

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. The trap fishing is the most destructive?—A. One of the most capable if it is in a suitable place; not the slightest doubt about that. I am trying to get before the Committee what the actual conditions are. That was the method of fishing developed at first, and later on we had the purse seines which are more important than trap fishing.

*By Mr. McRae:*

Q: Purse seines are about half a mile long?—A. Not far off that.

Q. There is no limit to the depth?—A. There is a limit to the depth, yes.

Q. Roughly, about one hundred feet?—A. I would have to have the regulations before me. I am sorry I did not know that I was to be called upon.

Q. I am told that there is no depth limit in Puget Sound.—A. So I am told.

Q. We will say that a purse seine is 2,500 feet long; they all use heavy powered boats?—A. Yes.

Q. The Committee will be interested in this, that we have the most modern fishing equipment on the Pacific coast. These purse seines are handled in gasoline driven power boats, 50 to 75 horse power, with a crew of about 12 men, and the seine is drawn in and pursed by power. The seine is run around a school of salmon, and then both ends are drawn together. The top edge is made to float by sufficient corks, and the bottom ends sink rapidly by heavy weights, and there are rings in the bottom edge through which ropes are drawn. Two ends of the ropes are brought together and put over a windlass, and the power turned on, and it closes the seine right up.

Q. The power seines have a small mesh, about three inches?—A. Yes.

Q. So it catches all commercial fish?—A. Yes.

Q. How many purse seines are out?—A. I have not got that information here.

Q. My information is that there are 1900 of them—present licenses?—

A. Well, I would like to check that up; I do not know what it actually is.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. How far out to sea do the purse seines go?—A. They are being used for some kind of fishing out a very considerable distance. I would not like to say how far; at least to the Swiftsure Banks. It would be about 12 or 15 miles approximately.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Forty miles out from Vancouver Island.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. American purse seines operate out there?—A. Yes, but mainly they are fishing for young salmon.

Q. They would be used out there also for the purpose of catching sockeye?—A. If sockeye salmon were schooled there.

*By Mr. McRae:*

Q. They do catch some sockeye?—A. Very few.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. If you had a big run of sockeye they could probably catch them with that seine?—A. Not unless they would school; you cannot catch fish with a purse not unless they are schooled. It is an implement that is used where you find the fish bunching together.