

Lobster Trap Experiments

Information and Educational Service
Federal Department of Fisheries

Can the lobster distinguish between wood and metal traps? This, in effect, is what scientists of the Atlantic Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board at St. Andrew's N. B., are trying to find out.

The results of these experiments being carried out by Dr. D. G. Wilder and field technicians J. Kervin, R. C. Murray and U. J. Walsh, with the help of many lobster fishermen, may have a far-reaching effect on the economy of the industry for losses of wooden traps runs as high as half a million a year in the Maritime Provinces.

With the average value of these traps approximately five dollars each, the loss represents a staggering loss to the lobster fishing industry. It has led to the creation of a little more than a year ago of the Fishermen's Indemnity Fund sponsored by the Federal Department of Fisheries to provide insurance for the lobster fisherman against trap losses.

It has also stimulated experiments by the Fisheries Research Board to find a more durable trap.

The scientists naturally turned to designing traps of metal, and in 1953 carried out a preliminary experiment, followed this up in 1954 with more extensive experiments, and presently continuing this in 1955. To date, the results

During this experiment four metal traps were fished from Nov. 2 to 6, 1953, and 15 metal traps were fished from Dec. 1, 1953 to March 29, 1954. From March 24 to May 28, 1954, the experiment was continued with 14 new metal traps of slightly different design.

From the above figures it will be seen that in the first stage the metal traps caught 98 per cent as many lobsters as the wooden traps in the same number of hauls. During the second phase the percentage dropped to 49 per cent, making the average for the entire period 78 per cent in the third phase, with the modified trap, the percentage was 72.

However, during this test period the storm damage to the wooden traps (while the metal traps went unharmed) was quite significant.

Two of the most severe storms struck in December. On the 9th, 11 of the 15 wooden traps were destroyed and three others damaged. The second storm five days later destroyed several of the wooden traps and damaged two others.

In order that the experiment continue on a proper basis wooden traps destroyed or damaged were replaced as quickly as possible after the storms abated.

No metal traps were destroyed, damaged or shifted in either of the above or subsequent storms.

After completion of the Port Maitland experiment, the model 2 traps were fished at Fourchu, N. S. Since the metal traps were larger and of a somewhat different design, results were not strictly comparable. However, they provided the following interesting figure:

Period	Number of Market Lobsters	
	No. of Wooden Traps	Metal Traps
Nov. 2-53 - Jan. 14/54	264	351
Jan. 16/54 - Mar. 29/54	248	285
Mar. 24/54 - May 28/54	473	326

The catches in this area were:

Period	Number of Market Lobsters	
	No. of Wooden Traps	Metal Traps
June 9 - July 13/54	178	190

The metal traps caught only 55 per cent as many lobsters as the wooden traps, but the individual catches were so variable as to make the difference statistically insignificant. No storms severe enough to destroy either type of trap were encountered, according to Dr. Wilder.

The third experimental area chosen was Miminegash, P. E. I., and 15 new metal traps comparable in size and design as the standard trap fished in this area, were built for the experiment. The weights of these traps compared as follows:

Soaked wooden traps with fixed concrete ballast	Weight in Pounds	
	In Air	In Water
Metal traps - model 3	58	18
	35	30

The catches in this area were:

Period	Number of Legal Size Lobsters	
	No. of Wooden Traps	Metal Traps
Aug. 10 - Oct. 4/54	499	239

This was the first experiment in which the metal traps throughout the test period, catching 104 per cent of the amount taken in the wooden traps. In this experimental special precautions were taken in rigging and setting the metal traps to ensure they settled to the bottom right side up.

In earlier experiments there was evidence that the metal traps sometimes settled on their sides, and this undoubtedly contributed to their poorer catches.

Experiments Continuing

The experiments are continuing as the lobster open seasons rotate about the thousands of miles of Maritime coastline. Port Maitland is again a base of operations, and the traps used earlier at Miminegash are being tried near Lunenburg, N. S.

The 14 traps previously fished off Port Maitland have been supplemented with the addition of five more, similar in design except that aluminum mesh on a four and cotton mesh on one is being used instead of steel rods.

At Lunenburg, where the Miminegash traps are being used, the metal traps caught 78 as compared with 52 for the wooden traps, in the first four hauls.

Schoolboy Curling Begins Today At Montague Club

"Play will begin today at the Montague Curling Rink in the schoolboy competition for the J. J. Mabon trophy. Eight teams made up of young curlers from the Montague High School will take part in the competition, which will mark the first schoolboy curling ever held at the Montague club.

Club officials had long been interested in promoting schoolboy curling, but were prevented from doing so because up until this year, they had to rely on natural ice and weather conditions determined the length of the curling season. However, with the installation of the artificial ice plant and the longer season and the improved playing conditions which resulted, greater attention will be paid to the high school curling and next year a team will be sent to Charlottetown to participate in the provincial playoffs.

Schoolboy team draw

SECTION A

1. Carl Reynolds, skip; B. White, mate; E. MacLure, second; L. McCarron, lead. 2. Paul DesRoches, skip; T. Mair, mate; D. MacKenzie, second; L. Munro, lead. 3. Bruce Clair, skip; K. MacKenzie, mate; W. MacLure, second; J. Johnston, lead. 4. Rolfe Diamond, skip; R. Sullivan, mate; D. MacLean, second; V. Bell, lead.

SECTION B

1. K. MacLure, skip; B. Ballem, mate; W. Crawford, second; Butler, lead. 2. R. White, skip; J. MacKenzie, mate; B. Balderston, second; P. DesRoches, lead. 3. C. Campbell, skip; I. Scrimgeour, mate; A. Murphy, second; D. MacLaren, lead. 4. K. Pearson, skip; R. Anear, mate; E. MacDonald, second; W. MacEwen, lead.

Schedule for today's play: 3.45 west ice - Carl Reynolds vs P. DesRoches. East ice - K. MacLure vs R. White.

GOLD AND DOLLARS LOW

OTTAWA (CP) - The Bank of Canada reduced official holdings of United States dollars and gold by \$94,000,000 in February to \$1,840,900,000, lowest in nine months. The reserves have been rising steadily during most of 1954, reaching a record \$1,934,000,000 last January.

The bank in its monthly report Saturday, placed its holding of U. S. dollars at the end of February at \$759,600,000. The January figure was \$856,100,000. Holdings in gold were increased to a record \$1,080,400,000 from \$1,077,900,000 in January.

SHRINKS WHEN HOT

Radioactive polonium, a by-product of atomic research, is the first metal to shrink instead of expand when heated.

HOCKEY

TONIGHT MONTAGUE RINK

CHERRY VALLEY HAWKS Versus SUMMERSVILLE BEAVERS

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Plus - SHORTS Show Time - 8 P.M.

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Plus - SHORTS Show Time - 8 P.M.

The Mayfair Theatre is open Monday to Saturday

Eastern Guardian

"DON'T MISS, 'JENNY KISS-ED ME', a laugh riot, Yeo Theatre, Thursday, March 24th, 8.30.

"SALE-Everything to go less 10 percent for cash. Large stock material, flour and feed, building materials. Poole and Thompson, Montague.

"ENGAGEMENT - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stewart, Montague, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Emma Ann (Nan) to Harold Elwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Younker, Charlottetown. Marriage to take place in July.

"BIRTHDAY PARTY - A happy event took place on Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry MacGregor, Montague, honoring Mrs. Charles Vickerson, Mrs. MacGregor's mother, on the occasion of her 86th birthday. A bountiful supper, complete with a nicely decorated birthday cake with candles, served by Mrs. MacGregor to a party of near relatives, who all joined in singing "Happy Birthday", and the guest of honor was remembered with many nice gifts. Mrs. Vickerson, who makes her home with her son Howard and his wife, is hale and hearty and enjoys life to the full. A pleasing feature was the presence at the gathering of four generations: Mrs. Vickerson and daughter, Mrs. MacGregor; Mrs. MacGregor's daughter, Mrs. Charles J. Fraser and her young son John. Her many friends wish her many more birthdays.

Curling Draw At Montague

Today's draw at the Montague Curling Rink: 7:15 Ladies - G. Gordon vs. A. A. Fraser. 9:15 - D. McGowan vs. D. MacLaren; A. E. Sullivan vs. H. Moar.

57th Annual Meeting Of Diocesan Board Of The WA

Delegates from all parts of Prince Edward Island assembled in St. Peter's Cathedral Hall yesterday afternoon for the 57th annual meeting of the P.E.I. Diocesan Board of the Women's Auxiliary to the Church of England in Canada. The Diocesan president, Mrs. W. E. Champion presided.

A cordial welcome was extended to all delegates by Mrs. W. A. Smith of St. Peter's Cathedral, a most suitable reply was given by Mrs. E. E. Warn of St. Eleanor's. Letters of greetings were read from Mrs. A. B. Cosh, honorary president of the Board, now residing in Ottawa, and from Mrs. Parker, corresponding secretary of the Dominion Board. Greetings had been received from all Diocesan Boards across Canada.

The president suggested that the Power of Prayer be the theme of the meetings. In her address, Mrs. Champion paid tribute to the life and work of two life members: Mrs. W. J. Paynter and Mrs. Hammond Horne, who had passed on during the past year. Tribute was paid to Miss Elsie Hickox, Miss Gerda Hansen and Miss Doris MacKay of St. Paul's Parish Church, Charlottetown, who are now doing missionary work at Alert Bay on the Pacific coast.

A highlight of the afternoon was the address of Miss Catherine Greene, daughter of the Rev. Canon Alan Greene of the Columbia Coast Mission who is now serving in the Diocese of Nova Scotia as Diocesan Youth Worker. Miss Greene outlined some of the things which youth of today should be given, namely, the example of parents and friends showing a sense of duty to God and their neighbors, the experience of the love and

FALSE TEETH That Loosen Need Not Embarrass

Before giving the closing prayer, Bishop Waterman thanked the members of the Women's Auxiliary for their fine contribution to the missionary work of the church.

Many wearers of false teeth have suffered real embarrassment because their plates dropped, slipped or wobbled at just the wrong time. Do not live in fear of this happening to you. Just apply a little FASTEETH, the alkaline (non-acid) powder, on your plates. Hold false teeth more firmly, so they feel more comfortable. Does not sour. Checks "plate odor" (denture breath). Get FASTEETH at any drug counter.

Tea was served by the Senior Branches of St. Peter's Cathedral. The meetings continue this morning and afternoon in St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Australian born, Miss Jean Pollard, presently employed by Maritime Central Airways, who had spent 17 months recently in Karachi, India, told of the life and customs in that country, particularly of the Karachi and Pakistani women. Miss Pollard's address was received with great interest.

Mrs. H. K. S. Hemming, who has recently returned from several months in England, brought first hand news of the slum conditions in East London and what was being done by her brother, Rev. Neville Palmer and others to improve the conditions.

His Lordship Bishop Waterman assisted by Mrs. Champion, conferred Diocesan Life Membership on Mrs. George Rogers, a gift of the Diocesan Board, on Mrs. H. Burt, a gift from the Senior Branches of St. Peter's Cathedral and on Miss Helen Hokirk, a gift of her three cousins.

A beautiful bouquet of red roses was presented to Mrs. Champion from her fellow workers on the Board.

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