

The patrol of the coast by the schooners was very efficient and the amount of trespassing done by foreign vessels was quite insignificant. Many cases of reported trespass when examined proved to have been mistakes on the part of those giving the information, they being misled by the remarkable similarity in appearance between some of the better class of our Nova Scotia seiners and the vessels of the New England fleet.

By the 1st of August the fleet of foreign fishing vessels was still further increased but very shortly after this date many began to return home. The vast body of the fish being close in shore and the patrol of the coast effective, but few of the New England vessels were able to make fares, and as all their men work on shares, they were getting much disheartened and in many cases discontented. I estimate that more than half of the hands shipped in United States' fishing vessels which came to the Gulf this year for mackerel were Nova Scotians or Prince Edward Islanders who had gone to Gloucester or other New England ports to ship for the season.

The fish during August showed very little, only occasionally schooling and then nearly always close in shore. The opinion which generally obtained among the fishermen was that "bait was plenty on the bottom in shore, and that nothing but a succession of gales severe enough to disturb the bait would make the fish school again." Whether this theory be correct or not, the practical result was that the fishing by United States' mackerel seiners in the Gulf this year was a failure, whilst Canadian vessels being free to fish without regard to limit on the average did well, some of them making large fares.

Early in September the weather began to break up and by the middle of the month there were not more than fifty United States' seiners around Prince Edward Island. About this time the fish began to move and some good catches were made on the western shores of Cape Breton, but the best part of the mackerel season was over, and though a few seiners went round to Aspy Bay and the eastern coast of Cape Breton, nearly all the New England seiners went home before 1st October.

Throughout the entire season, both my own experience and that of the captains of the other police vessels, was that the masters of United States seiners were, as a rule, most anxious to comply with all the rules and regulations laid down for their guidance; the best possible feeling existing between the captains of the cutters and masters of fishing vessels.

Much inconvenience was caused occasionally by the fact that Canadian fishing vessels so rarely showed their colors until the cutter was close alongside, and though this condition of affairs was a good deal improved by the issue of the departmental circular requesting them to show their colors whenever a cutter was in sight, there were very many who failed to comply with the request. Under the circumstances it is worthy of consideration whether the fishing vessels might not be advantageously brought under some system of license, the fee to be only nominal, and that regulations for some distinguishing mark to be worked permanently on the mainsail in all Canadian fishing vessels, might be issued. Besides the mackerel seiners from New England there were a few bankers who visited the Nova Scotian ports for wood and water.

The cruising ground of the "Acadia" during the months of June, July, August and September was principally in the Gulf of St. Lawrence along the shores of Prince Edward Island, up the New Brunswick shore to the Bay Chaleur, and up to Gaspé Bay, with occasional runs round Cape Breton Island.

The only seizures made for fishing inside the limits were those of the seines and seine boats of the schooners "Argonaut" and "J. H. French," the boats of both vessels being seized near the east point of Prince Edward Island, by Captain McLaren, of the cruiser "Critic." Some vessels were detained for various failures to comply with the Customs regulations, the detentions in all cases which came under my personal observation being fully justified, and the vessels released after making a deposit, or after the issue of the writ of the court against the captain.

It was generally expected that a number of New England seiners would have returned to the Cape Breton shore for the fall fishing after the 1st October, but none