

skippers come ashore and are communicative, in fact in many instances they are interested in other vessels and they look after the catch and can tell pretty well what it is. There is no difficulty in arriving at a general estimate of the take of boats. If a master of a fishing vessel with whom I was well acquainted, was an honest, straight-forward man, said he had 340 or 350 barrels, I should see no reason to doubt him.

A vessel may come into Georgetown with a broken spar and the captain state that there are 75 vessels at the Magdalen Islands, another vessel would report 100 vessels in Bay Chaleur, that is the only way at which you can get at the number of vessels in the Bay.

8.—Mr. George Harbour, of Sandy Beach, Gaspé :—

300 is about the average. Has seen as many as 50 at one time in the harbour. In 1872 there were at least 300 sail.

9.—Mr. William A. Sinnett, of Griffin's Cove, Gaspé :—

Has been told by American captains that there were 300 sometimes—sometimes as high as 500. Did not see all that number at one time, but has counted as many as 60 odd sail at one time near Madeleine River. Number has been decreasing for last nine years. Last year hardly any in his neighbourhood.

10.—Mr. Gregoire Granier, of Newport, Gaspé :—

Has seen more than 100 sail in a season, though Newport is not exactly the best place for fishing. Has seen more than 20 coming to anchor in front of his place. Latterly has not seen so many.

11.—Mr. William McLeod, of Port Daniel, Gaspé :—

During the season of 1852 there were from 460 to 470 American vessels in the Gulf,—mackeralers. In 1854 from 200 to 300 American vessels were fishing in the Bay of Chaleur. In 1855 from 200 to 300, probably in that quarter; probably 600 in the Gulf. They told me that there were about 600 inside of Canso. In 1856 about the usual number. In 1857 the same, and up to '62 about the same thing, also in '64, '65 and '66 the same. In '67 there were from 300 to 400 inside the Bay Chaleur. I have seen in 1867 250 lying at anchor in Port Daniel Bay, and as many more at Paspébiac on the same day, three-fourths Americans.

12.—Mr. Philip Vibert, of Perce, Gaspé :—

Of late years few United States vessels have visited our district for mackerel, but I have seen 200 or 300 in sight at one time. Not more than 4 or 5 years ago I counted 167 from my house. I have seen 300 in Bay Chaleur, and steaming up to Quebec, have seen as many more on the way up. The average number from the Gut of Canso upwards I should put at not less than from 350 to 400 per trip, averaging 70 or 75 tons.

13.—Mr. John James Fox, of Amherst Harbour, M. I. :—

100 United States fishing vessels entered Amherst Harbour in 1854, seining altogether from the shore for herring. They also frequent the coast in considerable numbers for mackerel, but we never see any mackerelers after the 1st of September. The weather becomes stormy, and it becomes unsafe. The fish also shift about different localities and they follow them.

Some seasons during Reciprocity the mackerel vessels in the Gulf would number 1000 or more. Except the last year or two, I should place the average around the Magdalene Islands at between 450 and 500.

14.—Mr. George Mackenzie, of New London, P. E. I. :—

Average for the past 20 years 500 sail. Has diminished greatly within the past 4 years.

18.—Mr. Angus Grant, of Port Hawkesbury, C. B. :—

From 1854 to 1856 average between 500 and 600 within the Bay. Has seen 400 sail in Port Hood at a time. The number increased from 1856 to 1869, and of larger tonnage. Since 1869 down, 600 to 700 sail. Quite a large fleet in 1873, about 500 in 1874, not so many in 1875 and 1876, perhaps not quite half of that. This year there is quite a large fleet coming. Has seen them coming every day. Lives on Strait of Canso and can see them pass. Average number of United States codfishing fleet from 200 to 300 sail.

19. Mr. James McKay, Port Mulgrave :—

I have seen as many as 20 or 25 sail sailing up the Strait of Canso with a fair wind. No one man stationed in the Gut of Canso can get an accurate list of the vessels that go through there—to do so is a moral impossibility. The number of American vessels coming into the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the Reciprocity Treaty would average 600. In one of the years 1866, '67, or '68, fished among a large fleet around Cape Breton. I should judge there were 300 sail there then. In 1867 the number of the American fleet in the Bay would be 560. In '69 and '70 the American fleet averaged 500.