

Seven Day Gale Caused Near Fatality Back In 1833

The hazards of fishing have been ever present. The following account of a near fatality is contained in the September, 1833, issue of the Royal Gazette.

"On Wednesday morning, the 18th, about nine o'clock, nine men left Bear River in a sailboat of about 18 foot keel, for the purpose of fishing. In the evening of that day, about nine o'clock, when it began to blow ahead off shore, they made for land distant about eight miles with their oars; but the sea ran so high and they shipped so much water that they had to desist from rowing and set sail on the boat, keeping her as close to the wind as possible.

"The wind continued to increase; the sail partly gave way, and a sea having swept away one of their oars, they had no alternative but to get her before the wind.

GALE CONTINUES
"All night it continued to blow with great violence and at daylight no land was to be seen. The wind by this time had shifted a little to the westward. About nine o'clock on Thursday morning the wind abated a little but they still held on their course until three o'clock in the afternoon when they came in sight of Cape St. Lawrence on the coast of Cape Breton.

"They then altered course to the south, running along the coast of the Island until about three o'clock on Friday morning when they arrived at Broad Cove in a state of exhaustion from cold and hunger.

"On Tuesday following, being the seventh day of their departure, they got back to their homes to the great joy of their families who had suffered no small degree of anxiety on their account.

"The fishermen were Roderick MacDonald of Norrie's Pond, Angus MacPhee (Donald's son), Angus MacPhee (Archibald's son), Allan MacPhee (Neil's son),

James MacPhee (Angus' son) and Ronald MacDonald's two sons.

"The MacDonald of Norrie's Pond mentioned is the same person who recently had a fierce encounter with a bear."

Eels Shipped To Germany

Viewed as a past here, but as a great delicacy in Germany, eels are shipped from this province to that European country and a shipment of 7,000 pounds sailed in January.

The movement is only a small part of the traffic in specialty fish being developed by the 'small' business firm of Prowse and Agnew which was organized less than three years ago and is rapidly developing into a big business.

During the past year the plant at the foot of Prince street by the ferry wharf has shipped over 90,000 pounds of live lobsters to markets in Montreal and Toronto. They are shipped in boxes of 50 pounds each.

OYSTERS

The Island's famous oysters are also handled in volume and last year more than 3,000 boxes of 100 pounds each were shipped to Upper Canadian markets. At the same time this business house also has a large-scale local market in both lobsters and oysters and countless Charlottetown residents make it a regular retail shopping call.

Supplies to fill the large order

for eels for Germany were gathered from all over the province and concentrated in Summerside and Charlottetown in cold storage until the shipping date in mid-January.

PARTY ITEMS
Occasional shipments of eels are also made to Montreal where there is a generally steady demand for them, particularly in

specialty food shops where pickled eels are sold as choice party items.

At this season smelts are also being shipped to Montreal in 15-pound boxes, which are put together by workmen right in the local shipping depot. Although the early season run was light it is believed the seasonal movement will be up sharply over previous years with the export mar-

kets absorbing all local offerings. Prowse and Agnew also report a good demand for Island quahaugs, but state supplies are limited at present and few of the shellfish are available. They could easily dispose of all they could obtain. Another shellfish for which they have a ready market in Montreal is mussels. Frequent shipments are made in small lots.



MECHANICAL CLAM DIGGER REPLACES FORK

Shell Fish Harvesting Turns To Mechanization

BY J.S. MacPHAIL
St. Andrews Biological Station
Our commonly used species of shellfish: soft-shelled clams, bar clams, quahaugs and oysters, live in the intertidal zone or just below low-water levels. Manual harvesting of these shellfish is greatly influenced by tide and weather conditions resulting in sporadic landings, particularly where quahaugs and bar clams are concerned.

Mechanical harvesting methods are much less dependent on these factors and offer possibilities for the development of shellfish resources which at present are barely profitable or non-profitable ventures. Regularity of production during the fishing season is a basic requirement for the continuity of a fishery.

Recognizing the difficulties under which the shellfish industries are operating, the Fisheries Research Board and the Industrial Development Service introduced the hydraulic and toothed dredges to industry and fishermen.

ESCALATOR HARVESTER

During the summer of 1957 demonstrations of the performance of the escalator-type digger were carried out in coastal waters around Prince Edward Island and eastern New Brunswick. The machine proved to be very versatile for working within its depth range of 2 1/2 to 6 feet. It will fish wherever shellfish occur except in clayey soils where the load on the conveyor belt becomes too great for the escalator engine.

In two areas in Hillsborough Bay, at Tea Hill and St. Peter's Island, it fished bar clams at the rate of about 10 bushels an hour. At Lower Neguac, N.B., in gravel and trashy soil, it fished quahaugs at about the same rate and at Fox Island in the Miramichi estuary it gathered soft-shelled clams at the rate of 4 bushels an hour.

Basically the escalator-type digger consists of a scoop which is forced ahead through the sea bottom by the boat. At the front end of the scoop is a device with water jets which loosens the soil in its path.

Behind it is a conveyor with an endless belt which brings the shellfish to the surface. The force pump delivering water at the rate of 750 gallons per minute at 40 pounds pressure is the principal part of the machine.

SALMON PIE

1 pound can salmon
1/2 cup bread crumbs
1 tsp. grated onion
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. chopped parsley
1 tsp. lemon juice
2 eggs lightly beaten
1 cup liquid (use liquid from Canned salmon and enough milk to make up one cup).
Combine bread crumbs and salmon, and add onion, salt, parsley, lemon juice, beaten eggs and liquid, mix well and pack into 8-inch pie plate. Bake in moderate oven 350 deg. F. for 45 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

Mrs. Keith Warren
Margate W. I.

TUNA CASSEROLE

1 3 oz jar chow mein noodles.
1 can mushroom soup (undiluted)
1/4 cup water
1 tin tuna
1/4 lb. Cashew nuts
1 cup diced celery
1/4 cup minced onion
Salt and pepper.

Set aside 1/2 cup noodles. Combine rest of ingredients. Sprinkle reserved noodles over top and bake about 1 hour (covered).
Mrs. Ernest Porter
Mermaid W.I.

Without these powerful water jets the scoop would not penetrate the soil nor the shellfish wash onto the conveyor belt.

It is planned to modify the scoop for oyster fishing trials in Prince Edward Island in 1959 where it will be tried out particularly in Conway Narrows for fishing bedding-sized oysters and examining its usefulness for other oyster culture practices.

HYDRAULIC DREDGE

In principle the hydraulic dredge is similar to the escalator-type harvester except that the shellfish collect in the after portion of the dredge and it has to be hoisted and emptied periodically. It is useful for fishing in depths of up to 100 feet where deep-water shellfish like our little-known ocean quahaugs are inaccessible to other gear.

During August, 1958, exploratory and demonstrative trials for fishing ocean quahaugs with the hydraulic dredge were conducted off Cape Bear, east of Pictou Island and along the Nova Scotia shore from Merigomish to Cape George.

A fairly large bed of ocean quahaugs was found 4 to 5 miles off Cape Bear and one day's fishing effort resulted in a catch of 75 bushels. The quality of the meats was very good and these shellfish should be quite acceptable on the market although there is no trade in them now. This resource seems well worth commercial exploitation.

TOOTHED DREDGE

A toothed dredge without hydraulic attachments and suitable for deep-water fishing was also tested. In muddy soils off Livingstone's Cove, N.S., it caught ocean quahaugs as efficiently as the hydraulic dredge. It is likely that there are areas in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence where this type of dredge would be useful for fishing either ocean quahaugs or the commonly used bay quahaug.

Mechanical shellfish diggers of

for opportunities for increasing the landings of soft-shelled clams and bay quahaugs, and developing new fisheries for ocean quahaugs and bar clams. It may also assist in expanding oyster culture by reducing the costs of producing mass quantities of bedding oysters.

We believe the general prosperity of the shellfish industries in Prince Edward Island and the other Maritime provinces now depends on making use of these new fishing methods. A shellfish processor has already conducted trials of ocean quahaug fishing off Cape Bear and the success of these suggests that there will be a full-scale attempt at harvesting this shellfish in the near future.

WOMEN DEMONSTRATE

NEW BRIGHTON, South Africa (Reuters) — Women in this all-Negro suburb of the city of Port Elizabeth demonstrated Tuesday against new identity papers they will be compelled by law to carry after today. Police patrolled the streets but made no arrests.

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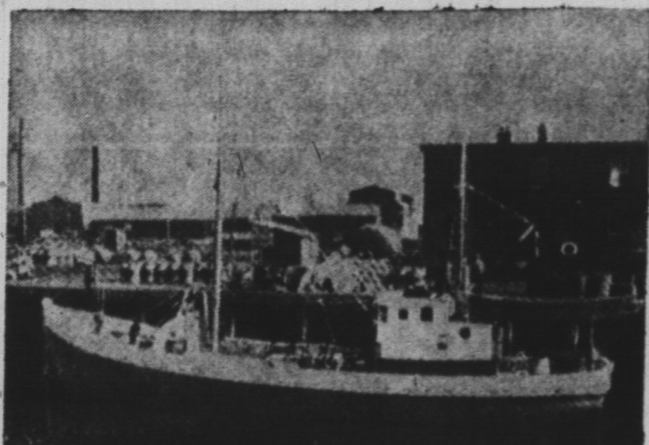
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Membership in the Prince Edward Island Fisheries Federation is open to all firms, Co-Operatives and individuals engaged in or connected with the fishing industry in this province, and/or interested in furthering the object of the Federation. A cordial invitation is extended, therefore, to all such firms, Co-Operatives and individuals to join the Federation today — and lend your support to the work of the Federation in so promoting our important Island fisheries industry.

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