

area. The purse seines, however, gradually stretched themselves out over the area until now they are in common use all over the coast pretty near; that is, speaking in a broad way. We keep purse seines away from strictly gill net areas, and there are areas in which we do not allow purse seines, where you would not be able to capture the fish.

But I will go on, if I may, and get back to my main point. I think possibly I have given you the story Mr. Reid wants, unless you want the story further than that. Dealing with the trap development: From there trap fishing started in this area as these things frequently do in a very enthusiastic way, but after all there were comparatively few sites that were good trap sites, and as a consequence the number of traps although not limited by law except as to the distance apart which they must be—and here again I am speaking subject to correction—drop from around 20 in the earlier years down to as few as six or seven in these later years, and these are being operated entirely by two companies, one of these companies started in 1918—Mr. Goodrich will correct me if I am wrong, but I think it was 1918 when they came into existence—

Mr. GOODRICH: That was the first year in which we were in operation.

The WITNESS: They took over other concerns that were operating there at the time, with the exception of the J. H. Todd Company. These two companies are operating traps there, and these two only since that time; although, legally there is nothing to prevent others going into it if it would pay them. Well, these traps have been operated there since that time. On the United States' side there has been a growing agitation against traps. That agitation was started in the first instance by the purse seiners. The purse seiners were growing stronger and stronger. In the first instance their competition was not so great as it became later on but the time came in the United States, on the Washington State side, when the purse seiners were taking the greater portion of the catch, and the agitation against the purse seine came from the Washington side. When I speak of the United States' side I merely mean here (indicating) because this matter about which I am speaking does not apply generally in United States' waters.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. It was not the purse seiners who took the majority, wasn't it the traps?—

A. Subject to correction I stick to my statement. I think that the facts will show—

Q. Pardon me, you said it was the purse seiners who objected to the traps because the purse seiners were taking most of the fish; that does not make sense. You said that?—A. Well then, let me try to make my point clear—

Q. You said that the seiners objected to the traps, and then you went on to say that the action was taken because the purse seiners were taking a majority of the fish; I think you meant to say that the traps were taking a majority of the fish?—A. No. I have not made my point clear. As I understand the situation, and I just give it to you for what it is worth from that standpoint, it is this: the traps came into existence on the State of Washington side where they were operated for many years; then the purse seines developed. Purse seines at first were taking the smaller portion of the catch and there was not very much talk or agitation so far as the purse seines were concerned then developing. But as time went on purse seining increased very rapidly on the United States side till, I feel quite sure an examination of the figures will support me, the time came when the purse seines began to take a majority of the fish.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. What year is that?—A. I am speaking entirely from memory, and I may have to correct that statement. But in any event I shall put it this way: the