

early spring; immediately after, and during the herring fishing, we have codfish. The herring fishing lasts from about the first of May to the fifth of June. At times there are large quantities of herring on our coast, and they are about the same quality of fish as the Magdalen Island herring. They never yet have been fished as an article of export, but only as mackerel bait and for home consumption. Very much larger quantities can be generally procured than are required for those purposes.

22. After the cod fishing we have fish consisting of mackerel and ling, or hake, right through till late in the fall, till about the beginning of November. So far as I know, from actual experience, this part of this Island is one of the choice spots for fishing in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Large numbers of the Nova Scotian shore fishermen come right round here to fish. We never have had a complete failure of fish, although in blustery years we catch less than in other years. The regular fishermen, even in the worst years, have always made fair wages.

23. I should put the average catch of mackerel per boat, for all boats engaged in fishing, at about fifty barrels, and for those engaged in cod fishing, taking one year with another, for ten years past, about fifty quintals of codfish and hake. Until late years our boats and outfits have been of a very rude kind, not to be compared to that of the Nova Scotians or Americans, and that is one reason, I think, our fishery is only in its infancy.

24. I look upon our lobster fishing here as of very great, in fact of inestimable value. We have an inexhaustible supply of them. This branch of the fishing might be pursued here with very great advantage. A great advantage in this fishery would be the abundance of fish offal, which we have for bait, and which is now going to waste.

25. Hake sounds here are a very valuable article in our fishing. They are procured from the hake or ling; each quintal of two hundred and eighty pounds of ling will give on an average of about three pounds and a half of sounds. Within the last ten years the price of these has ranged all the way from twenty-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents a pound, making an average value of seventy-five cents, in gold, a pound. The value of the sounds is on an average worth from seventy-five to one hundred per cent. more than the fish from which they are taken, and the sounds are therefore a very important consideration in fishing.

26. With improved winter communication, large quantities of trout, smelt, and some bass might be exported. The value of these fisheries, if the means of trade were opened up, would be greatly enhanced, and would be well worth going into.

27. We have had one or two instances, in this part of the Island, of men attempting the salmon, and they have proved that it may be made a success in fishing. They are all caught inshore on the sea-coast, and they come under the sea fishing. Our people do not yet know the value of this fishery, which I believe will become very valuable.

28. Our men are now becoming more and more acquainted with the habits of the fish and with the general laws by which their movements are governed, and with their improved knowledge of the habits of the fish and increased facilities for taking them, they are now much more able to get catches.

Sworn to at Frog or Skinner's Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

A. F. LARKIN.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

No. 6.

I, James Conroy of Kildare, Lot or Township Number Three, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing and farming for over twelve years. I have fished all the time, except one summer, in boats.

2. The number of boats fishing off this part of the shore is increasing. The number has more than trebled in the last ten years. The boats are a great deal better now than they were formerly, they are in better shape every way, more suited to the purpose. There are ten dollars spent in the business along this shore now to the one dollar spent ten years ago.

3. The boats around about here are small, as the people do not make a speciality of the business, but farm as well. The boats carry about three hands each.

4. All the mackerel caught along here are caught within three miles of the shore, the greater part are caught within a mile and a half and one mile of the shore. Near the shore is by far the best fishing ground. In the Spring and Fall the cod fish are caught close to the shore; in the summer they are further off. The mackerel is the principal and most valuable part of the fishery.

5. When an American fleet comes in they certainly do injury to the boat fishing. The more vessels that come down, the more damage is done to the fishing. I have seen a fleet of some hundred Americans fishing off this shore within a couple of miles.

6. The year the cutters were about, the Americans were pretty well kept off. It is a great inconvenience to them to be kept out of the shore fishing. With an off-shore wind they often throw over bait and draw the mackerel off. Certainly the shores around here are a benefit to the Americans.