

Demont's, and the Seven Islands, including Orphan Bank, Bradelle Bank, the coast about the Magdalen Islands, and the North side of Cape Breton. These comprise the chief fishing grounds for American vessels. The Harbours to which they chiefly resort, are the Strait of Canso, Port Hood, Sea Wolf Island, St. Peters, New London, Richmond, Casonmpeque, Shippegan, Miscow, Gaspe, Seven Islands, Magdalen Islands, &c. &c. The Mackarel in the spring, generally strike the south part of Nova Scotia; from the 18th to the 25th of May, they come from the Southward, falling in with the Nantucket and St. George's Shoal; a large quantity come through the South Channel, and when abreast of Cape Cod, shape their course towards the south coast of Nova Scotia. Being bound to Boston this Spring, about the 18th of May, I met large schools of Mackarel, about 50 or 60, to the Westward of the South Seal Island; they appeared to be coming about from Cape Cod, until nearly over to the Cape. Their course may occasionally vary in consequence of strong southerly and northerly winds; they generally fall in on the coast to the Westward, a few days before they do at Canso, and Cape Breton. The chief places for netting and seining Mackarel in the Spring, are the Tusket Islands, the West side of Cape Sable, East side of Margaret's Bay, Little Harbour, White Head, St. Peters in Cape Breton, Antigonish, and several other places. As there is no doubt but that the Mackarel are bound to Chaleur Bay for the purpose of spawning, it would lead us to believe that when one fish is taken with the net or seine, thousands are destroyed which would otherwise likely come to maturity. Could the practice of taking fish with their spawn be abolished, it is likely they would be much more abundant. The Mackarel, after passing the south coast of Nova Scotia, proceed to the northward, through the Straits of Canso, and to the Eastward of Cape Breton, making their way Northwardly until they are up to Shippegan, Bradelle Bank, Gaspe, Seven Islands, &c. After having spawned, they continue about those places as their feeding ground, there being large quantities of Lants there which they feed upon, and consequently become fat.

As the season advances, about the month of October, the fish begin to make their way to the Southward, and continue until the latter part of November. The practice of taking Mackarel with the hook and line has not been long in operation in Nova Scotia; and I believe there never has been a voyage made with the hook and line on the southern coast of Nova Scotia, except at Sable Island, where there have been some good voyages made. The fish which resort here are of a different quality from those which go to the Bay de Chaleur, being much larger and fatter. In 1850, the fish were plenty and took the hook well, but in 1851 the fish appeared at times to be abundant, but would not take the hook. Mackarel here feed in shallow water, within the bars or shoal edges of sand which extend in different places near the Island. The vessels when employed in the Mackarel fishery here, lie at anchor in about 6 or 7 fathoms water, and I have been informed that Mackarel have been discovered from the mast head of these vessels, lying within the ridges of sand. They are chiefly taken in boats or flats, which go over the ridges, when they sometimes appear to be lying on the bottom. Was there a Light House erected on the North West End of the Island, I think it would be of great service to those who tend the Mackarel fishery here; as they often have to cross the North West Bar when they cannot ascertain the distance from the Island. As the season advances, the weather changeable, and the bars being dangerous to cross in rough weather, our vessels mostly leave after the last of September.—The American vessels, which fit out for the Hook fisheries, are of a superior class from those in Nova Scotia. Their tonnage, generally from 60 to 130 tons, very sharp built, well fitted in every respect; those they term the Sharp-shooters are very superior sailing vessels. This enables them to reach the fishing ground, and procure their cargo, while those of Nova Scotia are actually carrying sail to reach the fishing ground. Those vessels are likewise well manned, varying from 12 to 24 men; making an average probably of about 15 or 16 men, to each vessel. In 1851, I was informed
there.