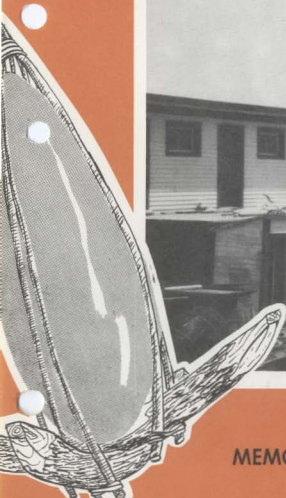


D E C K S  
A W A S H

A FISHERIES EXTENSION PROGRAMME



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

Programme #3

December 28th.

At the conclusion of our programming for last season we decided to visit a number of fishing areas and film the fishing activities being carried on there. In this way we hoped to be able to highlight the problems faced by fishermen in these areas and get fishermen's ideas as to what they feel should be done to solve some of these problems.

We therefore visited the following areas during the past summer:-

- (a) The Trepassey area (taking in the communities of Portugal Cove South, Trepassey, St. Shott's, Peter's River, St. Vincent's, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's.)
- (b) The Port-de-Grave area (taking in the communities of Port-de-Grave, Hibbs' Cove and Harbour Grace.)
- (c) The Fogo Island area (including the communities of Tilting, Fogo, Seldom and Newtown in Bonavista Bay).
- (d) The Southern Labrador (including most of the communities from Lance-au-Clair to Hamilton Inlet.).

Since November 22nd. we have produced a programme on each of these areas.

THE TREPASSEY AREA

On December 6th our programme dealt with the Trepassey area. We commenced by showing the comparatively new wharf and community stage built by the federal Government for the fishermen of Portugal Cove South. As many of you already know this is basically a trap fishing community with very poor harbour facilities. The wharf and stage are a real improvement for these fishermen and is very much appreciated by them. They no longer have to go to the expense of repairing and replacing individual stages each spring.

Fishermen at Portugal Cove South still use the small trap boat and depend almost entirely on the proceeds of the trap fishery. In recent years some gillnet fishing has been carried on with encouraging results. Most of the production is trucked to the fresh fish plant at Trepassey and sold in a fresh state. The 1964 trap fishery at Portugal Cove South was fair.

At Trepassey the new fish plant owned by Fishery Products Limited was completed during the summer replacing the one destroyed by fire some three years ago.

It was rather surprising to learn that very few people living at Trepassey are engaged in the actual catching of fish. The majority of men at Trepassey are employed in fish plant operations. In fact, at certain times there is a shortage of workers for the plant. Fish supplies are provided by South West Coast fishermen who came to Trepassey to fish for five or six months of the year or so from draggers operated by Fishery Products Limited. Some fish is also trucked to Trepassey from nearby communities of Portugal Cove South, St. Shott's, Peter's River and St. Vincent's.

ST. SHOTT'S

At St. Shott's the fishery is carried on entirely by the use of small two-men boats equipped with from twelve to fifteen nylon or monofilament gillnets. The past season was an excellent one for them despite the fact that they had to contend with very

rough weather conditions during May and June.

This year the St. Shott's fishermen salted a large percentage of their catch in their newly-constructed community stage. The prices offered for fresh fish, particularly during the early part of the season were not satisfactory to them so they decided to salt their catch until there was a rise in price. This price rise occurred during the latter part of the season and they sold the remainder of their production at prices ranging from  $3 \frac{3}{4}$  cents to four cents per pound. They salted approximately twenty-two hundred quintals in the community stage and negotiated a bulk sale. This resulted in their receiving \$25.50 per saltbulk draft. The fish produced was all gillnet fish and was therefore, practically all very large fish.

Mr. John Molloy, a fisherman from St. Shott's, participated in our December 6th programme and indicated that the fishermen at St. Shott's were all satisfied with the result of their fishing efforts during the summer.

Mr. Molloy also indicated that the chief problem in the area, and one causing all fishermen a great deal of concern, was the presence of large numbers of draggers operating in inshore waters -- that is to say, operating nearer than twelve miles from shore. Actually some of them have been caught operating inside the three-mile limit. Fishermen in the area feel that something has to be done about this if they are to depend on inshore fishing for a living. Given some additional protection in this respect they are optimistic about making a fair living from inshore fishing.

#### PETER'S RIVER

Unlike many fishing communities throughout the Province and indeed unlike most communities on the Avalon Peninsula the Peter's River trap fishery during the past summer was exceptionally good. Most of the fishermen here had "bumper voyages".

This is another community which has now been given a community stage and improved landing facilities. The fishermen

are delighted with these improvements and are all optimistic about being able to make a living from the fishery.

ST. VINCENT'S AND ST. MARY'S

The fishery at St. Vincent's during the past season can be classified as being fair. Fishermen here have to fish from the beaches, there being no harbour facilities. This season efforts are being made to provide landing facilities but since the whole area is plagued with shifting sands and strong currents there is some doubt as to whether the present structures will withstand the elements.

ST. MARY'S

Fishermen at St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and O'Donnells are showing quite a bit of interest in the larger types of fishing craft, particularly the trap boat longliner. Several of these boats were in operation during the past season and report satisfactory results. Those using traps, gillnets and longlines were more successful than those limited to gillnets and longlines.

All new boats are now equipped with gurdies, gillnet hauling devices and gurdy heads for longlining.

Mr. Brendan Paul, a fisheries officer of the federal Department of Fisheries, stationed at Trepassey was also a guest on this programme. He has been stationed in the area for some five years, and reported that he has seen substantial improvements in communications, electrification and living standards generally during the last few years.

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PROGRAMME # 4

PORT-DE-GRAVE

Much has been said during recent years about the Port-de-Grave fishermen and their method of hauling traps in the large 45' trap boat longliner. At the risk of being accused of acting as publicity officers for these fishermen we again produced a programme showing their fishing methods. We do not apologize for this because we feel that these fishermen have developed



very sound and labour-saving fishing methods that takes a great deal of the hard work and frustration from certain fishing operations. Given the same gear and a little time to adjust to these methods we feel that hundreds of our fishermen can do as well as the Port-de-Grave trap-boat longliner fishermen.

We have always found the Port-de-Grave fishermen willing and anxious to share their experiences with less well-equipped fishermen and to help their fellow fishermen in any way possible.

The real secret of the success achieved by these fishermen is that they have succeeded in equipping themselves with large amounts of gear. When they cannot get fish by using four or five cod traps, they have fifteen or twenty gillnets which are immediately put into use. If the fish will not net, then they change to fifty or sixty lines of trawl.

These operations are carried on from May to November inclusive using boats equipped with the mechanical aids which takes practically all the slavish work from the operating of such large amounts

of gear, for example: a gurdy powered by the main engine of the boat and used to have trap doorways; a mechanical dipnet to take fish from the traps; rubber tire heads attached to gurdy for hauling gillnets and a longlining head for hauling trawls.

Many fishermen are now anxious to get into this type of operation and, by taking advantage of present and perhaps future forms of assistance from industry and government, many of them will succeed in getting the required amounts of gear to enable them to do as well or even better than the fishermen of Port-de-Grave.

On our programme dealing with Port-de-Grave we had Mr. Lester Petten of Hibbs Cove and Mr. Joshua Reid of Old Shop, Trinity Bay. Both of these men expressed their belief that in order to make a living from fishing today fishermen must be equipped with multi-purpose fishing gear.

Mr. Petten reported that the Port-de-Grave fishermen did not do as well this year as last year but succeeded in making

a fairly adequate income during the season. He also reported that during the past five years there has been a pronounced downward trend in the size of the fish taken off Cape St. Francis where they fish. His theory is that this has been brought about by intensive off-shore dragger operations. Biological research during recent years also tends to substantiate this theory.

Mr. Reid contributed a very encouraging piece of news to the programme when he informed us that during the season he produced 300,000 lbs. of turbot and had no difficulty in selling this large catch. Two fishing firms have found a ready market for frozen turbot in Europe and prospects look bright for marketing a substantial tonnage of turbot in the future.

Mr. Reid plans to go into turbot fishing on a much bigger scale during next season.

In our next news letter we shall be giving you some news on the Fogo Islands and Labrador fisheries. Meanwhile we would appreciate receiving your comments on the programmes you have

seen to date and any suggestions you may care to make with regard  
to topics for future programmes.

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