. Think

they were hatched that spring,  
a few. I do not know much  
about where they spawn. It is  
very hard to tell. Have never  
found any place yet where they  
spawn. Think they spawn in  
up water: down on muddy  
bottoms. The first fish we  
got in the spring tastes rather  
muddy. Think they spawn in  
down, because we get them down

the Cape Shore the first of  
June and they are full of spawn  
now; almost running out of them.  
All the fish we get on the Cape  
Shore have spawn in them; that  
is before a certain date. The  
earliest fish all have spawn;  
also what we get south. The  
fish never strike this coast much  
before June, and have spawn  
then. Have seen it just running

from them; not in the water,  
but on the vessel's deck; That  
was down on the Nova Scotia  
shore. All the mackerel we  
saw in the southern spring fishery  
were full of spawn, except those  
that are too small to spawn.  
Has not noticed any peculiarity  
about the habits of the mackerel  
at the time they spawn. They are  
easy to catch then, and seem to be

rather dead. More apt to catch  
a school then than at other times.  
There is a dull period for mackerel  
fishing about the time they spawn  
every year. Always dull about  
the last of June. Thinks they  
disappear and remain down for  
a fortnight, somewhat according  
to the weather. When they come  
after they have spawned they are  
very thin and poor. Can tell

before opening them whether they have spawned or not, by their appearance. They are lank after spawning; do not look near as big — are long and slender. They fatten rapidly after spawning. About the last of July they get quite fat.

Thinks there are just as many mackerel now as ever, but do not catch as many. Thinks

they are wilder and harder to catch.  
Saw as many fish this year as  
ever, but did not catch as many  
on account of the water being so  
clear. Fish see the seines and  
are under them. Do not know  
the cause of the wildness. Find  
them wild through the entire  
season. They are generally  
more shy towards the fall. Flat  
nacked are harder to catch

than thin ones. Fish on the  
Nova Scotia shore are very easy  
to catch. Harder to catch them  
out at sea. It is on account of the  
bitter water. Could put a  
bullet down on the sounding  
line and see it 12 fathoms below  
the surface.

Mackerel feed on different  
things. Have seen live feed,  
hump; and then there is a kind

of red seed in the water. Do not know what it is. Some call it cayenne. They feed upon it. Find them full of it sometimes. It is pretty well distributed along the coast. See it some springs. Last spring saw lots of it. This last couple of years have seen just as much as we used to, but before that, was not any on the coast for a number

of years back. Find the same  
fuel in the North Bay. More  
than this year than for 15 years  
before, so the fishermen say.

When mackerel are among live  
fuel; what we call shrimp, they  
are very hard to catch. That  
food does not burn them as the  
old food does. I do not think  
the close time law any benefit  
to the mackerel. Thinks the

law was passed because they  
thought there would be more fish  
come on the coast then. Does not  
know any other reason why they  
passed it. Does not think it  
affords any protection to the fish  
during the spawning season.  
The southern spring mackerel  
fishery has not been profitable  
as a general thing. Has for a  
few vessels, but not for the fleet

in general. Has been as high as  
150 sails south fishing, and  
probably not over 15 sails would  
pay their expenses. They engaged  
in it, probably, because they did  
not know what else to do. Were  
bitted out for the business and  
did not wish to change for  
another voyage. might be 15  
sails go there this spring and do  
well, and perhaps 15 sails the next

spring - all different vessels.

The crews were anxious to go on the southern voyage in the spring.

There was some advantage in starting early. Have been ships in New York on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March.

That gets a trip in early, and get more money for them then. Can't a better selection of men for the crew by fitting out early. You been hook and line fishing

for mackerel every fall, would  
raise them and set around the  
vessel. Just as soon as we pull  
them up we generally set around  
the vessel. Used to go regular  
hook and line fishing in the Nov.  
Bay, about 15 to 18 years ago.  
Did not catch as many then with  
hook and line as we do now with  
line seines, not near as many.  
Did not begin hook and line fishing

until it was pretty well over.

There were 10 or 15 sail hooking  
at North Bay this summer;

about the same number every year.

The "Notice" was down there and  
got 150 barrels of fish. He does  
not think the seines hurt the fish  
much; not half as much as the  
boats do. Thinks a good many  
seines operating along the coast  
tend to drive them off. The

wildness of the fish may be due to  
the purse seine — at least it helps  
them to be wild. Has known  
large quantities of small mackerel  
to be meshed in the seines. Has  
seen much destruction of fish  
that way of late years, but 8 or 9  
years ago there was quite a large  
quantity of mackerel destroyed in that

No means of telling what  
a school is like, especially at

night. Can tell pretty near in  
the day time if the weather is fine  
so that you can see them on top  
of the water. D) Thinks the present  
variety of mackerel on our coast  
partly due to the blue fish.  
They keep them off shore all the  
time. D) thinks the fish on this  
coast this year were down and  
never showed only at certain times.  
into a large quantity of fish

caught in October, but not many  
now. I have not had the same  
number of vessels in the business  
since 1886 that there were before.  
Last year not over 70 sails on the  
west. Not over 150 this year.  
Used to be 400 or 500 sails in the  
business. Vessels are not making  
quite as large fares as they did  
years ago, but some make very  
large fares. I would not favor a

removal of the close time law.

Does not think that the purse  
men needs any regulations. If  
they were to give the purse ser-  
vants, does not think they would  
make enough with the hook and  
line to pay running expenses.  
We have had vessels in it every  
year, and they do not any more  
than pay their bills. Take a  
whole fleet at that business and

they would not do anything at all.

used to be a profitable business.

Effect of using so much bait  
is to keep the fish together.

They do not seem to bite as they  
should do. Raise fish on this  
bottom now and you will not get  
more than 4 or 5, and then they  
will disappear. #1 has caught the  
most of his fish on the Maine  
bottom, all the way from Cape

Am to Mount Desert. Had  
but fishing off Cape Ann in  
October. <sup>#1</sup>) Caught about 150  
lb. this year in the southern  
fishery. Sold them in Philadelphia,  
brought all the way from 8 to 15 cents.  
They have run bigger prices than  
that in New York. Sold as  
high as 30 cents apiece there last  
spring. Do not get those prices  
so often though. <sup>#2</sup>) Was in the

within fishery in 1885 when  
so many fish were thrown away.  
They were mostly small fish though.  
Threw a good many away himself.  
The reason they threw them away  
was that there was no demand  
for them in the market. Got  
them off Sandy Hook, all the  
way from 20 to 30 miles. Was  
on one trip 25 miles E. S.E. from  
New York. Just as many out there

as there were in shore, and all  
the same kind of fish. Did not  
see any large fish out there that

Mr.

The fish go into the Gulf  
of St. Lawrence around Scattari,  
Cape North and Cape Breton, and  
they come out the same way. Have  
seen them going through Canso, but  
I never saw any. Has seen them  
at the mouth of the straits on the

with side. <sup>7)</sup> Does not think  
the majority of the fishermen  
care much about the close time  
law. Do not care about signing  
again. It does not mean a  
serious interference with the  
fisheries, and does not fully  
protect the fish during the  
hawning season. Thinks  
this is the principal month for  
hawning.

Gloucester, Mass.  
David Tarr — of the firm  
of James G. Tarr & Son.  
<sup>at at</sup>

Howard by William Wakeham and Hugh M.  
Smith, Nov. 18, 1893.

Began fishing at 9 years  
of age, and continued until he  
was 23. There were only a few  
true seines at that time, about

155. I have no handline fishermen  
in this country to amount to anything  
but one vessel, the David Sherman,  
looking this summer. I think the  
northern fishing is not a paying

Had 2 vessels south this  
year and they did not get a barrel  
of fish. That fishing has always  
been unprofitable. Never been  
paying voyage for so years.  
The close season did not affect  
the fishing except those who made  
specialty of early fishing.  
In the whole the hook would be  
more destructive than the purse seine.

but do not think they will ever  
bring it about now. ¶ The mackrel  
fishery as presented at the present  
time may be compared to the liquor  
question. We know it is an evil,  
but cannot stop it. If we could  
burn away with all sinners, would like  
to put them all in a furnace  
burn them, but cannot get  
fishermen to go any other way.

Had 2 vessels this year with  
1000. worth of seines and boats,  
that went for two months and a  
half and never got a solitary  
fish. Down on the Cape Shore  
a vessel got 16, and the other 37  
hundred of fish. They were careful  
not to break the Canadian laws.  
There were years that mackerel  
were extremely scarce. Has known

good many years when vessels

would go with hook and line and  
get 100 to 150 barrels for the

snow. ¶ There were some of the

largest schools on this coast

this fall than ever — schools

1 acres in extent. Knows of

one case where they rowed right

through a school and got 50 bbls.,

the fish did not sink on either

all of them. <sup>9)</sup> The fish are  
smaller now than they used to be.  
When the water is cool it is  
possible to catch them in the  
day time. They will dive the  
waves. Most of the fishing  
done this fall here has been  
at night. <sup>9)</sup> The old hook and  
line fishing began in May. That  
they went south in May.

They usually went south in May  
and came home and started for  
the Bay along the middle or last  
of June, and from that to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
of July. ②) Does not think the  
tides have any influence in keeping  
the fish away. They caught more  
fish in the old days with the hook  
and line than they do now. Had  
larger fleet. ③) The quantity

caught by seines is very small as compared with the mass of fish in the water, and the amount destroyed by other fish that prey upon them. They expected to get lots of fish south this spring in account of the 5 years close season, but never did so poorly. We lots of fish, but could not catch them. They thinks the merchants

generally who fit vessels would  
have no objections to a close  
season. Does not think the  
southern fishing has ever been  
my benefit. Has been in it  
12 years, fitting vessels for it.  
They catch mackerel in the waters  
down at Nova Scotia in the  
latter part of April or in May,  
when they come in. Thinks the

close season was a good thing,  
if they could have had it a little  
earlier, - say 20<sup>th</sup> of May, instead  
of 1<sup>st</sup> of June. I do not think  
the close season increased the  
supply of fish. It would not make  
hardly any difference. Do not  
catch enough to affect the schools.  
The fleet amounts to only about 50  
or 60 sail. During the summer

nights be 150 sails. ¶ When  
they went with hook and line  
they would always get something,  
now with seines it is the smarter  
captains and the big crews that  
get the most fish. ¶ Men get  
tired of cod fishing in the spring,  
and go to Block Island or the  
west of Maine, or the Bay.  
Seiners in the Bay have not

caught many mackerel for some  
years in the spring and early in  
the fall. Vessels get only a few  
barrels in the fall. One vessel went  
down one fall and got 300 barrels.

Would be in favor of a renewal of the  
shore time law, if they would make  
the date about 10 days earlier.

Does not think the mackerel need  
any protection. Thinks there

would be just as many on the  
west if there was no close season.

Regards the winter fishing, it  
is not profitable as a whole;  
next to a few experts, but to the  
average fishermen it is not profitable.  
It would be in the interest of the  
greatest number not to have any  
mackerel caught before the first

May. II) Would not want to

put any restrictions on the purse  
seine, because could not get men  
to go with hook and line. Would  
not want any international law  
bearing away with the purse seine  
absolutely. Should want to get  
out of the business if there were  
any restrictions put upon fishermen  
who are fishing <sup>(without,?)</sup> within three miles  
of the shore. The bulk of the

fish were caught off shore when  
he used to go fishing. Not many  
there in the North Bay when  
they can fish within three miles  
without tearing their lines all  
to pieces. Prohibiting the early  
fishing would be in the interest  
of owners of vessels. In regard  
to the cod fish, experts can have  
some idea about how they are

going to work, but cannot tell  
about the bodies of mackerel.

Has been no small mackerel  
run since 7 or 8 years ago until  
the present season. When due  
and to be 200 or 300 sail of  
vessels go to the Bay and draw  
but the quality of the mackerel  
down there was much better than  
it is now. Remember the time

when Bay mackerel sold for shore  
mackerel in this market. He does  
not know of any legislation that  
would satisfy the fishermen.  
Used to have much legislation  
in regard to the fisheries.  
Thinks they had better let the  
fishermen use any device they  
wish to catch fish until it  
is very apparent that it is

injurious to the fish.

¶ Has fitted out the schooner  
Jenny Swain with 18 men and  
seines, and the schooner Common  
wealth with the same number of  
men and seines. On this coast we  
had the Richard Lester, Ralph  
Eaton, Epes Tarr and David  
Brackett. Those that went to  
Block Island got about enough

to pay their bills. The David  
Shuman went to the Bay, - she  
got 160 barrels. Would have got  
full trip if it had not been for  
the weather, - very stormy all the time.  
Those vessels that started late did  
fairly well considering, but the  
only ones only got about 200  
barrels for the entire season on  
the Cape Shore in the spring.

Did not do well. One vessel got  
16 and the other 37 barrels.

The dealers, as a rule, would prefer  
that there were no southern fishery.

The vessels would inform one each  
other if they caught mackerel  
before the law was up. Scientists  
like Prof. Baird do not think  
any contrivance of man would  
affect the catch of mackerel.

They say when the mackerel come  
from the warm water they have  
not of scale over their eyes and  
it is easy to catch them.

Knows no reason why mackerel  
should not be as numerous on our  
west at some early day as they  
have been. 9) No extent of shore  
likely carried on along this coast.  
There is trap fishing all up and

on the coast, but do not take  
many mackerel in the early season.  
I do not think the poor fishing of  
this year will affect the number  
of vessels sent out next year.

Used to make lots of money in the  
mackerel fishery, but have not  
made a dollar for the last 5  
years. Will probably be about  
the same number of vessels go

with next year as this year; and  
I told there be a fair catch  
with in May, the fleet would  
doubled, because the Bank  
fishermen have not done much  
this year, and they wanted much  
go mackerel fishing if there  
is anything to catch. The  
Gloucester fishermen are rather  
a bad way at present. The

interested in the Iceland fishery.

Vessels sent there this year got  
out enough to pay their bills.

Only had one vessel at the Grand  
Banks fishery this year.

§) Thinks the mackerel fleet  
will be larger next year, if there  
is any prospect of catching fish.

§) The large bulk of the southern  
mackerel are sold fresh.

New York fish dealers do not  
at any close law. <sup>(2)</sup> There  
is considerable argument here  
regard to the effect upon the  
fish that the seines would. <sup>(3)</sup> We  
thought catching so many before  
pausing might decrease the  
number of fish on the shore.  
Used to catch lots of small fish  
and let them go - hundreds and

thousands of barrels. If these small  
whale should come on the coast and  
with the large ones they would  
take thousands of barrels and have  
them overboard. That waste of  
small fish has been kept up ever  
since the purse seine has been in  
use, but not every year. It has  
been irregular. I do not suppose  
there could be any law passed to

about the use of jigs or scines.  
tide for mackerel. Wishes  
he could be. Thinks the  
Scien would catch more fish  
on the hook in the Bay. Most  
of the fish caught on the hook  
are caught after the spawning  
run is over, and they are better  
I as a rule. Drift nets do not  
have pockets. Thinks if

they could prohibit the use of  
tunes we should be better off.

Mackerel would be a good price

at the start, but they would

then catch just as many as ever.

H. Jacobs' brother has been

fishing all summer and got only

2 barrels. #) Could not say as

what fitters generally think

but seines, but they all would

Wish to see the southern fishery

tapped. ④ The steam semi

is not likely to come into  
general use. It is too expensive.

vessels using the steam semi

at this year have not done any

more than other vessels. The

Santa Henrik and the Guyling

used them this year. Experiments

with steam semi boats generally

We have been unsuccessful.

There has been nothing new that

we have got in the way of catching

sake that has proved more

unusually successful.

¶) In 1884 we packed on our

half 26,000 barrels of mackerel,

and bought 15,000 barrels outside.

We have not had much business with  
mackerel since. Prices did not  
run high in 1884 as they do now.

*whenever* (Portland, Maine) (R)

Mr. A. M. Smith, <sup>(over)</sup> Dealer.

November 23, 1883

*been in the fish business about 15 years,*

#) In regard to mackerel fishery, does not think there is practically any legislation that can be enacted in regard to catching mackerel but what would be entirely useless. He used to be a strong believer in legislation.

Never engaged personally in the fisheries. #) In regard to the five year close season, I was the instigator of that, I was the first

one that moved in that direction.  
I had an idea that there might  
possibly be something in it,  
with relation to the movements of  
the mackerel on our own coast;  
but my principal reason for  
going into it was a selfish one.  
The position I took at that time,  
and which I can prove by facts,  
was this; that so far as vessel  
owners were concerned, there was

w money in catching mackerel  
before that time which we designated  
the close season had expired, for  
the reason that our vessels would go  
south at a heavy expense; they  
would run their mackerel into  
New York, where they would overstock  
the market, the price would run  
right down from a reasonable  
price to an unprofitable one, and  
it took us almost all the rest of

the season to bring the price back  
again where it should be. That was  
the principal reason I had in  
mangurating that movement in  
favor of a close season. But the  
effect it had on mackereling, as  
we all can see from the result,  
was non effective. It did not make  
any difference. As far as trade  
concerned, we can hardly  
judge, because there has been so

few mackerel  <sup>lately</sup> in the market. Does

not think there is any difference in the

#) If I remember, the inauguration

that law developed a tremendous indus-

try in pound fishing all along the shore

from New Jersey to the uttermost end of

Nova Scotia. That stimulated the pounds

around Yarmouth. Where there was

a pound in the States and along the

Nova Scotia shore before that time,

before that law was passed I think it

doubled it up immediately that year.

My theory in regard to that is, that those pounds during the spawning season do more damage to mackerel fishing than all the seines that ever were used, because those fish generally run into the shallow water to spawn. But so far as that close law being a <sup>#1</sup> benefit, it was a misfortune. I think other State or national legislation entirely useless so far as the mackerel

Lobster is concerned. If they  
want to exclude the sines, I would  
hold up both hands to do it. I  
would be perfectly willing that they  
should exclude the sines, but I  
would want to do it on economical  
grounds rather than on the ground  
preservation of the fisheries.  
Counts us a great deal more to fit  
vessels for sinning than by the  
fashioned way of hooking, and

by the old fashioned way more  
men were given employment.  
that one vessel would take any  
men, but it required a great  
many more vessels to carry on the  
industry. Does not think it  
would be advisable, <sup>however,</sup> to give up the  
herring fishing. They may  
be some inland fish that need  
tection, like salmon and  
ysters, and something like that.

most all the legislation that  
has ever been made in the state  
of Maine in regard to catching  
fish has been in the interest of  
a particular person or interest  
that is especially working in that  
area. I will say that without fear  
contradiction from any intelligent  
man.

¶) There has been no decrease  
in the quantity of mackerel. They

have been as plenty on our shores  
this year as I have ever known  
them to be, all the way from Block  
Island to the Bay of Fundy. This  
isolation is not asked for for the  
moral good at all. It is all for  
the selfish interest. <sup>If</sup> I think the  
~~thing negotiations~~  
ought to be changed. I think  
it is exceedingly unjust for  
Nova Scotia government, or  
our Government, to confiscate

a vessel or her gear for the wrong-doing of men who are absolutely out of the control of the owner of the vessel.

The captain, not the owner should be held responsible.

¶) On the coast of Maine  
purse seining is not allowed within  
the head lines that are 3 miles  
apart or less. The last legislature  
helped us out a little in drawing  
the line up the Bay, but that only  
was as far as St. John's Bay. That  
law was passed last winter

<sup>now</sup>  
(Portland, Maine) (R)  
Capt. N. Orchard  
Interviewed by Richard Rathbun.  
Nov. 23, 1893.

(Bring the last 9 up here)

There seems to be more mackerel this year than there were last, but were harder to catch. Has been a series of bad years back to about 1885. Does not think they <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ any scarce as a whole than in <sup>previous</sup> ~~any other~~ years. Thinks the purse seine has some effect. If there had never been a purse seine there would be any quantity of them now. Would not

make much difference to him  
whether the purse seine was given  
up or not. Thinks the close  
season did some good. Thinks it  
would be a good thing to continue  
it. They ought not to go south  
and catch these unspawned fish.  
About all the mackerel they catch  
<sup>(Portland vessels)</sup> here, are on the Cape Shore,  
and the close season gives them  
a chance to get along, as <sup>otherwise</sup> lots

of them would be caught as they pass along, <sup>During the salmon season</sup> ~~and as~~ they did not get them <sup>and</sup> they had a chance to spawn. Every spring they follow them from the south to the Jersey shore, and they have a good chance to catch a great many of them. Capt. N. Orchard, of the scho. George W. Pierce of Portland, has been <sup>in</sup> the mackerel business for about 35 yrs, lives in Boothbay. )

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

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

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

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

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

④ Is quite confident that the diminution of the catch of mackerel is not in any way due to the purse

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

*more & comes*  
Portland, Maine.

(R)

Capt. Almon Malloch,  
<sup>(over)</sup>  
Nov. 23, 1893  
(cont.)

Captain of Schooner  
~~Name of vessel~~, Nathan Cleaves.

Has had about 15 years experience

mackerel fishing. As a whole thinks

there <sup>was</sup> a decrease in the quantity of  
mackerel from 1875 until 1890, <sup>but the has</sup> been

an increase since then. Their decrease

heretofore <sup>was</sup> all owing to the amount  
of blue fish <sup>which</sup> inhabit this  
coast <sup>and which</sup> <sup>(common enemies)</sup> feed on mackerel.

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

to drive mackerel off this coast  
to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Does  
not think squid frighten them  
very much. Has seen mackerel  
and squid school together.

Albacore drive them very much.

Mackerel seem to know when these  
enemies are after them, and they  
travel to get out of the way.

Sometimes has known them to go  
200 or 300 miles. Sometimes may

up in the bay of Fundy where  
blue fish do not go. Does not  
think whales have much effect.

They feed on them some, but are  
not very destructive. Dog fish  
feed on them some, but mackerel  
and dog fish will school together.  
Blue fish and albacore are the most  
destructive fish to mackerel.

9) <sup>five years'</sup>  
Thinks the <sup>close</sup> season has  
been the ruination of the business

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

fishery. Thinks it will regulate  
itself. # He went south this year,  
but did not get many fish. Only  
one or two vessels that did. ¶ When  
you interfere with us here you are  
going to benefit other countries that  
are going to use our markets. Such  
other countries are Ireland, Norway,  
Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island  
and Canada. Any quantity of  
mackerel come in from Ireland and

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

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

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

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

gulf stream region, and ~~they~~ enter  
the Gulf of St. Lawrence, <sup>passing along</sup> ~~they are~~  
the outer coast of the Cape Shore.

~~by Mackenz~~ <sup>Cape Shore</sup>  
~~they~~ strike the ~~at~~ about the 26° or

11<sup>th</sup> of May, and they make about  
40 miles a day. ~~This is 290 miles~~

The length of <sup>the</sup> Nova Scotia coast

and Cape Breton. ~~If they struck~~  
strike the less time it takes for them  
~~further east would be there in~~  
~~reach the Gulf of St. Lawrence~~  
~~time.~~ The first schools are

generally all large. <sup>mackenz</sup> They go in

round Cape North, and some over  
Newfoundland, and go way to the  
~~with.~~ They pass<sup>ing</sup> along the southern  
side of Newfoundland, <sup>and thence</sup> in the  
direction of Iceland. They have  
been followed <sup>beyond Newfoundland</sup> as far as you can see  
the land, and they were heading  
straight northeast <sup>in the open ocean,</sup> ~~from Newfoundland,~~

¶) The second <sup>body consist-</sup> ~~school~~ generally  
smaller mixed fish. They are

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

than Cape North. stay down  
round Sidney all summer. <sup>D</sup> Does  
not think the big fish school  
very much. Thinks they go way  
the north ~~out~~. The second  
school does not go so far north.  
They stay around Prince Edward  
Island and the Magdalens.  
Sometimes you will find small  
fish in the Gulf later than you

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

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

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

southward, out around Block  
Island and ~~south~~ Nantucket,  
South Channel, and up that way.

Come onto the coast of Maine  
generally about the 20th of June,  
and stay ~~on~~ until about the  
middle of September. Off this  
coast get large and small  
fish both. I thinks that the  
gulf of Maine is the best place

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

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

9) Has never taken any mackerel  
in midwinter. Has heard of their  
being taken in cod fish on Georges.  
Has heard of them being taken with  
the herring on the eastern coast.

(~~scribble~~)

of Maine - a very few, thinks  
those are mackerel that get  
separated from the main bodies  
and go among the winter herring.

They followed a school <sup>of mackerel</sup> up into the  
Gulf of St. Lawrence 3 years ago  
the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Has never seen  
them with ice around.

④ Mackerel feed mostly on  
what we call red feed, cayenne.

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

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

of June and the first of July.

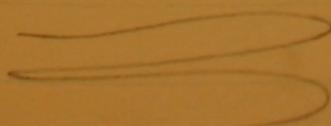
They spawn as early in the Gulf of St Lawrence as they do here. Does not think they keep on the surface

when they spawn. Thinks they spawn on the bottom. There are 2 or 3

weeks that we do not find <sup>them</sup> when

they are spawning. Does not know

just how long they stay down.



Portland, Maine

2 copies wanted

R

Capt. James Ellsworth

Interviewed by Richard Peabody

Nov. 23, 1893

R

Goes in different vessels. Owns  
and charters vessels. This year went  
in the Lillie B. Ternald. 18 years  
experience in mackerel fishing.

Does not think mackerel are  
decreasing at all as a whole. His  
reasons are that long before there  
was a purse seine, in shooting times,  
we had these falling off years every  
6 or 7 years. In 1831 there was  
not a purse seine thought of, and  
there were almost 500,000 barrels

of mackerel landed, and in 1884,  
the best year, there were about  
120,000 barrels; about 20,000 bbls.  
more.

The mackerel, in his opinion,  
after they grow to be No. 1<sup>o</sup>, that  
is large size, do not school ~~nearby~~<sup>nearby</sup> at  
very rare times. Still see by the  
records that the years of the largest  
<sup>Catch</sup> was the smallest size fish, and in  
3 or 4 years they grow to these big  
mackerel. Q) Did not see the fish

this ~~year~~ spring at the south. We started for the Nova Scotia shore and when we got there, there was a body of mackerel came from the south and struck on the Nova Scotia shore. ~~for~~ ~~south 300 miles.~~ I) Don't know where they go, but suppose they go up <sup>to</sup> the Straits of Belle Isle and lay on the bottom. Do not see them until they come back

in the fall. The later schools  
that go up the coast are a smaller  
run of fish; Part of them  
go through the Gut of Gaspé, but  
not to amount to anything. There  
is only a remnant goes into the Bay  
Chaleur proper. They may go  
up on the east coast of Labrador.  
But the great body of the fish go  
somewhere where our vessels are  
not looking for them. The small

fish most generally leave the Gulf last. Most always find the small fish on the tail end of the big ones. might strike the big mackerel off the capes of Delaware, while the small fish would be off the capes of Virginia. The small school that goes into the Gulf last will come out first sometimes. When the small fish go into the

Gulf  
~~bay~~ or <sup>come</sup> on our own coast, they  
go up into the bays and harbors  
more than the big ones. II) The  
fish that go up strike the Cape  
shore around Liverpool and Halifax.  
This year they struck to the eastward  
of Halifax. We got 136 barrels  
off Liverpool, about 50 or 60 miles  
eastward of Halifax, this year.  
My opinion is that the best of the  
fish come from the south, way

down in the latitude of the capes  
of Virginia, off the edge of the  
~~Gulf Stream~~<sup>water</sup>, because we have traced  
them, ourselves all the way up, and  
we find they make that passage  
of about 1,000 miles in about 6  
weeks. Sometimes they may stop  
a day when they strike on the  
southeast part of Georges.  
The southern part of Georges  
may be a good fishing ground.

at times. They strike the Nova Scotia shore from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. Then it is some 10 to 15 days before they round Cape North. It takes that body of fish as much as 10 or 15 days from the first time we fall in with them until they all get clear. <sup>¶</sup>) The fish that go into the Bay of Fundy, sometimes come close in, perhaps 25 or 30

miles off Cape Cod, and other times off eastward of Georges Bank and over Browns Bank, and strike in east of what we call the Seal Islands, and work over toward Mount Desert.

The ~~same~~ fish that go around North Cape all go into the Gulf. It is a large school. They are seen clear across on the other side close over on the Straits of Belle Isle.

The fish born last spring will  
be about 5 inches in length this  
fall. Sometimes <sup>we</sup> see them the  
next spring and sometimes not.  
Thinks some schools remain all  
summer down off the capes of  
Virginia.

Would not consider it expedient  
to make any regulations regarding  
the purse seine fishery. Thinks  
the fish will regulate themselves.

Does not think it would be any  
use to have a close season. Does  
not think it amounts to anything,  
has not benefited anyone.

Mackerel will school only just  
when they feel like it. His  
experience has extended back to  
1875. Never went hook and line  
fishing. ~~If~~ If the purse seines  
were given up, thinks it would  
take some <sup>time</sup> before the fish could

be caught in the old way.

Some years fish are wilder than they used to be. When they grow to ~~these~~ large sizes, they seem to be very wild; and there are different reasons for making them wild.

When there is plenty of cayenne on the surface of the water it benefits schooling; the fish will come on top of the water to school, and feed. When we have a hard

year you will not see any of that  
on the surface. It may be under-  
neath the surface, and mackerel  
will not come up. Thinks it  
makes the fish tame. Mackerel  
also feed on shrimp. When they  
are chasing this feed they are very  
wild. The shrimp are going every  
way, and the mackerel are all  
scattered. Has seen the "all-eyes".  
Seen them mostly out around

Block Island, and also on our  
own coast of Maine and Mass.

They are a little fish, not a  
crustacean. Mackerel will  
eat herring, and will also eat  
their own young. I thinks when  
they (the fishermen) catch does not  
amount to anything. If these  
fish stayed year after year it  
would be a different thing, but  
it is only a matter of 10 or 15

days that we catch any.<sup>8)</sup> There were vessels 2 or 3 years ago got mackerel off Liverpool. Some got such big schools that they burst their lines. Could see schools just as far as you could see. That was 3 years ago, and there has been different times that mackerel have showed that way.

The law which made the close season originated right

through our mackerel dealers, for  
the reason that vessels would go out  
and get a trip of poor mackerel,  
would take them into New York or  
Philadelphia, and would sell them,  
~~as salt mackerel~~ and, of course,  
the more that were landed there  
hurt the market just that much,  
and the men that bought mackerel  
the fall before to hold them over,  
it hurt their trade. The majority

of the vessel captains here were  
not in favor of the close season.

The object of the law was to  
regulate the market, ~~and~~ not to  
protect the fish.

¶) Some of the men interested in  
the fish business here are  
John Emery, E.G. Willard, the  
Lord Bros. The Jordans have not  
had much interest in the fish  
business except for the last 2 or 3

years. Mr. Whidden and Mr. Smith at one time had the biggest fishing industry out of here. They were the two parties that were interested in getting this law, and the very first ones, when the close season came along, to send their vessels out before the law was up. Mr. Whidden would have but one vessel south; the rest would go to the banks, and would not get any mackerel.

until about the last of June or first  
of July. Mr. Smith sent some  
of his vessels to the south, and some  
to the banks; and he also was buying  
mackerel.

④ Going away with the purse  
seines would do away with about  
\$2,000. expenses each year, and I  
would say, go back to the old  
times if I thought it better in  
other ways, but in my opinion

it pays better to use the purse  
sine.

¶ 9) The squid are a great enemy  
to the mackerel, and so are dog  
fish and blue fish. Blue fish  
are the worst enemy they have in  
the sea, but they do not go down  
east. Last summer they were  
known to be down in the Bay of  
Fundy; that is the farthest east  
that I ever knew blue fish to be.

names of other fishermen

(Eben Lewis lives in Booth Bay now.  
He never goes fishing in the winter,  
could see him at Booth Bay. Also  
Capt. McCawen of Booth Bay, and  
John Seany, Booth Bay. They  
would be likely to be there during the  
winter until March. At Vinal  
Haven there is James Crockett, he  
is about the principal one there.