

met and formed a law amongst themselves to this effect;—that they would allow no cod-seine to be shot within the following limits, viz. from outside of Chess Point Cove to Great Fish Point in Witless Bay, and on North side of Bay Bulls inside Cape Boone Head,—within which limits it was not usual to use the cod-seines. I then shot my seine beyond the limits prescribed by the hook-and-line fishermen; and when in the act of hauling it, with to the best of my knowledge containing about 30 qtls. of fish, I think from four to five boats, with their crews, came and took hold of my seine, saying they would not allow me to haul my seine there. I asked them their reasons. They answered, that the hook-and-line fishermen had made a law that they would allow no seine to be hauled outside of the limits I have already mentioned. I replied that if they had made such a law they should have made me acquainted with it; and under the circumstances, if they would allow me to take what fish was in the seine, I would trespass on their limits no more—which they refused to do, and hauled up my seine and let all the fish go. When I found them determined to do so, I told them to take all the fish themselves sooner than lose it. Afterwards I confined myself to using my cod-seine within their prescribed limits; but they came daily and anchored in the place where they had agreed to allow me to shoot my seine, and two and three boats would make fast together, and remain there all day for the purpose of preventing me from shooting my seine. On one day having shot my seine in Pig Cove, and had upwards of 150 qtls. of fish in it, and when there was not a hook-and-line fisherman within two hundred fathoms of us, and while in the act of hauling my seine, some of my crew said they were blowing their conchs, which was a signal for assembling together the hook-and-line fishing-boats in the neighbourhood to come and haul up my seine and destroy it; and I immediately saw twenty or thirty boats rowing towards us, many of which had been lying at least half a mile distant from where I shot my seine; my crew became alarmed, and requested to let the fish go and row away from them, fearing they would do us some injury, which I did, and ordered the seine to be hauled in end on, and they pursued us to a considerable distance after we took in our seine.

On a Saturday evening in the month of July last, after the hook-and-line fishermen had gone into harbour, I remained out, expecting to get some fish with my cod-seine, and on the same evening from ten to fifteen boats, with their crews having pews and gaffs, came out from the harbour, as I believe expecting to find our seines in the water, and intending to destroy them; they left their fishing-boats on shore and had neither hooks or lines with them.

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In answer to several interrogatories put to Mr. Williams by the Committee :

At the time I speak of there was not much fish catching with the hook-and-line—the fish would not take the bait, being glutted.

The number of men engaged in each fishery, and the number of quintals caught by each during the past session, is as follows :

Men and boys prosecuting the Cod-fishery with the hook-and-line, 110; number of quintals of fish caught by them, 3,400.

Number of men engaged in prosecuting the fishery by means of the Cod-seine, 76; number of quintals of fish caught by them, 5,800.

My definition of a ledge is a piece of shallow fishing ground, between which and the shore deep water intervenes.

We never shoot our cod-seines on what we consider fishing ledges, and from what I know of the custom of the country, the same custom prevails throughout the Island.

The size of the cod-seine I fish with is 100 fathoms long, and 75 feet deep,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh in the arms, and 3 inch in the bunt. This is the size generally used in Bay Bulls.

I have sometimes, but very seldom, in hauling my seine, found fish so small as to be useless.

I have been engaged twenty five years in cod-seine fishing, and the mesh is the same size now as it was formerly; if anything, larger.

Persons from Conception Bay and other parts of the Island visit the Southern Shore during the fishing season with cod-seines, for the purpose of hauling cod-fish.

In Bay Bulls there are seven cod-seines.

My opinion is that the use of the cod-seine, and the desire of the people to possess them, have become more general latterly.