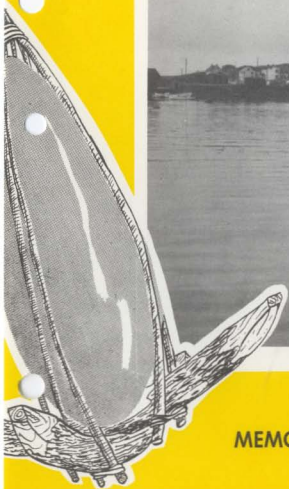


D E C K S
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A FISHERIES EXTENSION PROGRAMME



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

Programme #6

March, 1965

Fogo Island Area

On January 3rd. we produced a programme outlining fishing methods used in the Fogo Island area and discussed some of the problems faced by inshore fishermen in the area.

There is now considerable interest being shown by fishermen on Fogo Island in obtaining larger boats in the form of "Longliners" and "Trap Boat Longliners".

Last season Mr. Brian Earle of Earle Sons & Co., Ltd. had two large boats in operation. One of the trap boat longliner class and the other a longliner. Both of these boats were equipped with mechanical aids and served to demonstrate the use of these modern aids in the fishery. As fishermen become more used to these boats and the modern aids that go with them, there is every reason to believe that the production of fish will increase in the area. The Fogo Island area has some of the best fishing grounds in the

Province but much of this is not being exploited, particularly in the Fall season, because fishermen do not have the boats and equipment necessary to move offshore in search of the fish.

Fishermen in the area know this and many of them are anxious to extend their fishing season and move further from land to fish.

Guests

Three fishermen from Fogo Island participated in this programme together with Mr. Fred Earle, who is the east coast representative of Memorial University Extension Service and whose district includes the area from Lewisporte around the coast to Salvage in Bonavista Bay.

Problems Outlined by Fishermen

Mr. John Freake, a fisherman from Joe Batt's Arm, who returned to the fishery in 1964 after working for approximately twenty years at shore jobs, expressed the belief that ways must be found to properly equip our younger fishermen. In 1964 he skippered a longliner belonging to Earle Sons & Co. and was delighted with

both the boat and the mechanical aids used. They spend most of the time gillnetting but also used trawls or longlines during the season. Mr. Freake felt that with equipment such as provided in these larger boats, fishing becomes a pleasure. "Hardship and hard work becomes", he says, "a thing of the past" and he advises the younger fishermen to think in terms of modern fishing methods.

Mr. Freake indicated that one of the main problems in the area is getting sale for species of fish other than cod. Fishermen in the area now have to throw away fairly large quantities of flounder and other species. If these could be sold fishermen could probably catch enough of them to pay operating expenses. He also mentioned the possibility of getting some shore facilities provided on Little Fogo Island. This, he says, would put a number of fishermen close to good fishing grounds and could result in increased production. These facilities need not be elaborate and the fish could be picked up and taken directly to drying plants from the Island.

Mr. Claude Barnes, a fisherman from Fogo, outlined his fishing activities in 1964 and gave his impressions of what is needed for fishermen to make a living today. In 1964 ice remained around the coast until late in the season and interfered with the trap fishery. Fishermen operating out of Seldom did not get their traps in the water until most of the fish had moved out of their trap berth area. As a result, the trap voyages were much smaller at Seldom than they have been for many years. Mr. Barnes, operating from the other end of the Island, moved his traps to the Island Harbour area and succeeded in getting a fair quantity of fish while most other fishermen waited for the ice to clear from the regular trap berth areas. Mr. Barnes says that he is convinced that fishermen must have larger boats and move with the fish if they are to make a satisfactory living from fishing. He has now purchased a trap boat longliner which he is going to use for gillnetting, longlining and trapping. He is hoping that this boat will also assist him in making a few extra dollars from the seal fishery in the early spring. He expects

to have two crews fishing during the trap fishery - one crew will use the trap boat longliner while the other one will use the old traditional "Trap Skiff".

Speaking of problems in the area, Mr. Barnes said that many fishermen in the area don't know how to go about getting the larger type boat and don't have very much knowledge with regard to the various forms of assistance available to help fishermen purchase such boats. He suggested that the Provincial Department of Fisheries send people in the area to help fishermen in this respect, as well as to show them the use of the various mechanical aids now available for fishing.

Mr. John Sheppard, a fisherman from Stag Harbour, also expressed the belief that it is necessary for fishermen to be able to go further offshore to fish. This is why he has obtained a 37' trap boat equipped with a Diesel motor which he is now using for trapping. He is also interested in obtaining some of the mechanical aids that are now available to make fishing a much easier job. During the summer of

1964 Mr. Earle and your moderator visited the various communities on Fogo Island and took some film showing the fishermen of the area at work. This film was shown on the programme, with comments given by Mr. Earle.

We are hoping to again visit the area during 1965 to report on fishing activities, particularly those carried on with the use of larger fishing craft.

Mr. Earle is continuing to work in the area and is doing much to keep fishermen informed of what is happening in other sections of the island and the various forms of assistance that are available to them from government sources.