

# LAKE SUPERIOR NOTES

## BOOK XII

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MSc Thesis Research

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A St Mary's River  
to Sable Pt

Ole Bjornaa. April 23

Panake Shoal  
Oct 10-15 the  
run began  
- where you could  
see bottom  
- regular trout

not many  
good herring ground in  
the Sall

no spawning  
in the Panake R

Sturt Oct 5  
Ozak Oct 20  
gone by end of Oct.  
- where you could see bottom (1-1 1/2 Salmon)  
Maple's  very good run

no spawning  
in the Bolewawa  
R


BATCHEWANA

Mud

suckers  
sturgeons  
here

still get  
sturgeons

ISLAND

  
spawned  
here around  
these rocks  
- regular  
trout

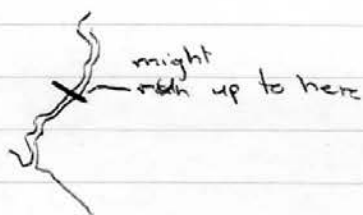
## B. Coppermine Pt to Cape Gargantua Map

(From North to South)

### ① Gull Island (Ella Islet)

- this was where redsims spawned
- Oct 25 (start) until after Nov. 1.

### ② Baldhead R. - start Oct 10-15 for 1 wk to 10 days



### ③ Sparrow Shoal (off Lizard Is) spawned <sup>regular trout</sup> right on top (see Lizard Is times)

### ④ SUMMER - Miron Bank - no spawning

### ⑤ All around the Lizard Islands

- regular trout - start Oct 10, peak Oct 15, gone by Oct 25

### ⑥ None in Sand R.

### ⑦ Ganley Rock - No trout spawned

### ⑧ ~~Griffin~~ Reef - this was for jumbo w.f.

### ⑨ Griffin Reef - w.f. - few trout

### ⑩ Agawa Pt to Barrett Is - w.f.

### ⑪ Agawa R. - start Oct 10-15 for 1 wk - 10 days

- only spawned around mouth

### ⑫ Montreal R. - start Oct 10-15 for 1 wk - 10 days

- sand bar at mouth that occasionally blocked the

### ⑬ Summer <sup>river</sup> fishing (strolling) at Joki's Lump (also herring)

- Siesta Shoal
- Bank just to west of Siesta Shoal
- ~~Rousseau~~ Bank

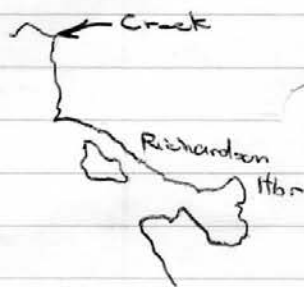
} trout did not spawn here

### ⑭ Spawning at Rousseau Bank (?)

## C Cape Gargantua to Otterhead N. to S

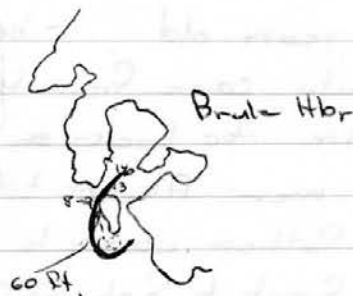
### ① Creek just north of Richardson Hbr

- spawned at same time as Pukaskwa.
- at mouth (spawned)



would spawn also on shore around rivers

- ② Pukaskwa R. - running by September 4 (last year's interview he said the peak was Sept 12  
- run for 1 wk to 10 days
- ③ Eagle R - Sept 10 was the peak
- ④ Brule Hbr - spawned right inside the entrance and around the island  
- spawning here was deep - down to 60 feet.



- ① spawning inshore north of Indian Hbr good
- ② good spawning in the little area around Kakaphe Is.

Ryan Pt

Cape Gargantua

Whop Is

Kakaphe Is

Kakaphe Is

CAPE GARGANTUA TO  
OTTERHEAD

Gros Cap

Interview with Delfen Gingras, April 23/79

- 82 years old - her husband died in 1922(?)
- family came from Whitefish Island. Her grandfather worked on the Soo Locks in Michigan and her grandmother cooked for the men. At one time the family owned most of Soo Michigan.
- her father came to the Gros Cap in 1900. The Gingras were the first to fish at Gros Cap (Joseph, Gabe, Abbie). In sailboats they fished up as far as Goulais and Persian Island.
- her father was the first to get a gas boat on the whole lake. This was in 1905.
- the Mackays and McCays were also at Gros Cap.
- in 1900 Goulais was already a big settlement with local fishermen. A peddler (he was a Greek and known only as "Joe Greek") came up to Goulais realized the potentials and bought a store from which he bought fish.
- in winter there was logging at the Goulais.
- the last sailboat in the area disappeared early in the 1900's.
- years ago each fishermen had an ice house. Ice houses were all over the area. Ice was cut in the spring to preserve the fish in the summer for shipping fresh to the Soo.
- each fishing company or fisherman also did his own freighting. There were two passenger-freight ships, the Caribou and the Manitou which ran up the lake stopped at Michipicoten Hbr. and ran out to Michipicoten Island. Both shipped on these as well, but did their own freighting when they finished.

M. Puvion - the Booth Co. was not fishing this part of the lake. They had a station at Quebec Hbr on Mich. Is. Mont Puvion says that they acquired ~~the~~ property on the south side of the Hbr circa 1860 because his father had a copy of the deed (now destroyed). The fishery probably did not begin right at this time but shortly after. As consequence of a title dispute Booth acquired land on the north side of the Hbr. and moved a building over to that side (1905)

- P.G. does not remember Booth stations anywhere else but M.P.

- says that their headquarters were at Gargantua
- there were, apart from the Booth, no tugs operating in this part of the lake only sailboats and rowboats and later gasboats. Consequently the fishermen did not range very far but did not have to as there were many fish. Some fishermen might row up to Gargantua however.
  - Agawa Rocks (Rousseaus?)
    - before the Rousseaus ever came to Agawa Rocks there was a fishery there. - She does not remember whose it was. They ran two tugs and used to go and put up ice on the beach. Frank Lapointe was working for them there - later he was fishing pound nets out of Batchewana Bay (died 1979) (see Lapointe was his brother). Frank Lapointe circa 1919 caught a two hundred pound sturgeon [it ~~was~~ is well remembered along the shore and I think there is a picture of it somewhere.]
    - the Rousseaus started at Agawa circa     ? There was tourism at Agawa Rocks. The Bussineaus had a big summer resort for which her husband used to run boats
  - Gauthier lived at Mamanise.
  - years ago the herring were only about 6 inches long (small) but the trout were big - avg 6-8 lbs.
  - the biggest trout were taken in the fall at 3 shoals that ran out from the beach. 1st. Red Rock; 2nd. Horseshoe; 3rd. Nonconsuming (Indian name)
  - Recommendations
    - at Inouais Point, Mich
      - ① Parrish
      - ② Weston.

Conversation with Michael Krezak<sup>500</sup>, April 27, 1979.

- where he was charter fishing was real rough on the bottom and damaged much equipment. It was just like fishing on mountains
- there was no still fishing except in the spring for rainbows and speckled trout. Trolling for lake trout didn't start until June.

- trolling was mainly from 30 fathoms up. In June they started to troll deep around 600 feet and would move to shallower depths until by mid August they were trolling on the top at 5-6 fathoms. They might only have one hundred feet of line out. ~~By~~ After the trout would move down again prior to moving onto the spawning grounds. In the latter part of August the trout would again be at 600 feet.

- the movement of the fish depended alot on the storms, if the storm was bad it would wash the mud off the ~~rock~~ bottom and the trout would move into shallower clearer water. Sometimes the niggerswood from the pulp logs would be disturbed driving the trout shallower. Movement depended also on ~~bad~~.

- they would crisscross on the shoals when fishing. At the end of a turn the boat would be given a jerk to pull up the line which tended to sink into deeper water during the turn. It was sometimes when the ~~ten~~ line sank into this very deep water that they would pick up the biggest trout

- the biggest trout would be taken on the troll in mid summer (late July, ~~and~~ most of August). These were the big lunkers. Smaller trout <sup>(5-10 lbs ex)</sup> would also be taken but would form a minority of the catch. It does not know why.

- in the spring the smaller ones (10-12 lbs) were taken. It was only once in awhile that a big one was taken in the spring. It does not know if they went somewhere or if they were just not biting

- He doesn't think the sports fishermen damaged the fishery. The limit was ten fish per person per day but it was very seldom that the party of four would take forty fish. This was more than they could eat or preserve, although some greedy fishermen would run out and ship ~~as~~ many fish home and then come back to get more

fat times in the season (summer?) he figures a good troll fisherman could do better than a gill net fisherman. Once they (he + his wife) took 750 lbs in 2 days, and that was off of two lines)

- the decline of the trout was the combination of the commercial fishermen and the lamprey. The lake trout held the lamprey in check until the population was fished so much that they could not and the lamprey exploded. It, however, has never seen a lamprey in a trout stomach but ~~since they eat them~~ <sup>the lamprey wouldn't</sup> last very long in it though. Hooks are dissolved away in the very acidic stomach in a short while.
- the lamprey eel became real bad at Montreal R after the 1950's but had been ~~not~~ present in the lake long before that.
- the lamprey never went down to 40 fathoms and not many were taken at 25 fathoms. They can't stand the cold water. He never saw a fat with a lamprey mark.
- the lampreys also don't like a scaly fish. Not many w.s. were picked up with lampreys although some were. He never caught a rainbow with a lamprey, which, although its scales are fairly fine was too fast for the eel.
- in early September they would go to the log and get the small trout and in mid September move to Steep Rock where they could pick up the big ones.
- Bassineau Bank - the average size of fish was 12 to 15 lbs. All the banks were about like that. Sometimes you would get bigger and sometimes smaller fish.
- \* - the bank fish were always bigger than the shoal fish which were bigger than the ~~shoal~~ shore [check]
- the main range of the Montreal charter boat industry was to Maminse Hor in the south and Cape Gargantua to the north. This area formed a sort of great "bay". If you went directly south from Gargantua you would almost hit Maminse. Perhaps this was one great mountainous valley at one time. The bottom is very uneven with many shoals & reefs.
- Fishing areas include:
  - ① the shore bank - the drop off from shore to depth
  - ② banks - the bottom of these are massive boulders with sand and gravel



- ③ reefs (+ shoals) - these may be farther offshore.
- the bottom was composed of sharp jagged rocks. They were great slabs of rock that tore at nets and entangled tackle. They were the worst to fish
  - eg. Griffon's reef, outside Montreal
- <sup>Mike Noble</sup>  
~~McNave~~ Shoal was part bank, part reef.

- ④ middle grounds - flats, partially clay banks
- composed of mud, sand and gravel.
  - not many fish were taken trolling here except in the spring. 5-6 fish <sup>(trout)</sup> during the season was good
  - netting was good, however. The fish did not seem to be feeding ~~but were~~ <sup>(i.e. not</sup> biting at the bait) however they moving along the bottom and would get into the nets
  - between <sup>Mike Noble</sup> ~~McNave~~ + Miron's Banks were the middle grounds
- they were like clay banks (such as those at Michipicoten)
  - Scientists do not know why sometimes fish can be caught in the nets but not on the troll. In the summer sometimes trout would be on the surface where the nets would not take them. The ~~fish~~ <sup>trout</sup> would be swimming on top of them but would be taken on the hook. This is when the really big poundages were taken

Flesh

#### - Clay Bank trout

- trout caught on clay (also on sand or mud) were white fleshed. At the Michipicoten clay banks the flesh was white. There was nothing wrong with them except that red flesh tended to be preferred by those used to eating it. They looked like the red fleshed trout.
- he does not know what they feed on
- a red fleshed trout was not caught if it was not taken on the areas of sand and gravel. Down among the

rocks ~~they~~ would find hundreds of crabs + these were blood red, had little specks on them, and ~~the~~ were about 2 in long. The fisherman called them crayfish but he does not know what they really were. This was down from 25 to 30 fathoms and they would come up in the net and the fish. This was the case at Miron's Bank + the Lizard Is. The ~~Montreal~~ <sup>like Maple</sup> shoal ~~fish~~ <sup>trout</sup> had pinkish flesh. [note fat trout had white flesh]

### Rivers

- Fish running into the northern rivers were smaller on the average than those to the south

- aug up north
- Dog R - 3-4 lbs average
  - Eagle R - 3-4 lbs average
  - Pukaskua - small no. 1 trout - 3-5 lb. average
  - Gravel - 15-16 lbs average
  - Montreal R - these trout had a great range of sizes and could range from 8 lbs to 35 lbs. One would get some real big ones here

- he does not know the reason for this size range. Maybe they were fished too much up north. Maybe the cold water retarded growth. Maybe there were no banks up north.

- ~~Dates~~ [I am not sure what he meant by ~~those~~. Perhaps he was suggesting that the banks were where the big trout developed and then they came into the rivers to spawn.]

- ~~Dates~~ before the fish actually went into the river it was possible to catch them on the shore banks where they massed prior to spawning

- Pukaskua - they came in the river Sept 16th <sup>and while not actually in the river.</sup>
- run was over <sup>Sept</sup> 15th

- Eagle R, Dog R. - little later. Sept 10th they were running well. By the 21st the major part of the run was over. ("the biggest run was over")

- Note. there were always stragglers in the river. One could still catch some in the Dog R. in early October.

- Montreal - the first stragglers were in Sept 25-28. The biggest part of the run was the 1st wk of October and the trout

so difficult to figure out exact times from fisherman statements

were gone by Oct. 10.

-the fish moved into the river at dusk and out by day.

Spawning - Lake trout around Red Rock (above Indian Hbr):

- they came in the first week of October. One could get real big ones here. The average weight was 15 lbs.

- these trout caught here were called "half dollar fish" the body was a light silver gray and had large "silver dollar-size spots [blotches] of a deeper colour. They were only on this one shore bank.

- The fins were very red with two-thirds of the dorsal & pectoral fins being coloured (not the tail though). The flesh was a pinkish colour. They were not of unusual shape - not short and stubby like those at Mackinnon's Bank.

- the fish were only this colour at spawning time as it was rare to catch them in the summer [never?] ~~the~~ Trout

could be caught on Mackinnon's Bank which was close by but they were not coloured with the large spots.

- he does not know why the trout here were like this

- weather was bad here for trolling and it was dangerous.

The silver dollar fish were 0°

caught only by nets.

Perhaps they came because of the red rock and maybe fed on something that was here [perhaps the coloured rock gave them their colour].

- the trout of Mackinnon's Bank were different from those of Miron's Bank - they were a short and stubby (deep) fish, and the ~~head~~ head looked different. They were not necessarily small however and the odd one was up to 30 lbs.

- the Miron's Bank trout were perfect trout, nicely shaped. They had quite a size range from 5 lbs to 55 lbs and taking a 40-lber was nothing. This was an excellent bank for summer trolling. ~~The fish were~~ It had the biggest fish. It is quite a big bank.

- Montreal Shoal had also perfect fish but they were not that big. 3 to 4 lbs was the average and they were up to 15 to 18 lbs. and seldom up to 20 lbs.

- Joghies Hump - the trout were from 8 to 18 lbs with the odd one 20 to 25 lbs. It was the same at <sup>like Nable?</sup> ~~the~~ Navel Shoal.

- the Middle Grounds were bad for trolling.

- it was therefore quite possible to identify which banks the trout came from by their appearance

### Fatter fish

- halfbreeds and siscowets spawned in 25 fathoms of water on the reefs and sides of the banks. They always come into shallower water to spawn. They live at 600 feet and deeper. The halfbreeds were smaller than the siscowet.
- spawning was from the 1st Aug to mid Aug
- they had white flesh
- M.K. never ran into paperbellies where he fished [It may not have been fishing those offshore banks enough]

### Winds

- N.W wind - caused the water to rise and stay there <sup>and blow across it</sup> (these were the "tides"). The water ~~might~~ <sup>would</sup> rise about one foot. If it rises too high then a real storm was due.
- this was a bad time to fish, and fishing was conducted in the lee of the islands
- S.E wind - lowers the water and then blows across it
- N.E wind - causes the water to fluctuate, rising and falling

### Charter Industry see notes

- road to Montreal R from Alena Bay was completed in 1939
- in 1935 the road was as far as Mamainse
- Cecil Rhoades and Sid Peplow were partners and began their outfit at Mont R in 1948
- operators at Mont R -
 

Barrie McKay ?	Milt Hughes
Ian McKay	Sid Peplow
Gord Primeau	Wyn Lane
Jim Sherbet	Bill Alvin Jones (?)
Reed Downey	
- the cruisers ranged from 30 ft - 45 ft
- 4 people were on a cruiser with three fishing at any one time
- there were no outriggers because the weather was too rough for them

- runs were only made for fishing <sup>as far as</sup> the Ghost and Pukaskue rivers. Runs might go up to Pit River but only out of season

- Wilfred Renner is Mrs Kuzak's brother

- There were many yachts esp American
- Those fishing tended to be in the 30-35 ft class
- before the war there were diesel cruisers over 100 feet but these would not be fishing. After the war no one could afford these. Today the outside limit is 60 feet.
- Harris Wilson started at Mamamoxe maybe 1946 <sup>to</sup> 1948

- Note - most of the planted trout here were from the American side. For three years running spawn was got from the American side because of failure on the Canadian. [O<sup>o</sup> The stocks are all mixed up.] Suggests this might have changed the apparent behaviour of the trout.

### - Redfins

- said not too many redfins taken in the summer. Later he said that redfins were taken only in the fall
- he said that there were regular trout and redfins which would come on the same grounds but it was not possible to get a clear idea of which grounds
- Montreal Shoal was mostly redfins spawning from October 15th on. This shoal was fished from June 15th to October 15th
- spoke of the shore spawners coming right up on the shore (using the ex. of Hubbard Bay to Mica Bay (see Map) the trout began to spawn from 1st week of October on, but it is not clear if this really indicates an early time of spawning for the shore spawners - he <sup>seemed to</sup> suggest once that they spawned at the same time. This shore was fished from Labour Day on.
- NOTE. CAPT<sup>A.E.</sup> NICHOLSON IS IN MUSKEGON UNTIL INTO THE FALL.
- Eggs - at the Montreal R. the eggs were all a pink (salmon) colour he did not notice variation in the egg colour when he was taking spawn
- the last time they were in the river was circa 1964.

(Note Feroceladon has been given exclusive rights to Mich area + the offshore shoals - this is for assessment purposes. The other fishermen can fish anywhere except here)

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Conversation with <sup>Soo</sup> Jago, April 24 / 79

- now Forestry biologist for Parks and Recreation (Bellvue Park office)
- was fish inspector at the Soo (Can) 1957 to 1963
- the inspection office was closed when they stopped getting natives but has been reopened. Frank Baileau is the present inspector.

- the river run had a peculiar run of trout

- he remembers the Dog R and Montreal R as being unique from the lake trout and easily identifiable

Harold Lund might bring them in for customer sometimes

sometimes there were fish shipped through the office from Gt Slave + northern lakes and they were dark as well. Perhaps the cold temp caused the colour [but why aren't fat fish dark then?]

- these had more red colouring on the lateral line than the lake lake trout. They were generally a brighter colour overall and seemed to be a tougher, hardier trout than the shore/offshore ones
- the meat was redder than the regular trout
- much darker than the offshore trout. Even the big ones were dark

- for mkt trout were classified as

① bankers - they were fat but often were mixed up with the No. 1's (lean in the fishermen's shipments)

② halfbreeds - fatter than a banker. They would have  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of fat in the gut area

③ siscowets - sometimes had an inch layer of fat

- they were good smoking fish. Chicago was the main market and 20% went down to Michigan. There were a few dealers in Soo, Mich that handled them

- from the Caribou Shoal area + Superior Shoal
- Feroceladon shipped them. (They don't go out to Superior Shoal now. but when they had filled their quota in the other areas they were allowed to go to Sup Shoal + fish there)

- Leans.

- no 1's were down to 10 fathoms and past that you would get fatter fish. Seldom would you find a lean trout from L. Sup perfectly lean, unlike those from the inland lakes.

This is why many inspectors hated to classify the Superior fish - it was the same thing with the w.f. The Chicago market was good for these fatter fish because they liked them fatter there.

- in Geo Bay and L. Huron there was less fat on the w.f.  
 - Superior Shoal - he doesn't recall much difference in the Superior shoal trout except that they had large heads and small bodies and were an inferior fish. They were "weird looking" but he didn't get many. The fishermen didn't fish here or those that would might not ship them in but throw them back overboard. (There is some indication that the situation had improved from L. Monden's day but this is not clear from what he said)

- Lean trout

① No 1 - good quality quite fresh trout

② No 2 - these were older trout that had been dead for some times

ways of checking for No. 2's

- mentioned the Organoleptic (?) way of checking

- checking involved a number of methods of appraisal

- if the eyeballs were sunken they were older fish

- one would stick one's nose in the gut. If you did not smell a cucumber smell the fish was a no. 2. The fresh fish smelled like cucumber.

- press the flesh - if an indentation was left it was no. 2.

- if the fish no longer had rigor mortis but was soft it was a no. 2

- if it was an off colour it was no. 2.

- checking the gills - if the blood was an <sup>off</sup> deep red colour it was a no. 2. Fresh caught trout had bright red blood

- w.f. had a different sort of classification according to size differences i.e. ① no. 1 ② medium ③ large ④ jumbo

- fishermen were not required to differentiate trout when they ~~shipped~~ shipped them. It was more of an honour thing. However they had to differentiate whitefish basically because of the cyst problems (they were in the flesh)

- the American market wouldn't handle them at all with cysts although the Canadian market ~~was~~ less stringent.
- Lake Superior whitefish were always within the tolerance limits for cysts, unlike those from inland lakes.
- (re. certain areas with high parasite, disease levels, etc.)
- MacGregor Bay whitefish cyst levels were quite higher than other layers. This was because the pike population was high. The pike was a carrier of the cyst. when the pike population became high one got more of a cyst problem on the w.f.
- cyst - Trachanophorus sp. (?)
- tricks used by fishermen to get their fish past inspection
  - they would trim the fat off the fish to make them appear leaner.
  - salting the boxes is putting no lbs on top and worse fish below. 100 lb boxes were often used which were difficult to check and he remembers that when he first came some 150 lb boxes were used. The 100 lb boxes may still be around.
- Fishermen seldom marked trout as bankers - they would tend to be classified as leans
- most of the fish that was salted was smoked. These were mostly no. 25.
- The "Lake Superior Smoke" was well known involving a fast smoke at a higher heat. The fish produced 'seemed to be more of a cooked fish and it was left in only overnight up to 1 1/2 days.

#### RECOMMENDS

- ① Frank Boileau - 253-0719, Macdonald Ave.
- ② John Bouchard working at the canal - records of what tugs passed through the canal might give some info
- ③ Jerry Ryder - was an inspector and a research technician (1960 - 1966)
  - he was not here long but became very knowledgeable of the fishery - had to do all sampling on board boats
  - did aging, sizing
  - at Ft Erie, Penn. - write federal govt, inspection branch



@ Mrs. Roussain - Tender Care Nursing Home

Conversation with Lloyd Morden<sup>Agawa Bay</sup> April 25 /79

- Purvis operation

- fished 6 gangs per trip and 7 gangs just before he quit
- fat trout were sold in the Chicago market. They were sold to the steel co., and were also smoked and sold as cubed fish.
- one could only fish Superior steel for fat trout so long for fear of flooding the market: 4 lifts was about the limit
- one could try to control the market by withholding fish.
- The Purvises on L. Huron built a trap net on the end of Burnett Island in which trout could be held (up to two ton) of them

- Caribou Island trout.

- they were a greenish brown colour and spotty
- in the fall one would get the odd silver gray trout among them. In 2 tons of dark trout would be ~~maybe~~ 100 lbs of silver gray
- the Clay Bank trout were not necessarily white fleshed and one cannot say that fish taken on mud or clay are generally white fleshed. he found.

see Williams  
Hottah Lake

- the whitest fleshed trout were those at Caribou Island. They lived on a sandstone bottom and were plankton feeders. From the Hummock to the Caribou was all sandstone on the whole
- the Caribou trout were white fleshed, and the Silver Grays were red fleshed. He does not think that diet determines

- Rivers

flesh colour

- there was up to 10 days difference between the Pukaskwa and the Montreal
- 2 days after the Pukaskwa the Eagle started
- 2 days after the Agawa began they were in the Montreal.
- Pukaskwa - the trout came in in early Sept and the run was well on Sept 15th
- the sand was a minor run

Mont Punvis said that 3 traps were fished by his father and (at one time) and were licensed for 294000 yds of net.

- when the trout first went in the river you would get only a few. They would ~~gather~~ <sup>congregate</sup> off the river and the first ones in were the males which would clean the grounds. Then the females would come in and you would get a lot of females for awhile. Toward the end of the run there would be both males and females
- with the stragglers the run would last three to four weeks. (people who say a week are probably only talking of the peak.)
- Montreal R (those people who said it began the 15th Sept were too early.) The run went from Oct 1st to Oct 15th.
- he thinks that Superior Shoal fish stayed pretty well in their own areas with the northern (large) shoal being ~~the main one~~ <sup>where they</sup> mainly were.
- a majority of the fish had red fins (or orange) and all the big fish had coloured fins. Generally fish from 8 lbs up had red fins. These fish tended to be on the sides of the banks and down on the ditches. ~~lots of~~ Fat and halfbreeds had red fins and lots of red fins could be taken down at 60-80 fathoms. Leans also had red fins but it was sometimes hard to tell which were which because of the large number of deformities (although not all the trout were deformed)
- the smaller trout (under 8 lbs, altho this was not a hard and fast distinguishing weight) were on the flatter grounds (shoals)
- both males and females had red fins altho probably more males had them.
- Redfins weren't taken in summer in the lake except at Superior Shoal. He does not know if they just changed colour at spawning time.
- the Punvis outfit was the main one to fish Superior Shoal. The last two years Lloyd worked with them. Jack Mackay was also running out to the shoal. <sup>from Gargantua</sup> Dolf King was not seen out there very often by L.M.
- he does not think the deformities were caused by lack of

Food. There was lots of food out there. This is probably why the trout tended to stay on their own shoals because there was no need to move around. Superior Shoals was the only place in Superior where one could get so many different kinds of trout (It is possible if the deformities have decreased that the shoals were overfished (I suggested this) - but he doesn't know)

- Deep water lean. - there was a thin filament of fat in the gut whereas the fatter trout, one could scrape out the fat in great globes. They were more round than the ~~deep~~ shallow water lean [he agrees with my write-up on them]

- the veins in the ribcage were more pronounced. This is the same with any fish taken from depth and the blood vessels were most pronounced on the windbag. The chup had these veins which were also pronounced on the bladder

- Fat trout - even the bones were soft in them. The head was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  as large as the lean compared to the body.

- The fat trout had fat all over, which is different from the fatter lean <sup>planted</sup> trout which only had fat in the ribs

- the biggest  $\frac{1}{2}$  breed he saw was 7-8 lbs. They were taken at the East Bank Chummies, S.E., the banks toward Cargantua.

- He does not agree that halfbreeds are just young fat trout. A 7-8 lb trout would not be a young trout, but maybe 6 or 7 years old. He believes they grow just as slowly as the fat trout out there.

[though the halfbreeds are found at shallower depths with the fat there seem to be certain banks where they were most prevalent and where fishermen went specifically for them. They were probably sought more for smoking than the siscowets]

- spring trout were all around the same size i.e.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 lbs with 3 lbs being the average. one didn't catch the big ones in the spring. They were at about 35 fathoms.

- the fishermen knew they would get these fish and would say that they were going out to fish the "spring trout" when they switched from linen to cotton nets the mesh size

(depth of the net) was increased, partly because the net hung looser in the water. Cotton, especially some of the fine weaves was more transparent in the water

- in the fall around the Clay Banks they would fish 5" to 5½" for the big fish there. 6" was tried as an experiment once but it didn't seem to work.

- different twines were used at different times of the year. In the spring 4¾ was used with 5" being the biggest employed - it would depend on the area being fished,

- he said little about sand trout and had not heard of the "summer trout" at Lake Huron (Kennedy (1942) [no one so far has ever seen them spawning])

- the favourite fishing grounds in the fall were:

① Caribou

② Pukaskwa

③ Hummock

④ a few shoals between the Pukaskwa + Dog R.

⑤ 4-mile pt

⑥ Bonner Head

⑦ Breeders

⑧ Shingles, Clay Banks

- he never saw yellowfins, at least they do not stick out in his mind

- he never saw trout spawn in the moss.

→ re. late spawning - he never left Michipicoten until Nov 15 to 20 and they were still picking up large trout on the grounds and it seemed like maybe another run was coming in (this however was not necessarily the case inshore along the east coast)

- the lamprey hit this end of the lake before Michipicoten. It did not get lamprey on Superior Shoals

- Menomenees were the greatest plunderers of lake trout spawn and they were found right on the grounds.

- Chubs were taken in the deep water and there were so many different kinds. Lake Huron had a lot of bluefins which were a silvery chub with a distinctly bluish fin coloration in the rivers. The net fishermen had to remain two

20

- miles offshore. To see them go in the river you pretty well had to go right up to them.
- he is not sure that Jim Smith would know abt about the operation. The person to talk to is Ivan who has a keen mind and this is why he was so successful in the business.
  - Booth was failing when Purvis took over, a good part of the reason being due to poor management. Purvis took advantage of the new innovations in equipment which Booth had not.
  - in summer months the large trout were up high, being surface feeders.
  - he thinks the Breeders, Shingles and Clay Bank trout stayed in their area all year. In the summer you would take them just off the banks, the large ones being nearer the surface. In the fall they would move back onto the banks to spawn.
  - Lapointes fished pound nets out of Michib + Harmony Bay + Bakhewana. They were big men and it was nothing to see them hoist a ~~can~~ barrel of gas onto their shoulders.

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### Conversation with Evan Thomson, MNR Wawa, April 26/79

- recommends ① Tony Kwain - Soc - in charge of L Sup. research (Lynne Golden) (here ten years?)
- ② Tom Harrison - now at Lindsey - instructor at Sir Sandford Fleming
- \* ③ David Bell - hired on contract by MNR in Toronto to write a report on the origins of all strains of lake trout in Ont. The contract finished in Nov/78 and he left for parts unknown
- two years ago trout were taken up the Michipicoten by Lynne Golden
- re. Mishibiogu - Tom Harrison had reason to believe that the second plant may have had steel spawners (maybe from Purvis's fishery) altho it is not known where he got his info

- Thomas showed me photos of Mishibishu trout with large heads and narrow small bodies ("racer type") Many of the trout were like this (probably from lack of food?) and they are still caught like this. He confirms what Reger said about the condition of pike in some inland lakes i.e. the "hammen-handles" with long narrow bodies and big heads.

MISHIBISHU

These are old pike.

- Mishibishu trout ~~were~~ are orange-fleshed. Evan Jones took spawn in 1971 (I think that was the date)

A Report concerning test-netting of Mishibishu Lake, White River District (1961) Schrenk, C. F. (June, 1961)

- 5 year old trout. (planted 4000 2 year old lake trout June 15th 1958)

- Examination of the gonads of the lake trout suggested that at least some of the lake trout planted will spawn this fall, undoubtedly for the first time. Eggs in two of the four females examined were highly-colored and well developed. The unusually well-advanced overall physical development of these particular trout suggests that sexual maturity might also be attained somewhat in advance of the 7-year minimum which is considered to be valid for lake trout in the Great Lakes

Length, weight - Aug for 5-year old Mishibishu Trout

22.5"

4 lbs 5 ozs

B Spawn taking project at Mishibishu Lake, 1962 (S. Donovan)

- Fished from Sept 26 - Oct 9.

This program as regards the collecting of spawn was somewhat of a failure. However, it seems that these lake trout are very early spawners. They were no doubt nearly finished spawning by September 26

Early in September the weather was unseasonably cool and this could have possibly advanced spawning a little

B. Lake Trout Spawn taking at Mishibishu Lake (1963) M. H. Wolfe

- ~~ended~~ Fished from Sept <sup>10</sup> to Oct 2 (arrived too late in 1962)

- 9.1 quarts of eggs collected ( $\approx$  87000 eggs - 9520 per quart) from 32 ripe females

Catches over the entire period could be termed erratic and no peak of spawning activity was demonstrated. However, after

- 1962 - 20,000 eggs collected  
1963 - 87,000 " "  
1964 - 211,500 " "

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September 28th all females caught were either ripe or spawned out. It may be assumed that spawning activity was almost completed at this time.

Weather conditions and water temperature had no demonstrable effects on spawning activity.

\* Much of the north shoreline of Mishibishu consists of rubble rock with a rather steep gradient. It is believed by the crew that Lake Trout use many of the narrow ledges thus formed for spawning grounds. It would appear that the fish are widely dispersed during the spawning period. However, it is possible that as a spawning tradition develops in this lake individual spawning areas may bear the greater part of spawning activities thus concentrating the fish and increasing netting returns.

Lake Trout Spawning taking at Mishibishu Lake (1964) M.R. Wolfe

- Gill nets were set at dusk and run every two hours. No female trout were taken after the second run which was completed at approximately 12:00 pm. so after September 25th nets were run only twice. Only one run was made on each of three nights because of winds. On three ~~more~~ other nights winds prevented the setting of nets.

- We found no evidence of Lake Trout spawning in water deeper than that normally fished with 8 foot trap-nets (10-11 feet)
- Males increased. 2 lb and 10 inches since 1963
  - avg 5.6 lb + 24.9 in
- Females decreased. 4 lb + increased. 2.9 in (weighed spawned out as well as hard females in 1964) - in 1963 only hard females
  - avg 5.8 lb + 25.5 in
- Spawning habits of Mishibishu Lake Trout appear to have changed from the preceding two years. Gill netting in 1962 indicated that trout were spawning in most rocky shallow areas of the lake (Abnovan, 1962) and 1963 trap netting indicated a wide dispersal of spawning trout. However, in 1964, 385 of the 515 trout caught were caught at position 1, Fig 3. A

trapnet at this point caught 61 trout and gill nets 327  
 Trout are spawning on a narrow rubble ledge, on this point, in water from 6 inches to 5 feet deep. They appear to be moving from the shallow bay east of the point rather than from the open lake to the west.

- Trapnet no 5 was set on a shoal at the mouth of the largest inlet stream. Since the parent stock of these trout were stream spawners we theorized that the trout might move towards a stream to spawn. We found no evidence of such movement.
- One Lake Trout from the 1958 Mishibishu planted was taken in Mishi Lake. This fish weighed 12 lbs. The rapid growth of this fish (age class VIII) would indicate that the population of these fish in Mishi Lake is small.

Lake Trout Spawning at Mishibishu Lake (1965) M.R.  
 Wolfe White River District

The trout continued to spawn on the same narrow rubble ledge (G<sub>1</sub>) that was used in 1964, but we could find no evidence of spawning at any other location on the lake. We paddled around the shoreline with a light on three different occasions but could not find trout at any location other than G<sub>1</sub>. Spawning trout began to appear on this shoal between September 18 and September 22.

Food - The only large forage fish available to trout in Mishibishu Lake are the small population of common suckers. Consequently the trout feed mainly on invertebrates and growth has been slow for the last five years. In the last four years the increase in average length has been only 2.7 inches. It may be possible that with such a restricted food supply some female trout in this lake are incapable of spawning every year. If this is true then increasing the availability of desirable food should result in an increase in the number of fish spawning and thus increase the number of eggs collected. With a better food supply probably each individual fish would carry more eggs than



Neil Newen: Batchuana Bay, April 25/79 - started years ago ( $\approx$  25-30 years ago.) at that time one could get red fins all along the shore.

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at present. This year averaged only 2225 eggs per fish spawned as opposed to 3250 in 1964. We have made plans to introduce herring to Mishibishu in the winter of 1966 and hope that this will rectify the forage problem.

I am convinced that spawning lake trout concentrate on at least one more shoal in Mishibishu and even though we were not able to observe trout on the Island Shoal and trap nets set there have been ineffective I still believe that this is most <sup>the</sup> likely area for large numbers of trout to spawn.

Paul Bouge  
was net man  
on Mishibishu

Ontario Fish & Wildlife Review Fall-Winter 1970

The case of the Subsituk Lake (T.G. Harrison)

- although 5 small creeks into Mishibishu to date none attracted lake trout
- prime location off a point - to windward side of the lake close to the only outlet
- bottom drops off quickly here and is covered by rounded stones of various sizes

Conv. with Frank Stone, Mich. Mission, April 26/79

- the Michipicoten Band has fished on the band license for 30 or 40 years. Quite a few fished on the license. The furthest they fished was the Bear river. - mainly in Michipicoten Hbr. They fished gill nets
- F.S. started about 20 years ago
- trout ran in the Bear + University R - only ones he knew - he doesn't know the dates
- RECOMMENDS
  - Joseph André - 80 years old - Indian
  - in Davey Home at the Soc

M. Purvis, April 24/79 - never heard of trout running up the rapids

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Conversation with Lynne Golden<sup>MUR</sup>, Soc, April 25/79.

- has been out to the shoals in Superior only a few times. It was 10 years ago he went offshore.
- Butcher Bank + Chummy Bank had small trout. All the banks had small trout
- the Caribou Island Blacks
  - they were actually black (not brownish green) and were perhaps a little longer than other lean trout. The stomach was gray but he can't remember if the fins were colored.
  - He was out there in 1957 only once.
- Superior Shoal trout were tagged in 1959-60 and it was found that they didn't move between the shoals. They were pretty well all with red fins. They were lighter than the Caribou Island trout having a brownish back. Ordinary lake trout had a gray back.
- he can't say if planted trout change colour like the native trout. He remembers taking some darker (but is not sure).
- the Caribou Island trout were undersized but not due to overfishing he thinks. There were a lot of trout there when he went out. Perhaps overcrowding was the cause.

Conversation with Wilfred Renner, Montreal R. (Northgate)

April 25/79.

- fished from Theano Pt to Gargantua - fished commercially 1930-1956
- Special Breeds - commercial fished (not recreational, did some guiding)
- Bussineau's Bank. - they were a dark muddy colour and light under the stomach. The belly was very thin. They were a short, chubby trout (ie more so than other leans) One started to fish them in deep water about Sept 20 at about 10 to 15 fathoms and they spawned in October to the ~~latter~~ <sup>later</sup> part of October, however he ~~did~~ <sup>had</sup> not actually seen the spawns running
- when you get into the shore ~~the~~ you get more sturdier trout (ie the belly, the trout are also longer)

(These answer  
the descr.  
of the Red Rock  
trout described  
by Krezak)

- Gull Is. trout (off Telegraph Rk around the Leach Is.)
- they were more of a silver green colour. They were a lighter whitish colour and had large spots. This is the only place he remembers these fish. The bottom was gravel and the trout spawned <sup>above</sup> ~~at~~ 20-30 feet ~~and~~. This is where the nets were set but <sup>actual</sup> spawning was at a lesser depth (5-6 feet)

- Jackson's Cove - one would get more redfins here than anywhere else. The big ones (8-15 lbs) were really coloured. They spawned at the same time as the other trout - i.e. Sept 15 to October 15th. Spawning would be on the banks at the mouth of the Cove.

- the shore trout were about the same size as the shoal trout (8-10 lb avg.) The later running trout were bigger. His wife wondered if the beach run was not a little later than the river run. W.R. notes that it was such a long time ago that he has trouble remembering dates.

- some trout would spawn in Dec. At Montreal Shoal he would get a few big trout when fishing for w.f. [He did not mention any shore banks where this happened.] Some of these trout had spawn in them

- this is probably the peak not the start.

- the Pukaskua run started September 23rd. - they would leave the river at the end of September and be gone by the first week in October

- Rivers - Montreal - one would get them along the shore in the <sup>part of Sept</sup> later. They averaged 8-10 lb, and had a pale orange flesh

Pukaskua - some of them were large up to 8 to 12 lbs. The average weight was 8 lbs (not very different from the Montreal) They started earlier than the Montreal.

- also Eagle, Dog, Gravel, Baldhead, Sand, not many in the Agawa R.

The males were pretty well the same weight as the female.

he was not aware of a size difference between the northern + southern rivers. One would get a mixture of sizes in all of them.

but were always a little brighter.

- in the spawning season ~~that~~ he would set first at the rivers. The rivers came a few days before the rivers ~~shore~~.
- the odd lean trout could be taken at ~~40~~<sup>45</sup> - 50 fathoms. in spring (April, May + June). 45 fathoms was about the upper limit of fats and halfbreeds - sometimes you would get a good list of halfbreeds at 45 fathoms. Perhaps during the spawning season they go shallower [doesn't seem to have fished them at spawning time] He doesn't know, he has never seen them spawning.
- Chubs are down in deep water.
- lake trout had mostly pink flesh. The odd one was paler or of an amber colour such as the Bussineau Bank trout.
- when trolling in the summer (July + early August through August) they would sometimes see lake trout rolling on the surface.
- at that time none floated nets but only fished nets off the bottom. There were a number of reasons for this; the nets on the surface were a navigational hazard and one could lose them if a boat ran over them. They used much rigging and one had to use many floats with them, + much rigging [to can the nets they were suspended on lines from the surface]
- the big fish didn't stay on the bottom. Therefore you would get the smaller trout in the nets except at certain times of the year (ie at spawning time)
- the big trout were pelagic, feeding on herrings at 5 to 6 fathoms, or shallower. The smaller trout were taken in the nets down to 35 to 38 fathoms.
- one could pick up the odd big one at any time of the year but one could not continually pick up the big ones unless the nets were canned.

[perhaps this is why some people say that the shore and shoal trout are the same size (the gill net fishermen) and others say the shoal trout were bigger (the trollers) ie the gill net fishermen were just not taking them]

## -History

- McKays had a commercial fishing station. circa 1945
- the father (Jack) was commercial fishing at Gargantua, while the sons, Barrie & Ian, ran charter boats out of Montreal River.

- Banley's was around in the old schooner days and was gone by the 1930s, when he came.

first time heard of them - the Clarke Fisheries were gone before 1930 when he came. but he doesn't know anything about them

- he doesn't know the last time he saw them spawn at the Montreal River.

- smelts - the smelts would ferment the trout stomachs and they would spoil overnight

- on the spawning grounds would be

① round w/s (invertebrates) - they lived on the spawning grounds and would follow the trout around and eat their spawn

② crayfish (crabs) were on the spawning grounds.

- some places would get these red crabs.

- he does not know if the lake trout ate these crabs. Speckled trout would eat the crabs however.

## RECOMMENDS

① Bill Roussain - lives at the Dept of Highways Garage (not the B.P. station which his wife owns) beyond the Agawa Bay station. His is the trailer by itself.

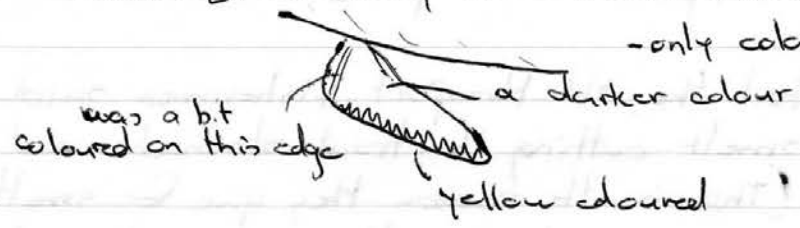
Conversation with Lionel Hubelitt, Michipicoten Mission,  
April 26, 1979.

- Grew up in Ressort. Bill Schelling is his uncle and Felix Legault & Ray Kenney are cousins

- most of what he knows of the northern area was what he heard from others. He did not take much notice of breeds of trout. He remembers fishing with Bill Schelling as a child. He commercially fished here for a

- couple of years.
- Other fishermen at Rossport would sometimes get a Brown trout (a lake trout). These brown trout are mostly in inland lakes - maybe they came down a river.
- mentioned the red trout. They had real red flesh. He does not know if the body was red and they are not necessarily a separate variety. Each area's fishermen had their own names.
- the Black trout spoken of in the Rossport area was a large trout and one could take a 30 or 40 lb one. They had a very red meat.
- Yellowfins
  - he didn't fish at the Caribou but says that fishermen get yellowfins there
  - yellowfins were taken on the south side of Michipicoten Island - They could be taken on hook & line in mid July at which time they still had coloured fins. It is not simply a factor of spawning time. They were up to 30 lbs. Ask Jim Macdonald
  - the odd one he knows was taken at Isaac Point, but perhaps they wandered over from the island, he doesn't know. [Not many were taken inshore - only place he could name]

Question



- only coloured on edges

- 6 or 7 years ago he helped plant lake trout of 6 to 7 inches off the Dog Banks as well as up the river (150,000 planted) These were from the Tarentonus Hatchery and were yellowfins. Even though they were so small the front and middle fins were coloured on their tips. Bob Hamilton was in charge of the planting at the time.

Question

- he guesses that 25 lb ones could be taken at Michipicoten Island (yellowfins) They have planted many trout at the islands. Some of the planted trout you get now are quite large

- Yellowfins are taken more in rocky areas
- Nets had to be floated to get the very big trout. The nets were at 18 feet to the surface. In the Rossport area (such as off Battle Is) they were set in this manner from August 1st into part of September. The fish were not necessarily coming into spawn which occurred later in September. The trout feed off the herring. Years ago the herring were about (7" <sup>to be</sup>) long (he indicated size with his hands), but now they get much bigger
- in the Rossport area canning of nets started in 1953 to 1955. The situation was getting quite grim then with the decline of the lake trout.
- there was a 1 mile closed range around the Slak Islands
- whitefish still run up the Michipicoten. Trout still come but they mainly stay at the mouth. (I can't remember what he said about menomences)
- he believes that the lamprey weirs did much damage to fish populations - all species that were in the river. The weirs caused much of the decline of the pickerel in Nipigon Bay. In the Jackpine river pickerel used to be there by the ten.
- he repeated what the old Rossport fishermen said about the backbones of smelt cutting the trout stomachs and causing them to spoil. [This is the reason they give for smelt causing the stomachs to go green ~~out~~ after they are caught in the nets.]

#### RECOMMENDS

- ① Forrest Oakes - in Wawa, he used to live in the Mission for years. He is quite old but didn't fish
  - ② Mrs Wahl - Churchill Ave, Wawa
    - used to commercial fish with her husband in a rowboat.
-

## Conversation with Freddie McCoy, Soc, April 23/79

- captain of tug Dobson (Pemis Fisheries) until 1942. Now works for Maclean's Sand & Gravel.
- Kinds of trout
  - Gray trout - It was shaped much like the redfins and had pink flesh. It was an average of 4 or 5 lbs
  - Redfins - they were an average of 7 or 8 lbs but were taken 8 lbs and up. They were a gray trout that did not have many spots and had a white belly. The body was long and heavy built (ie thick) and approximately three feet long. The flesh was red
    - redfins spawned from October 15 on. It depended abt on the moon though. When the moon got bright they would leave the grounds and if dark they would stay on later
    - they were never taken at any other time except the fall
- MACKINNON BANKS (bank off Cap Chaillon) - these were redfins - big trout.
- the trout were pretty well gray trout all over. Redfins were taken at certain locations. Only the odd one was taken on the North Shore ie from Michipicoten Harbour westward.

\*  
see also Bjornnes

ALSO

### + Caribou Island lake trout

- these were a brownish trout averaging three or 4 lbs. They had red flesh. They came on the grounds in September but were best in October. If there was a lot of S.E. wind they wouldn't last long, but if the wind was from the N.W. they would hang on for a long time (see below)
- The S.E. wind was never good for fishing.
- some, but not many, grays were taken here
- all the banks in the area had the same kind of trout and all were from 3-5 lbs. All were lean trout. The odd good sized one could be taken.
- Caribou Island was the best for fishing. Chummy and



- North Banks were also good. One never caught any on McMillan Bank.
- At Caribou Shoals the trout were as thick as could be. In 2 days in 1938 (?) the tug took out 5 tons. Not too many spawned on the Southwest corner.
- the odd silvery gray trout was taken which was different from the gray trout mentioned above. The flesh was very red.
- the place you got the really big trout was the Michipicoten area.
- redfins were taken on the Clays
- on the Clays and Shingles trout were taken by trolling in the summer but were never taken with nets
- halfbreeds are paperbellies. They were 2 or 3 lbs and a brownish colour. They were a fatty trout.
- the sixcouls. They had an oval shaped back and no spots. The belly was white. In the fall they were taken at from 50 to 60 fathoms and in the summer at 70 to 75 and even 100 fathoms. - in the fall they moved to shallower depths
- Fat trout were from 5 lbs to 35 lbs - they had quite a weight range.
- they were white fleshed.
- at Superior Shoal the trout were 3 lbs up to 15 to 20 lbs.
- Many Superior Shoal fish were like a steamed fish
- leans were taken down to 35 to 40 fathoms. The trout were mostly all the same kind of fish here. No paperbellies were taken.
- NOTE. - Fr M. has never noticed cannibalism among l. f.
- he never saw lampreys on fats on Superior shoals
- the fish on the shore and the shoals were about the same size
- rivers
- trout spawned in the Ghost, Eagle and Pukaskwa circa September 20th for approximately 3 weeks
- in the 1920's at the Montreal R they would scoop down the current. They started to come in Oct 1st and spawned for a couple of weeks. In the 1920's there was nothing at Montreal River.

- trout went in the rivers in the evening, starting to go in about sundown. After midnight few were caught and by morning there were none left
- the river run trout were 5 to 8 lbs and never up to 20 pounds.
- Spawning areas
  - at Maple Is. you could almost walk on the fish they were so thick. This was the best point for fishing in the fall. The Indians at the Goulais Mission would fish their point
  - few spawned at Persian Shoal
  - the Sandies had w.f but no trout
- they would troll in the summer but he was not aware of depth changes
- fish might feed one day and not the next. The fishing could be irregular but he does not know why. They could troll one day and get abt and go back the next day to the same place and get none
- some were big and some small, but around Michipicoten Is they were mostly all big
  - on the Clays and Shingles they would get trout trolling in the summer but never take them with nets
- in the fall the tug would fish a  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh and use a  $5$ " mesh at Caribou Is. In the summer  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh was used.
  - 60 nets were in a gang and a gang was ten miles long. Punus fished three tugs and was licensed for 164,000 yds of net.
- Eggs
  - fat trout eggs were an off white colour, a bit reddish white.
  - leans - some eggs were red, some were orange
    - the redfins had mostly red eggs and the flesh colour didn't vary much
    - the gray trout had mixed egg colours and the flesh colour varied. Some were pale white and others were red
    - the Caribou Is. trout had eggs of a brownish colour and the flesh was pinkish

- the trout is a terrible scavenger. They kept the lamprey down as long as there were lots of them. There were so many at one time that he would fish hook and line with a bear hook and take lots of them. You would use a hook that wobbled so that it would [shimmer] in the water
- he never saw paperbellies or Pats taken on the troll
- Suckers were the worst for feeding on trout eggs. As soon as the lake trout went out of the rivers the red suckers (not ordinary ones) would go into the rivers
- Menomencees would also go up the rivers. There were alot at Quebec Hbr
- re the lunar cycle - when the moon gets dark is the best time for taking trout inshore. Whitefish also behave this way. This inshore run only happens once a year - for W.F. in July and lake trout in September
- History.
  - Logging - in the 1930's and 1940's the "Abitibi" towed pulp wood from the Pic River. The bark did not affect the fish but played havoc with the nets. It even seemed that they got better lifts in the bark.
  - Talarico - had a station at the Otterhead. He started in the 1940's and lasted only five years.
    - he had one tug - Kenny Mills worked for him.
  - Ralph Gauthier was at Mamouise in the 1930's. Gauthier actually fished for Nori but the name Gauthier was used as the name for this fishery
    - years ago Jack Roussain fished out of Roussain
  - F.M. fished for Booth two years before he quit and sold out to Purvis. When they gave up Quebec Hbr they weren't catching any fish. The fishery was idle for two + one half years. (they couldn't make the fishery pay) Then Purvis came in (1934) and caught tons (F.M. suggests that this 2 1/2 years was enough time for the fish to recover)
    - The Manitow and Superior picked up the Booth Co fish
    - Booth had two tugs - one was the Dobson
  - F.M. worked on L. Nipigon in 1929 as an engineer on a tug of Frank McCloud's (cont)

## Pukaskwa Office

Ross Diehl & K.T. McCuaig  
- store first opened in 1885

Ross Diehl with Ivan Purvis

- James Purvis + Son bought out Booth Fisheries at Quebec Hbr  
in 1933

- Talarico's operation at Otter Head - two small tugs (40-50')  
- 4-5 men

William, C.T.G. The Northland Ontario Ryerson: Toronto 1944

- gen desc. pulp + paper chpt pp. 73-86

- Abitibi bought Lake Superior Co

→ Interview with Joseph David Session #2 - 1978

- Lapointes - operated out of Otter b., they operate at Gorgantua,  
they operate at Batchewana, they were among the biggest at one  
time. There were five brothers. There's a Pointe they call Lapointe  
not far from... Batchewana Bay. They were from the Soo!

- Joseph David with family moved to Pukaskwa in 1922 (70 years old)

- Talarico - he's not one of the big ones. He's just lately eh.

Pukaskwa finished 1930's 1932-33 After Pukaskwa shut down... But during the Pukaskwa time  
the Lapointes are well-known

Q. They were the ones eh?

A. Yeah. They got a fish, I think it's up at ACR station, the  
biggest sturgeon ever caught in Lake Superior. It's... it's  
all stuffed

A... we were towing pulpwood and we were up in Michipicoten  
Hbr. and they used to have... they were all over, see they  
were a big outfit at that time. And there was an outfit  
from Manitowlin Island that took over after the Lapointes (Purvis)

Log of the Pijitic, 1951.

- boat run by Marathon Corporation (American Can) to reward salesman - they were allowed to bring a customer if they wanted to
- June 27 - catching large Lake Trout off mouth of the Putasawa
- Sept 2, 1951 - at the Putasawa
  - By evening they still hadn't a fish and we needed one for dinner so I took a fly rod and a few large Lake Trout flies and went up the First Falls. Thought the Blacks should be in about this time and I was right. Fished not more than five minutes when I hooked a four pound Trout. Took him back and had him for dinner. I had been telling the boys about these Blacks which came into the Putasawa to spawn in the Fall and here was the first one. By the time we came back down the river, the pools should be full of them. Had a council of war this evening and decided to go down to the Pipe River for a day. This is one of the streams mentioned by Gib's grandfather in the log book of the Cambria. Fifty years ago they used to get some mighty fine catches here.

big fish  
in river

Sept 12 9:00 PM See record

MG 24 F28 vol 1 Bayfield Correspondence with  
the Admiralty 1816-1839  
on Sep. 19th April 1823 - 30th Nov. 1825

✓ ✓ Franchère, Gabriel (1954) A Voyage to the Northwest Coast 1811-14  
of America MM Quarfe (ed) Lakeside Press, Chicago  
p 272-5 Ft Wn to Mich.

Hind, Henry York (1971) Narrative of the Canadian Exploring  
Expeditions Hurtig: Edmonton 2 vol in 1

Canada Public Archives MG 19 A8 David Thompson Papers  
checked vol 9, 19, 20, 21 + 42 (index)

Vol 21

Sept 8, 1822

-arrived at the Peak Bay

→ "Mr Alan McTearsh ... His men all absent to salt Fish, in  
the Bay of Island near the Otter Head

nothing Brooke, Rupert (1916) Letters From America London: Sidgwick  
& Jackson Ltd p. 99-102.

Pijitic bog, 1950. (Gilbert Stevens) (John Stevens File)

Sept 4, 1950 - Pukase

This is the most beautiful stream on the shore. The entrance and  
pool at the base of the rapids are perfect for the "Pijitic". Ship  
secure and we went fishing. The lower series of rapids was  
investigated in the morning with poor results. Only a few small  
trout and one or two of any size.

We were hoping the black trout would be in but they were not.  
Last year (1949) Mac took any number on flies in the same rapids  
weighing 6 to 10 lbs and stated they were the greatest battling fish  
ever.

Sept 9, 1950 Ed and Gib fished the beach and old dock foundations  
and caught some lake trout (Cristi womer namaucush) and some  
coasters (Richardson Hbr)

Sept 12, 1950 We fished the Gravel until 3.30 P.M. The water was  
low and the fishing not good. Mac caught three large brookies,  
two in the pool at the mouth, Ed and Gib didn't do anything.  
One went three pounds. We then trooked the beach for lake trout  
near nets that had been placed on the beach started by the  
trappers and technicians. We picked up one 8-pound lakeer. The brook  
trout had some lake trout eggs in them showing they had been  
working the beach where the lake trout were spawning.

SEPTEMBER 12 10.00 SW 20 Barometer 29.40 Overcast

Heavy sea still running out on the lake. Could hear the seas crashing on the bar across the river mouth all night. Gib and I went down to have a look and see if there was any possibility of getting out of the river, as we were getting low on ice. There were breakers twelve feet high crashing into the mouth of the river. Will just have to put in the day fishing for Blacks. We all went up to the pools about 11.00 hours. Fritz didn't catch anything all day although he had several on. He really didn't want to catch anything as he knew he couldn't handle a big one in the fast water for when they start down stream you have to follow over the boulders after your fish and if he gets into the rapids and you have no reserve line left on your reel, its good bye fish. Ed caught three good fish during the day, the largest weighing thirteen pounds. Gib was having poor luck. Hooked several during the day but lost them all. Late in the afternoon he hooked in a dandy which gave him a wonderful work out. He hooked it in the small pool below the first falls. He held it in that pool for about a half hour, the fish making some spectacular runs up into the white water. Gib tried to held it in this pool. We had no idea how large it was as it was staying on the bottom. Eventually it made a rush for the down stream rapids and Gib was unable to stop it. Then there was a mad scramble over the boulders some of which were as large as a small house to try and stop him in the lower pool. He held him there for a long time but eventually he worked down into the top of the rapids. We could get an occasional glimpse of the fish now and it was a beauty but it had its heart set on getting back out to Lake Superior. After over an hour of fighting that fish had Gib down into the pool where we had the Pijitie anchored. Gib's intention was to play the fish out in this pool but just about this time we heard a shout from Ed and here he is coming down river over the boulders, towed by a big fish. Gib had to get out of the way in

a hurry. There was no room there for two mad fish so we got the skiff worked up through the current and Gib got in. That fish practically towed him out the mouth of the river before he landed it. Gib then came back and got Ed in the skiff as he was having a terrible time trying to manage his fish, which from the fight it was putting up was a big one. As closely as we could estimate them, each of these fish took over two hours to land. Ed's was the larger, weighing a little over eighteen pounds. Wind still very high, about 30 mph. Will have to get out tomorrow as we are all out of ice.

SEPTEMBER 13      09.00 W20    Barometer 29.42    Temp 45 Overcast

Lifted anchor and moved out to the mouth of the river. Very heavy sea running. Still too deep a trough to risk making the run over the shallows off the river mouth. We all tried our luck casting at the mouth, no luck at all. Later Gib went up to second falls and worked down river, trying for Speckled Trout. Still no luck. In the late afternoon Gib and Ed went to the first pools for Blacks. Came back aboard at dusk with three large fish, the largest a little over eighteen pounds. Was a nicer looking fish than the large one caught by Ed. yesterday. They had lost several good fish and would have lost this large one if Gib hadn't jumped into the river up to his arm pits and getting the fish across his arms like a stick of wood, threw it up on the shore. Ed. had fought it for almost two hours. Was using a fifteen pound leader so was really working it. Had it just about played out when his leader broke. The fish didn't realize it was free and just lay there until Gib unwilling to see it lost after such a battle, jumped in and threw it ashore. West wind about 30 mph. at dusk sea still running high.



SEPTEMBER 14 08.30 SW35 Barometer 29.40 Temp 42 High Overcast  
Gib and I went out in the punt to see if the trough of the seas was as deep as it looked from the Pijitic. In the mouth opposite the rock arch at the mouth, the trough was so deep that I was frightened the outboard motor shaft would strike bottom so we beat it back inside. About 11.00 hours we had a shift of wind which set up a cross sea so we got the anchor up in a hurry and with all boilers blowing we beat it out of the Puckaskawa River. Brother! Was it rough when we got outside. We just worked up one side of those rollers and slid down the other side. A half hour out and Gib was tossing his breakfast over the side but with a thirty five mile wind behind us we made good time to Old Daves Harbour where we washed all the fish in salt brine, then iced them down in layers of fish and ice. Had the big ice chest completely filled. Gib was feeling better but thought he would just as well stay where we were until the sea calms down. By dusk it was raining with a high wind. The seas were pounding out of the harbour and the big fog horn on Otter Island was blaring all night but we slept through it all, securely tied up to the dock.

SEPTEMBER 15 08.00 W10 Barometer 29.70 Temp. 38 Overcast low.  
It hardly seems possible that we are on the same lake this morning. Hardly a ripple on the lake. A slow dead swell running but that is all. Low overcast. Barometer going up fast. Looks as if we will have a good day for the run home. Cast off at 09.45 and had an uneventful run up shore, arriving at Marathon at 14.45. Boys got away on this evening's train with several boxes of fish.

SEPTEMBER 16 Lovely day.

Had phone call from George Brabender, informing me that he and his wife would be in Marathon on the 18th., for a few days fishing. This was a trip I had no previous knowledge of so was taken somewhat by surprise so had to get to work cleaning up the ship. Couldn't have a dirty ship with a woman coming aboard.

SEPTEMBER 17      Lovely day.

Filled all tanks with gas. Checked oil etc. put aboard groceries because of the uncertainty of the weather, had to put on a fair stock.

SEPTEMBER 18      SW 25      Barometer 29.42      Temp. 45

Mr. & Mrs. Brabender arrived on the noon train. Got them settled in the hotel and after lunch drove them around town, out to the new golf course etc. Had a very enjoyable afternoon. Grace came down to the hotel and had dinner with us. Mrs. Brabender seems a very charming lady. Is quite excited about their coming trip.

SEPTEMBER 19      10.15 hours. SO1 Barometer 29.172      Temp. 43 C.A.V.U

Lovely calm day and quite warm for this time of year. Got our perishables aboard and were under way by 10.25 hours. Very nice run down the shore. Made a couple of stops, one for lunch at Simmons Harbour and again at the Cascade Falls. It was such a fine day that you hated to pass up any of these beautiful spots, so we poked the Pijitic into every little bay and harbour. Took all the inside passages etc. Arrived at the Puckaskawa at 17.25. Decided that we would go fishing and have dinner after dusk. We got two rods set up and scrambled up over the rocks to the first pools. George never did any of this type of fishing but learned quickly. He landed one nice sized one but lost three. I landed three and also lost several. Back aboard we filleted one of the smaller fish and had it

fried in deep fat, with luckaskawa sauce to garnish it. Lovely dinner.

SEPTEMBER 20 Rain and fog.

George and I got up early leaving Mrs. Brabender to catch up on her sleep. Had breakfast and went up river fishing. Had a short break at noon when we got back to the boat for a lunch and to pick up Mrs. Brabender, then back to our fishing. We landed five large fish and lost so many that we lost count of them. I suppose we fished all told ten hours out of the day and I would truthfully say that we each of us had fish on our lines eight hours of the ten. Boy, were we tired out. George sure got a kick out of those Blacks. Mrs. Brabender sat on the boulders all wrapped up in my winter parka and was so excited at times when either George or I had a fish on that I thought she would fall off and into the River.

SEPTEMBER 21 10.00 hours. W.15 Barometer 29.53 Temp.42 Low Overcast

After breakfast this morning, we fished for Blacks and landed five large ones. Back on board by noon time. Had lunch and tidied up aboard. The wind started to freshen up so decided to get out of the river. Were under way at 14.30 with a 25 mph wind blowing from the west. This made cruising most unpleasant as everything was side on. The Pijitic was rolling so badly that everything loose on the boat was eventually on the floor so had to quarter the seas and when an extra large one came along would have to head right into it. Ran up shore by working out in a NW direction then, when we were off Richardsons Harbour, turned around and ran down wind and into shelter behind Carin Island where we tied up for the remainder of the afternoon and night. By this time it was blowing between 35 to 40 mph. and as we wanted to go ashore to pick blueberries, didn't want to leave the boat at anchor so tied up to the

In the Park area:

A Fishing Stations from pre 1900

① Simon's Hbr Coleman (1899) described it as deserted  
- called <sup>white</sup> Spruce Hbr at the time

② Richardson's Hbr. Coleman (1899) described it as deserted  
and called it Killarney or Kilkenny Hbr. Richardson  
broke over from Kilkenny sometime before 1970 when it is  
mentioned in the Cambria Log

③ Ganley Hbr

④ there was a fishing stn at Morrison's Hbr, but the date of  
it is not known. Two Morrisons were at Port Coldwell  
(one was from Port Arthur)

also.

⑤ Red Sucker Cove - mentioned in the log of the Cambria as  
being where Big Dave Cotasin (<sup>Jimmy Speers</sup> Kawatayasson) had his  
house. It was not a fishing stn. (near the Pipe R)

⑥ Billy Newman was at Newman's Cove at Pilot Hbr past  
the Pukatua R. It was a home not a stn

⑦ Old Dave's Hbr near the lighthouse at Otter Is. The  
fishing dates back quite a few years but there is no  
reference to it. Doug Vokes fishes there now.

- there is evidence of the presence of the Georgian Bay Fish  
Co. up here. Norm Rutkin remembers a photo with the name  
of the company on a box (fish box?). There is also a reference  
to Answorth in the Cambria log

- the extent of the Nicoll fishing

- there is a Nicoll's Cove south of Aisican Bay & a Girl's Hbr  
north of Aisican Bay so the company must have fished in  
the area

- Will Dampier fished out of Port Coldwell (See Speers) There is  
a Dampier's Cove along the shore

- The Hudson's Bay Co

- the White R used to be called the Pijitic meaning "white  
muddy"

- doesn't know about Pic Post being moved as mentioned in the

## Logan Diary

- Stations - Ance à la Baucille - Bottle P1  
 Louison's Bay - probably Oiseau Bay  
 Only one Pays Plot that they know of  
 - a bay ten miles from the post Morrison's Hbr is ten miles from the post but B.W. doesn't know if it had good w.f. Fishermen report good w.f. at Pulpwood Hbr (probably also Playter Hbr)  $\approx$  3 miles from the post  
 - bay this side of White R + Playter Hbr?
- free spawning at the Willow + Swallow mentioned by C. Cross
  - The Willow R is comparable to the Sand. Fish could go up to the first rapids,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. w.f. + rainbow trout have been seen going up it but not lake trout that they know of. It is a very muddy river like the Pic.
  - The Swallow R is just a stream. whitefish and rainbows + speckles go up it to the first falls,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.
  - N.R. thinks that the Booth Co. took over Dominion Fish Co in <sup>year not known</sup> 1907
  - From the Yacht Cambria Log (see notes)
    - the sta at Simon's Hbr was probably a Booth Co sta p. 17
    - by 1907 it was abandoned and decrepid
    - The Garretts were at Red Sucker Cave in 1906 - p 103
    - Geo Bay Fish Co. (mention of Ainsworth 1903) p 153
    - p 154 - mention of Billie Newman's + Big Dave's Cabins
      - mentions Jim Ganley on the City of Windsor
      - spoke of Manitou, spoke of the Booth tug "Eastern"
  - Cheek Hunter, Traeder Tropper <sup>The Outdoorsman</sup> Magazine - mentioned in back of Speirs P "A Trip on the Great Lakes"
  - If there were receipt books found and kept by J.A. Mountain they would be in the Records of Neys Park Office at Terrace Bay or in the MUR Office at Thunder Bay
  - RECOMMENDS
    - Hugh Bailey - Marathor - amateur archaeologist + historian - 229-1915
    - Kathleen Allan (Nicoll's daughter) died in the winter of 1978 - 79

## Freddie McCoy (cont)

- There were not many trout here at this time. (He was told that) 300 lbs in a season was a good haul. He didn't know that at one time there were abt of trout on that they ran up the rivers. There were abt of sturgeon and whitefish however
- Purvis marketed his fish fresh and shipped them to Soo, Mich. After the Caribou and the Manitow stopped they did their own freighting (they stopped in the 1930's)
- The best kinds of <sup>fish</sup> trout to fish was leans + w.f in the summer and halfbreeds in deep water
- No 1 trout - 3-4 lbs up to 6 lbs
- Medium + Headless - 8 lbs + up
- Other fishing areas <sup>not on</sup> ~~the~~ map
  - Shoal (on EF-1 map in 1872 + 1972)
    - could take FATS here all summer
    - he saw the spawn running in November
  - a small shoal at 36 fathoms - on the boundary of 1167 + 1168
    - it was good for paperbellies. There were not too many Pats.
  - Superior Shoals
    - most of the fish were taken along the north edge of the northernmost (largest) bank. They fished it in summer and never in the fall.

### RECOMMENDS

- ① Mac MacQuarrie - he looked after the business up the lake
- ② Ronny Gordon - now at Gore Bay
  - he took over after MacQuarrie
- ③ He does not know why Jim Smith would throw an exceptional amount about the business.
- ④ Joe Thibault - Duct ls.

Conversation with Arnold Almos, Terrace Bay, April 26/79

- his father started at Jackfish in 1880, ten years after the railway went through. His father was not the first. He was one of four fishermen at Jackfish in these early years. By 1880 the railway had gone through and the village had a water tank and a station [P.A. has a picture of fish racks in the 1880's and of Jackfish]
- Prior to 1910 his father had a tug. Peter Dahl, Sr also had a tug which was lost in 1916. First Almos and next Dahl ~~was~~ changed to 20 foot gasoline boats
- Arnold Almos and his father fished the Slak Islands. Peter Dahl, Sr. fished it in later years
- the Rossport fishermen fished east and west of Jackfish. At one time (until 1936) the licenses of the Jackfish fishermen read (~~until 1936~~) that they could fish in the vicinity of Jackfish village
- his father dealt with J.A. Nicol and <sup>they</sup> sold fish to them until circa 1940 (The Nipigon Bay Fish Co.)
- he remembers his father and Adolph and Joseph King rowing out to the Slak Is after they built the light. Peter King had the light (father of Joseph and Adolph) and Adolph King fished a bit near Jackfish
- Peter Dahl and Arnold Almos took over their fathers' licenses and so there were 3 fishermen in Jackfish. (incl A. King) More did not come to Jackfish because there were no more lots for them. Between these fishermen they were licensed for 25,000 ft of 4 1/2" mesh net. 1940-1948 was the peak fishing period during P.A.'s time (after smelt ~~didn't~~ had been seen)
- his lot was no. 41 <sup>from just E of Cape Victoria to W of Battle Pt.</sup> 42. The next lot was A. King's. Peter Dahl had no. 80 (he took over his fathers) and one at the Slakes. In later year Dals bought lot 81
- A.A. quite fishing in 1952. The last big list was in 1949 at Santoy. Peter Dahl got his last big list at the same time at the Slakes. All the areas went down at the same

time, and it happened within one year. The same thing occurred at Desbarats, east of the Soo. The year was 1950 when fishermen took 6 lake trout all year. The year before they took four tons.

- the Jackfish Derby was held on Labour Day. If you got anything less than 25 lbs you might as well stay home. (Check the Port Arthur News Chronicle for ults each year) 1951 or 1952 was the last year for it. P.D. was involved in the organization of it.

see also  
G. McKeay

- Fishing was poor in the 1930's. In the late 1930's the smelt first came because he ~~rember~~ remembers catching them with his father and never having heard of them before. After the smelt came the trout population increased, without any change in fishing methods

- rotting stomachs. Thinks this has something to do with planted trout. The smelt were here around 1945 but he did not know of them rotting the stomachs of native trout - only the planted trout. Peter Dahl first noticed this in 1960

- Rossport at one time when the fishing was good had 30 boats fishing. Fishing lasted from 1880 to 1954. There were four big tugs here - Anderson, Fred Gerow, Frank Gerow and William Paulmart.

- Fishing areas and times

At Jackfish 1954 was the end of the fishing. Peter Dahl pulled out and left

- Spring

- in early spring (in April) he would fish 3 nets outside of the islands

- the fish taken were up to 2½ lbs at 9 to 15 fathoms.

- some of the trout caught were bankers, a kind of fat. The flesh was white and they were a deeper fish and thicker in the middle. Some had spots on them and some didn't.

- lears were taken. Some had white flesh and some had ~~white~~ <sup>red</sup>: The flesh colours were pretty well mixed up.

- in the spring the big ones weren't around. It wasn't simply a matter of fishing the wrong nets at the wrong



depths because the fishermen experimented with different nets at different depths [very opportunistic]. No one knew where the big trout went in the spring.

- Siscowets were the third species caught. The odd one was up to 15 pounds. They had a very small head and the body was short and deep. Some had spots and some didn't. The scales were the same size as other trout but they were of a lighter colour. The fins and tails were the same. Siscowets were taken in deep water but there were not necessarily better places than others for them.

- in spring and summer they were fished deep from April to August. He never noticed any spawning.

[in spring they must have set nets up and down the banks]

- in summer

- He did a bit of trolling too. Certain areas were better than others.

- off the Steele R one could take 75-80 lbs in an afternoon. 2 1/2 lbs would be a big one.

- these were a different species. They were longer & thinner than the trout taken on the banks in the spring. Most had pink flesh and they were mostly dark (darker than the siscowets). The markings were different.

- trolling was at 12 to 15 feet close to shore. He thinks that these trout were feeding on the surface probably on flies. 99% of lake trout feed on bloater and tullibees.

- in August trout would move from deep water into shallow. The exact dates varied according to water temperature. There were specific areas that they came in.

- trout came onto grounds in the latter part of ~~Sept~~ Aug and first part of September. Another species came in.

- this species was very dark averaging 6 lbs (5 to 7 lbs) with nothing being over 8 lbs.

- it was a narrow trout and very dark being almost

black to the belly. There were not too many spots. The belly was darker than other lake trout. The scales seemed to be very small. The meat was ~~was~~ mostly white. These fish seemed to harden up really quickly when they died ~~as~~ hard as a rock.

- these fish were coming in to spawn. In very late August they came on the banks and started to spawn when the leaves began to fall. Sometimes they started to spawn Sept 15 and sometimes later. They were fished at the peak.
- next came the yellow fins. They would come on the same grounds.
  - Yellowfins had big heads, big teeth, some had small bodies. They were really ugly.
  - the ~~average~~ weight was up to 25 lbs and as low as 12 lbs. The fins (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them) were an orangy-reddish colour - i.e. more red than yellow just the lower fins were coloured.
  - both males and females had coloured fins. Some had red meat and some had white. Very seldom were they caught other than at spawning time. Occasionally the odd one was taken in July.
- Blacks and Yellowfins spawned everywhere on rocky bottoms. They would spawn on the <sup>on both sides & shore</sup> same grounds. Blacks came first but the spawning times would overlap. The Y.F. spawn would start running at the same time the blacks were spawning.
- after the yellowfins came the salmon-trout. After the leaves had fallen they would approach the grounds. Spawning would begin in October and run into November. The blacks and yellowfins would take up part September and part of October.
  - the salmon-trout were stream-lined and had a small head like a west-coast salmon. The tail was not too big. All had red flesh. They didn't have coloured fins and had a silvery body not as dark as the blacks and

- almost all the blue areas shown on the charts were spawning grounds of Yellowfins & Blacks

45

### Yellowfins

- Salmon trout were taken in a little deeper water at 5 or 6 fathoms (about 30 feet) This was still shallow water. They would be taken in sheltered bays and would not spawn on the exposed shores.
  - 6" mesh was the biggest net fished in the Fall
  - after November he did not know of any spawning in December. The big gray trout of Rossport were the salmon trout. However the people of Jackfish fished in open boats while those of Rossport fished in steam tugs and could therefore fish later in the season. Thus it was possible that big grays could have spawned around Jackfish and he didn't know about it. [The Jackfish there is more exposed than the Rossport area] There were only certain sheltered areas that the fishermen could fish late in the season.
  - The Stake Islands was a great place to fish. There was not much shelter for fishermen except in the Bay and at the Stakes. (The Stake Is trout could have been smaller than others he does not know)
  - The trout did not necessarily prefer sheltered areas, however, they would spawn anywhere.
  - around Cape Victoria was good spawning (except on the rocky south side)
  - fishermen only caught a small percentage of the spawning trout in this area. There were so many of them. It can not believe it was the fishermen that caused the loss of the lake trout.
- Summer (cont)
- there were 2 weeks in July when you could anchor a boat at the Steele R and fish and in two hours you could pick up 200 lbs of fish by trolling. This happened at all the rivers. The trout were 5-10 lbs.
  - in summer you could take paperbellies at Superior Shoal. Adolph King fished for them
- River Runs

- his father told him that when he first came to Canada he would scoop them out of the Steele River. They would run up it 3 or 4 miles, entering the river in September. The blacks ran up the rivers and he believes that the yellowbills did as well - the odd one was taken [by P.D. personally?] The bottom was of sand and clay and a lot of rocks.

- the trout would go up any river. They couldn't get up the Aquasoban because of the falls (he didn't say that he had actually seen them at the Aquasoban)

- could they go up the Prairie River?

- it is a very still river and probably not a good spawning river. It is small and has clay and mud.

- the trout changed colour in the river becoming darker.

One could catch the odd whitefish as well that was a dirty colour when spawning up the river. It changed colour and was quite unique looking.

- Fish for sale

- in April to July the fish sold averaged 3 to 3½ lbs

- in later September a small fish was 5 or 6 lbs and a big one 25 lbs.

- one seldom got bigger than trout down deep.

spawn all spawn was the same pinkish red colour

- suckers and ~~lake~~ menomencies feed on lake trout spawn. They ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> come up in boards and would follow the lake trout onto the shores and shoals. One would catch them in the 4½ inch mesh nets, but never in the 5" or 6"

- Equipment

- cords were set 7½ - 9 feet apart on the nets.

- in the warm season one had to lift the nets every 2 or 3 nights to keep the fish in them from going bad (August + September 10')

- the Jackfish fishermen sold all kinds of fish in one box putting fats, lears, and paperbellies together. They were

shipped by C.P.R. express direct to Montreal and Toronto and sorted out at market.

### -Lumbering

- There was a lot of towing of pulpwood from Aguasoban to Jackfish Bay. This towing was stopped when they built the mill in Terrace Bay. They still drive wood down the Aguasoban
- There were all kinds of currents in the area. He remembers that the rafts coming around the point would be turned around and have to sit there for some time when the currents were not right. The currents were coming from two directions into Jackfish Bay.
- In the mid-thirties they were cutting wood at Paterson Island (Slake Is) and loading it on a McGarvey Hbr. They were loading it into boats he thinks.
- Hammermill drove pulp out of the Jackfish River and stored it in Jackfish Bay in the 1930's and 1940's
- Pulp was driven down the Pic River and rafted out the Slake Islands where it was boomed and loaded into boats in the 1930's and 1940's. This was discontinued when the mill was built in Terrace Bay in 1949.
- He does not think this had much effect on the fish but it had some. There was a lot of bark and probably some spawning grounds were destroyed.
- Abitibi drove down the Prairie River one year
- Charlie Cox drove down the Slake R for a while. He was the mayor of Port Arthur for many years but also owned the Charlie Cox Lumber Co.
- Pigeon Timber drove down the Little Pic River in the 1940's
- 12000 cord rafts would be made up and rafted across to Superior to wherever there was a mill. The logs had to be processed in Canada, however
  - Marathon was the first mill on the north shore and then the one at Terrace Bay was built
- at one time on the Slake Islands there was a peeling season. The logs would be peeled with a "spud", a kind of

- spoon for peeling the bark. The peel was just left on the ground.
- pollution - when the Terrace Bay Mill came in you would never catch a fish around it. He didn't think the pollution killed them however
  - after the lamprey came one would pick up big dead trout with scars on them in the nets - esp after a storm. They would collect in a deep wharf of the Bay
  - pound nets - there was not enough shelter in Jackfish Bay for pound nets. His father had one near the Steel River. Rossport had alot of pound nets. There was no place at the Slates for pound nets - the bottom was rocky and one needed a sand bottom in which to drive the stakes
  - trout didn't come alot into Jackfish Bay except at certain specific locations
  - he never floated nets. His father regarded them as a navigational hazard.

### Ben Almos's Shipment Boat 1904 - 1907?

- trout were shipped in 100 lb boxes
- his father fished from Moberly Bay to the Steel R in a rowboat. He fished 8000 yds of net
- he caught trout and would ~~catch~~ <sup>do</sup> some herring fishing, starting the end of November and going through December and January.
- he sold locally to in 1904<sup>5</sup> getting 6¢/lb for the trout. (The best A.A. ever got was 9¢/lb)
- he sold to the Boarding House Commissary which fed the <sup>boat</sup> ~~crew~~ crew

Harris's Abbattoir - which ran a catering firm  
Crowley and McCracken - they fed the  
railway gangs (a restaurant)

- alot of fish was sold to the steamboats. A lot of them ran into Jackfish and the fish were sold to the crews. Each had crews of 25 men

-in 1905 and 1907 there is also noted the amount shipped to Leonard Bros in Montreal. The amount shipped in 1907 was

		lbs	Boxes	
June	10	100	1	
	19	100	1	
	20	<u>200</u>	<u>2</u>	
		400	4	Received \$20
July	2	200	2	
	6	250	2	
	16	100	1	
	17	100	1	
	20	400	4	
	24	100	1	
	27	<u>100</u>	<u>1</u>	Paid 65.50
	1250	12		
Aug.	3	100	1	
	10	200	2	
	14	100	1	
	21	400	4	
	27	100	1	
	31	<u>200</u>	<u>2</u>	
	1100	11		
Sept.	2	100	1	
	4	200	2	
	7	300	3	
	10	100	1	
	12	200	2	
	17	100	1	
	16	600	6	
	18	400	4	
	28	<u>280</u>	<u>3</u>	
	2370	23		
Oct.	1	100	1	
	6	400	4	

9	200	2
5	200	2
17	100	1
30	100	1

- Arnold Almos said that one man in a rowboat in a year could pick up 6 or 7 tons generally

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Conversation with Bob Hamilton April 30/79, Thunder Bay  
MNR.

- River Runs

- trout didn't run up the Mackenzie R last year but they did in 1977. In 1977 in Minnesota they also ran up rivers there as well. It is not known why they didn't in 1978.

- contact Dick Hassinger Minn DNR (218-525-4080)  
(Fish Manager for the Lake Superior Region) (or Bob Michlus)

- trout were caught by angling in the University R. in 1973 or 1974, on Oct 15th (by Betty Kennedy's husband who is dead now) - planted trout

- planted trout were running in the Ogawa R. around 1970. They went up past the bridge. He thinks that they were taken by Tony Kwanin (see MNR in charge of research who went up there to take salmon)

- didn't know who mentioned to him that they used to run in the Nipigon + Steel

- the fishermen at Uawa he remembers referred to the river runners at the University as redfins. They were a lean trout and darker than others. Many were 8 or 9 lbs. Therefore he thought that the trout that went up this river had redfins

- he confirms that <sup>(he heard that)</sup> the northern rivers tended to have on the average smaller trout and that really big ones went into the Montreal?



- W.F. at the Michipicoten were from his experience a minor run and they didn't go up it much. He remembers his father saying that years ago a lot of trout would go up the Michipicoten

- The University <sup>(Lake Superior)</sup> and the Montreal were the two major rivers and more went up here than any other

- in the fall herring would come <sup>to the mouth of</sup> the Michipicoten <sup>He never saw them run up the Mich.</sup>  
 They went in in June this would have been a feeding run feeding on the large zooplankton (They never did this while he was at Michipicoten which was from 1967-75) You could go down the coast in June and see the trout and herring

right up on the surface feeding. He saw menomence up the Michipicoten when he was taking <sup>his father in law lived at Wawa for years and went out with the fishermen</sup> <sup>trout in the spring</sup>

- SEE - in Wawa Mr. Beardosco (sp) - he is an old guy who would have been involved in taking fish in the Michipicoten

SEE - Johnny Morrison - he is a young guy but he has a cabin (was his father's) right at the mouth of the Michipicoten

- he doubts if the diaries (1460) were referring to menomences

- Batteau Rock Fish - these are still a native population. The only people fishing there now would be Ron Gerow (Mel's son) They were a banker fish but years ago were quite lean and had a large head. The shape was distinctive. They are getting fat now

- B.H. has never heard of popeyes and ~~did~~ was not aware of the Batteau rock trout having any larger eyes than other lake trout.

- Superior Shoals

- he has never really seen any other fish here except for lake trout

- each shoal was a bit different he confirms. All the fish at Superior Shoal were plump. By Superior Shoal he is referring to the same one F. Legault is although fishermen would tend to call the one closest to them

when was last time

- Superior Shoal ~~fish~~ trout, when they first came out of the water, had a yellowish tinge to the skin. (re Red trout) He has never heard of a lake trout having a reddish tinge to the skin.

Superior Shoal. (he knows of no tagging. There has been little tagging anywhere in the lake.)

- The trout were paper bellies which are a better fish.
- The shoal he remembers getting the biggest lifts and best trout was on the shoal nearest the shore on which you could see bottom. (ie nearest Wawa)
- he doesn't remember the rarer trout out there. [Perhaps they were no longer there when he went out] - Mel Gerow has noted that Barkham Rock fish have gotten better, and that there were smelt out there. ~~There~~ There were some smelt at Superior Shoal probably but they were not breeding there - He doesn't think the shoal was ever fished that intensively. Most of the fishermen were afraid of it and would not go out. It would have been different if it had been closer to shore.

#### - Fishing up process?

- it has been suspected by some biologists that there was some form of fishing up process prior to the limprey. The Minnesota DNR also suggests it in some of their reports (ie it was probably all over the lake.

- he doesn't know about a decline in the thirties but confirms that the late forties was a good fishing time. One might take 1500 lbs in a lift.

- The Pukaskwa area was never fished very heavily. Although the Caldwell people may have gone as far as Michipicoten but generally fished only to Ojibeau Bay + the Gravel R.

- Otter Cove was closed to fishing in 1975. O.W. had the Sheeshab Bay area license.

#### - Fish + Bankers?

- He doubts if there were siscowets close inshore at the Pie River as stated in the H.B.C. journals. He never heard of them catching them off the beach, and they were maybe bankers.

- The shoal fish were called halves in the Wawa area and tend to be called bankers around Thunder Bay. Bankers were fished more by the Terrace Bay people than around

here in Thunder Bay.

- Spawning times

- the fishermen would start fishing up at Nipigon straits first. There is definitely a cycle of runs south. Thunder Bay and the Cape were the last spawning. He doesn't know if there was a difference in spawning times between Thunder Cape (Hare Is) and Caribou Island.

- last year when spawn taking the best spawning ground he found (planted) was at Hare Island on the long shoal running to the north. The trout were spawning here in November. In comparison at Caribou Island he caught them spawning October 5 and 6th.

- it should be noted that fishermen will set their nets on the so-called staging areas in somewhat deeper water. He knows of no fishermen fishing right up on the spawning beds with corks out (for this is how shallow the trout spawn) for fear of losing their boats or nets. This goes for rowboat and tug fishermen. They will set up to a quarter mile away and rarely right on the beds.

- Movements at other seasons?

- in the spring (May + June) - last year Kemp fished off Hare Island <sup>to the north of (Thunder Cape)</sup> in 20 fathoms and they were getting pretty big fish - between May 5-16.

- in summer - his father-in-law told him of fishing the area between the first point south of Old Woman River (Grindstone Point) by trolling with surface lines. Fishing here was good and they were taken 8 lbs and up - to 30 or 40 lbs.

- in the winter the trout are probably quite deep. Right now (April 30) they are probably at their deepest he imagines - now and in late July and early August.

~~he never heard of lean trout going down to 600 ft.~~  
(re C. MacMillan's statement)

- small trout are at a deeper depth than larger trout. He does not know why, unless it is for protection.

- re egg colour?

- it certainly would be difficult to prove that white fleshed fish produced whiter eggs. There are few records where both are noted.
- Egg colour will sometimes vary with the age (size) of the trout. He noted that large trout produced paler, larger eggs and small trout redder, smaller eggs.
- Mishibishu
  - ask Tanentanus Hatchery for the year they were taken from the Purvis fugs (these would be the shoal trout in Mishibishu)
  - the trout he saw in Mishibishu were really distinct. They each had their own different shapes and someone who didn't know fish if he saw the three side by side would say they were different species
  - the shoal spawners didn't even mature in Mishibishu and only a few matured in Mishi. The lakes just didn't suit them. In Mishibishu thirteen year old fish were being taken that were immature.
  - most of the original fish which were netted had white flesh. The progeny, however, had orange-coloured flesh. The herring that were introduced wouldn't have given them coloured flesh. Generally white flesh is found in piscivorous fish. Even pikes in lakes where they eat crayfish have red flesh.
  - the last year he fished there the progeny (which were 8 or 10 years old) were now larger than the parents i.e. the original stock. The original stock looked really terrible with large heads and small bodies - but this was a factor of the diet. It changed when the herring were introduced
- re. flesh colour being linked to spawning activity?
  - in rainbow trout this is the situation (in part) when rainbows are running up the rivers their flesh will turn from orange to a paler, poorer orange colour after they have been in the river for awhile. They are using up the nutrients in their bodies as food.
  - some lean trout can be taken down at fifty fathoms and

Bill Sameluk said Trout spawned so deep in Loch Lomond because it is a spring fed lake. [attracted by water flow?]

55

it is possible for them to become Sect. MNR has picked up some fin-clipped trout at depth with small heads and fat bodies that are looking like ordinary fat.

- re. pound net trout? he hadn't heard of this. All trout will lead into pounds as far as he knows when they touch the mesh. Mel Gerow got planted trout in his pound last fall.
- re. size variation on shoals? Small trout and large trout may congregate in separate areas and this is not a factor of variable fishing pressure. Perhaps the big trout may drive off the small ones. In Killala lake they were taking big trout predominantly at one end of the lake and smaller ones at the other.
- in lake Superior he never noticed the differences between planted trout nearly to the degree that they were obvious in Mishibishu Lake trout (eg. redfins, etc)
- re. Agassiz's description of changes in ~~color~~ color with bottom type
  - trout on rocky bottoms would be feeding more on <sup>crayfish</sup> ~~crayfish~~ and would therefore tend to be brighter and have redder meat. You know what color a crayfish turns when you drop it in water. (One would think that trout living on clay bottoms therefore would have whiter flesh)
- he never noticed any sexual dimorphism. The females look bigger because they are full of eggs (maybe this is the reason the head would look smaller)
- in Loch Lomond lean trout were found by Bill Sameluk spawning at 40 to 50 feet of water. This is very deep. Most trout spawn in less than 2 fathoms.
- he has never heard of sand trout [perhaps they are a paler color because they come from depth - 30 fathoms]
- he had never heard of trout being planted from L. Sup into L. Simcoe in 1924. He can not see why it would not have its own native population - there are lake trout lakes all around it.
- the statistics quoted for Boath in Boat (VI?) he did not say.
- See an old tug captain who worked for Kemp (ask Ken Maki)

Conversation with Mrs Wahl, Wawa, April 26/79

- (a little confused on some points) her name was
- She fished with her first husband (hegerde) around 1949 to 1963. Lyman Buck took over the license
  - Her brother-in-law Albert Kimble fished for awhile. He died fifteen years ago
  - Kinds
    - Blacks - they were close to a rainbow trout and come in the river in May to July.
    - Gray trout - they were the biggest (28 lbs). They spawned in the fall where there was a bit of rock
    - Mountain Trout - they were not very big - 4 lbs was a dandy one and most were 2 to 4 lbs. The flesh was white. They spawned any place where there was a shoal or island. They spawned the last part of May to the 15th July, at the same time as the pickerel
    - the pickerel followed <sup>the</sup> trout and ate the spawn
    - halfbreeds - they were much like the gray trout
      - it was grey white in the water but the minute you took it out it would turn white (she seemed quite sure of this) You could tell this after half an hour
      - the flesh was all fat and kind of a reddish colour
    - Batchewana has yellow perch, small mouth, largemouth and black bass but you never saw them up here
    - the odd menomence came in the river in the spring. They would follow the sturgeon. She didn't like them because they tasted too muddy. - they would go into the river when it was muddy.
    - Jimmy Daigle fished for Lyman Buck 7 or 8 yrs. He passed away

Conversation with Art Harris, Dorion Fish Hatchery, Dorion  
April 29/79

re flesh colour in BROOK TROUT

- when they got an influx of freshwater shrimp in the headpond at the hatchery (which contains the reserve supply of water) the fry would become red fleshed. This would happen about every five years.
- the hatchery stock of brook trout is from Nipigon Bay. He never saw a red fleshed trout from Nipigon Bay and believes that all the native stock were white fleshed. However usually about 5% of the progeny would have red flesh. The eggs would be a bright orange while the others were off yellow and always from pale fleshed fish.
  - this is not a factor of the flesh colour coming from different places as they were all from the same place, in the lake (is it a factor of taking them at different times - he didn't think so.)
- the domestic stock was of a drabber, paler colour than the natives. The natives had the typical halo around their spots while the domestic stock had little colouration to the spots.
- males at spawning time ~~got~~<sup>became</sup> a brighter colour than the females. They became red on the underside but there wasn't much change in fin colour. The females didn't change colour.



- lake trout spawn was being planted in L. Nipigon from the hatchery prior to 1940 (the Hatchery Distribution Records only go back to 1940. The lake was planted every year until 1960 except for 1951, 1953, 1955 - 1958.

- See

- ① Bill Pauluk, Dorion - he is younger and has ~~not~~ fished for 15 yrs. He bought out Ewart Watson (now in B.C) who bought out Louis Nutall
- ② Harry Height - 67-68 years old
  - he took part in Mishibishu spawn taking
  - Dorion 857-2470

Mrs Ann Lemieux, West Loon, April 29/79

- she lives with the signal maintainer Matt Happyjok in Loon
  - she is the daughter of Charlie Miller
    - they moved from Jackfish to Cobdwell in 1928. She was about six years old at the time. The Nicells had the Strathbell at the time and the Bessie M had sunk
  - Her father worked on the Strathbell which fished as far south as Michipicoten R. (it was suggested that they also fished at the Slates). His trap line was at Killala lake area
  - Kathleen ~~the~~ Allan's daughter is still alive. There were Nicoll fishing records but they were destroyed when the fish house burned (circa 1965?)
  - she has no records of her fathers
- 

Conversation with Charlie Wuori, Thunder Bay May 2/79.

- he fished ~~with~~ <sup>for</sup> other fishermen. He fished on Runda's license (now dead) He also fished with Fred Arnold at Green Pt for herring. He also fished with him for 6 or 7 seasons in the winter at Muskeg Lake. In those days you couldn't freeze the fish but would ship them with snow in the bottom of the boxes shipped from the inland lakes
- he fished in the 1930's and 1940's and is now 74 yrs old.
- there were very ugly fish in the lake he fished 7 or 8 miles <sup>(Long Bay)</sup> past Long lake. (it was difficult to understand when exactly he meant it was but he said it was about a hundred miles east of Thunder Bay - east of Macdunnid where the railway lines going east and north to L. Nipigon join.
- the backbones were sticking out. There were whitefish pickered and perch as well in the lake some of which were also ugly. He has never seen a lake where the fish are so ugly.
- there are different kinds of trout

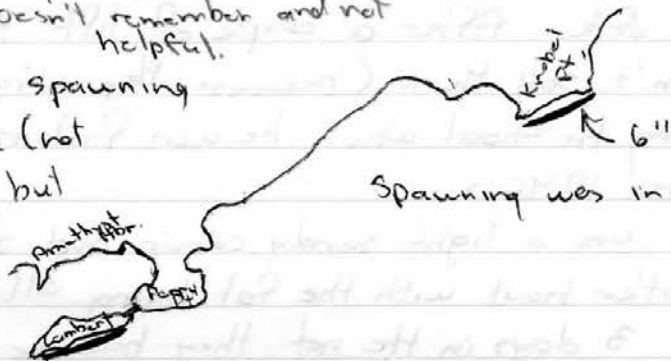


\* - he would fish for herring in October and November and afterwards fish for spawning lake trout in northern Thunder Bay

- the trout he caught were large. They had mixed lighter and darker flesh - none were real red (This is the impression I get from what he said) Many were up to 20 lbs, and he notes one that was 28 lbs

see. Neil ~~Harvey~~ - on a little island at Green Pt. It is old  
 I doesn't remember and not helpful.

There was also spawning at BEAR POINT (not listed on the map but at the north end of Thunder Bay - fished at Bear Pt. end of Nov., into Dec)



Spawning was in 6ft of water

Ivan Johnson, Terrace Bay, April 29/79 (also Mr. Lesarge whom noted - he is trying to acquire a license this year - 52 years old)

- In 1904 his family started fishing at Port Coldwell. His father was a deck hand on the Nicoll tug Strathbell
- I first fished in 1938 working on a tug of Charlie Boon's. He would fish down to Spruce Is. It was a 50 mile run and there would be a by over
- River - trout ran up the White Gravel River when he fished on the Strathbell - about 200 ft.
  - trout ran up the Little Pie R. last fall as far as the first falls. They were plankton fish (Lesarge)
- Killala Lake. There are two varieties (Lesarge who fished there)
  - ① the native trout called Mountain Trout (ie inland trout) They are black trout. They have white meat and taste like cardboard. The biggest would be 4 lbs. The whitefish and suckers were small in the lake
  - ② the introduced silvery trout. The meat was pinkish to red
- Charlie Miller used to net Killala Lake in the 1930's. It was

- from Port Coldwell. His daughter is at West Loon and his granddaughter at Marathon
- I.J starts to fish in May and finishes in August
  - when fishing with the Strathbell nets would be taken off the Spruce Banks
  - the Strathbell and the Iris ran out to Superior Shoal after it was first discovered. In one days lift they came up 400 lbs short of 1<sup>st</sup> tons. They didn't go out to the shoal very often. After a couple of lifts they found that they couldn't sell them (because they were fatter) They weren't fishing the shoal when he was fishing out of Port Coldwell in the 1940's.
  - bankers are a light sandy colour and short and stubby. They are a fatter trout with the fat being all through them
    - after 3 days in the net they become all mucky
  - all summer they would fish fine nets. He didn't know where the big fish were
  - last fall he was catching black trout at the end of October and first part of November
  - Killala L. (cont)
    - spawning would be in, three feet of water. They would spawn in about the same place each year and at only about 3 places in the whole lake. - at the north end. Pond nets were set for them and three years ago a 36 lber was taken
    - he doesn't know if the flesh colours were different. They seemed to be mixed up
    - nets were not canned in the Port Coldwell to Rossport area (The fish were not down deep in summer because they would take them with all sizes of herrings and with boms?)
    - American poaching would occur up to Red Sucker Pt and most was around Michipicoten Hbr. When they pulled in these ~~hook~~ + lines they would find beautiful fish on them. Americans would serve <sup>net</sup> herring on shore and bait them on the hooks through the back and mouth. Six feet apart - far enough so they would move in the currents like they were swimming. and not be able to touch.



cont.

Interviews conducted by Barbara Sommer, Summer 1977  
for the North Shore Commercial Fishing oral history  
project for Northeast Minnesota Historical Centre.  
Aleck Christianson, East Star Route, Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616  
June 22, 1977

(From 1916 or 1912 or 1915 - 357 steps between here & left)

- He and his father operated it Christianson & Sons dealership, begun in 1896 (He is of Norwegian descent)
- his dad and his brothers started the business.
- they bought mostly frozen fish. During the summer it would be fresh and salt fish. Salt fish mainly
- they fit the fishermen with their supplies - nets, lumber to build boats

"we'd put them on in the spring and settle up with them in the fall. we'd give them what they needed all season and we in turn would take their fish. Then as the fall came, why, we'd settle up."

"As time went on and competition started beginning to pick up and get worse, it got more difficult"

- too much credit was asked for and then the fishermen would sell fish to someone else
- so started to pay them by the pound - in the old days it was all salt fish.

"we set the price, but they salted it. They'd salt them then we'd bring them in and repack them. You see, they're in the slime when you first salt them. The slime is drying the moisture out of the fish. when we'd ship them down to the South"

- mostly salted herring

- most of the trout was fresh "of course, in the early days, then most of it was salted. But as times traveled on, people wanted the fresh" - in the early days 7/4-15/lb

- there were a lot of fishermen from 1916 or 1912 or 1915 - 357 steps between here & left

- Herring was what most were fishing (on the North shore)
- 1st Royale was the only place that supplied trout
- Back in 1910-12 - 27 boats running up and down the shore in competition - other companies

-they were the largest firm outside of Booth

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Edwin C. "Steve" Johnson, 335 N. 60th Ave. West, Duluth  
Minnesota, <sup>June 22</sup> ~~January~~, 1977

-of Swedish descent - worked at Isle Royale, along the South  
Shore and out of Duluth - fished in the first third of this  
century. - born ca 1900

- ~~S~~ what kind of fish did you fish

- "Mostly what we had in the lake then was what we called  
a deep water blue fish. They don't exist anymore and they  
made an awfully good salt fish, for salting... it was like a  
herring, only much larger. They were kind of oily, and their  
meat - I'd say they were some kind of relation to the  
tullibee.

- sold to Booth

- later started with trout. "They'd (fishermen) never done  
that before

- used regular gill nets. And they did a lot of top hook.

Q "Why did they change to the top hook

A "well, it was easier for one thing. It didn't cost them  
as much money to lay out gear. They got trout which  
was more than you knew... People went for that more."

- ran about 3½ or 4 dollars/barrel

- Gill nets were brought over mostly from Canada. In  
this country, they didn't have too much gill netting  
it was mostly those Canadians - they used linnen. They  
were better of course, sharper

- "They used to make trips over here and smuggle them  
in" (his father)

- fished pond nets for w.f + herring ("didn't see much  
of that pond net fishing up in this country" - in Michigan  
there was alot

27. Q "What is top net fishing?"

A. "That's for herring. Certain times of the year the herring are up in the waters. ... You drop your nets down to a certain depth below the surface and keep them there. Herring run into them."

- biggest trout - 48 lbs dressed and headless - caught by his father - must have been sixty some lbs
- thinks it set a record, however he wasn't surprised when he caught 40 or 50 lb trout
- caught at certain times of the year - in the fall
  - in the spring or hooklines.

Conrad Lornansen (with wife Fern) Beaver Bay, Minn, June 29/77

- Norwegian descent - his father fished in the early decades - he became involved 1926 or 1927 until the 19~~50s~~ 68

2. "practically everyone along the shore was herring fishing - here and there a trout fisherman. "But this side of the lake was not meant for trout. There were some that had what they call set lines, hook lines. And they would stank out about five miles and they went out about ten miles. They'd have a string of hooks." - weren't many.

- have to have a boat with an inboard motor and at least 20 ft.

- about '28 or '29 the price for herring was awfully high - around 15 - 20 cents/lb

- started out with cotton nets

- price - things # 2 a pound and 2½ or 3 lbs to a net depending on the length. "When I started fishing at first, it seemed like the average length was what they called 40 leads and that would be about 250 ft. long. They were 7 ft apart. In a year or two they went up to about

60. So that was over 400 feet long. Anywhere from 50 leads to 60 leads long."

- used cedar corks - treated with linseed oil - when hot
- about '36 or '37 started to get plastic corks
- a floating net is from 4 feet down to 100 ft. - the other is set right on the bottom
- bluefins disappeared by 1905 (bigger than herring) - fished them in real deep water. (used bottom gill nets)
- "Herring fishing didn't come into effect until about 1900. Before 1900 they thought the herring was a useless fish. Before 1900, all the fishermen all around that I know of that fished along North Shore, fished at Isle Royale, they were all just trout fishermen. And my dad when he fished at Isle Royale, he was gill net fishing" - also a lot that fished hook & line
- used floating net for herring
- 14 - Fish boxes
  - when first started they came out with 100 lb boxes and everybody put in 150 pounds - later 75 lb
  - 24 in wide x 14, 15 in deep x 3 ft long
  - had long handles on them

Pulatti

Hjalmer Mattson, 10054 North Shore Drive, Minnesota, July 11, 1977

- Finnish descent - father started in 1905 - he started in 1926 fishing alone for the first time
- 18 ft skiff - mostly for trout
- bottom gill nets -  $4\frac{1}{2}$  smallest ones up to a six inch mesh - And with an eight in. mesh you could really pop the big ones
- length - 900 ft to a box. And sometimes the nets we had by shore, they were half boxes - 450 ft. long
- possibly some with a bigger mesh would be shorter. Then we

use a lead weight, enough to sink a wooden float at the time. Right opposite the lead, you'd put this. It would be about, anywhere from 6 to 8 feet apart. It kept the net just like a fence, on the shore or the bottom of the lake.

- surface nets " it's only about 350-400 feet long. And the anchor is set. And it's set on floats. And the floats string on that goes down to whatever depth you want to fish. Most of the time in the fall, it's between 2 and four fathoms down
- there was a more steady market for lake trout than for herring
- prices for trout " In the early days I heard my dad talking about 5 cents a pound. But like in the early 30's, they ranged from 12-15 cents. Then in the 40's they started going up. They were 25 and 30 when the price was right. Right now, it's over a dollar a pound.
- trout - took the gills out and split them down the center
  - mostly fresh, unless we got some ciscoes in with them. Split them along the back and cut them in chunks. There was different kinds of species of trout that we did that to.
- kept some ice in the storage room, in sawdust piles, in the summer

Roy Ogborg, Aboard the *Voyageur II* between Grand Portage, Minn - Windigo, Isle Royale, Michigan

- Swedish descent, father came from Sweden in 1889 (three years old at time) - family fished in two harbours and used to haul fish up and down the shore from Isle Royale to Duluth with a 50 foot boat

p 3 " I fished everything. Herring, trout, whitefish, and we used to fish ciscoes in the summer when there wasn't much other fish. We'd go way out in the lake about ten miles out and then we'd set them in deep water fish. They're way out in 80-90

fathoms of water. And they are real, real fat

... we used to ship 'em to New York. I understand the Jewish people had a method of cool, slow smoking. They cool, slow smoked them some way and now, you see, they don't eat fat or pork or anything so this fat fish supplements their diet.

- jumbo whitefish ("sometimes you get jumbo whitefish and you'd get a penny more than you would for trout.")

- "anything over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. A special trade. You see, the rich people would buy these large whitefish for planking. ... They planked them. That was a special way of cooking them on an open fire with a plank, they'd fasten them to a plank. For many years it was that way. That was why the whitefish was worth more than the trout because it was big enough to put on these planks

Q. How did you catch the whitefish?

A. "This was all with gill nets. Yea, we used nets that were about 500 feet long and about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide. Different size mesh according to different times of the year. In the spring you used the smaller mesh because there's more smaller fish around and you wasn't so plentiful. But when it came to spawning time, in the fall, then you tried to get the bigger ones, and you'll get big ones, too in the small nets. But a lot of times in a small mesh net the big fish will get away because he only goes part way in and when you start to lift it, he hangs out and he'll drop out and you'll lose him. Now my father <sup>he</sup> built a gas boat that when he left, then I got it, it was an 18 foot boat and at that time it was quite a fast boat. It could make 14 miles an hour. We used that for trout fishing. Me and him fished together and when he left, I used that then after that.

Q where did you fish on the lake

A well, mostly around the Suzie Islands. Down to Washwanigan Bay and Grand Portage.



Q Did you have different places for different kinds of fish

A. Well, yes, at certain times of the year. They'd come in certain areas. In the spring they're usually out deeper and then it starts warming up, then there's a trout and whitefish run that comes in real shallow. That come right in next to the beach. Then later on in the summer, you'll get 'em all along, but not as good. Then in August they get sluggish. They don't move. The fish die there but they don't move fast enough to gill even (where are they?). . . They be in shallower water and alot of them go out on the surface. Trout especially goes out on the surface.

- For many years then the fishermen found out they could float their nets right on the surface and they got an awful lot of trout that way, then during the 1950's. That was right before the lamprey came in and at the same time these fishermen were all fishing them on the surface. I think truly they did over fish, some of them did especially. It was such an easy form of fishing and they didn't lose no nets. Like when we fished on the bottom with gill nets in the fall of the year, we'd lose probably anywhere from a third to a half of our rig every year.

- the riskiest places you always used your oldest nets

- Winds

- N.W wind - fish close to shore. You got them anyplace.

XEROXES

Ragnvald Sve, East Star Route, Box 121, Two Harbours, Minnesota 55605

Norwegian descent - began commercial fishing in 1926. Also ran tourist cabins and conducted sports fishing

- the biggest trout got around his area was 26 lbs
- up the shore around Grand Portage and Isle Royale, they got them from 30 - 45 lbs, maybe 50. (bigger up the shore.)

Cooley, Myron (1994) Outings and Innings in Northern Minnesota and along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Record Stream (Lakes) Print, Detroit

Holmquist, June D. (Sum. 1955) Commercial Fishing on Lake Superior in the 1890's in MHT. 34: 243-249

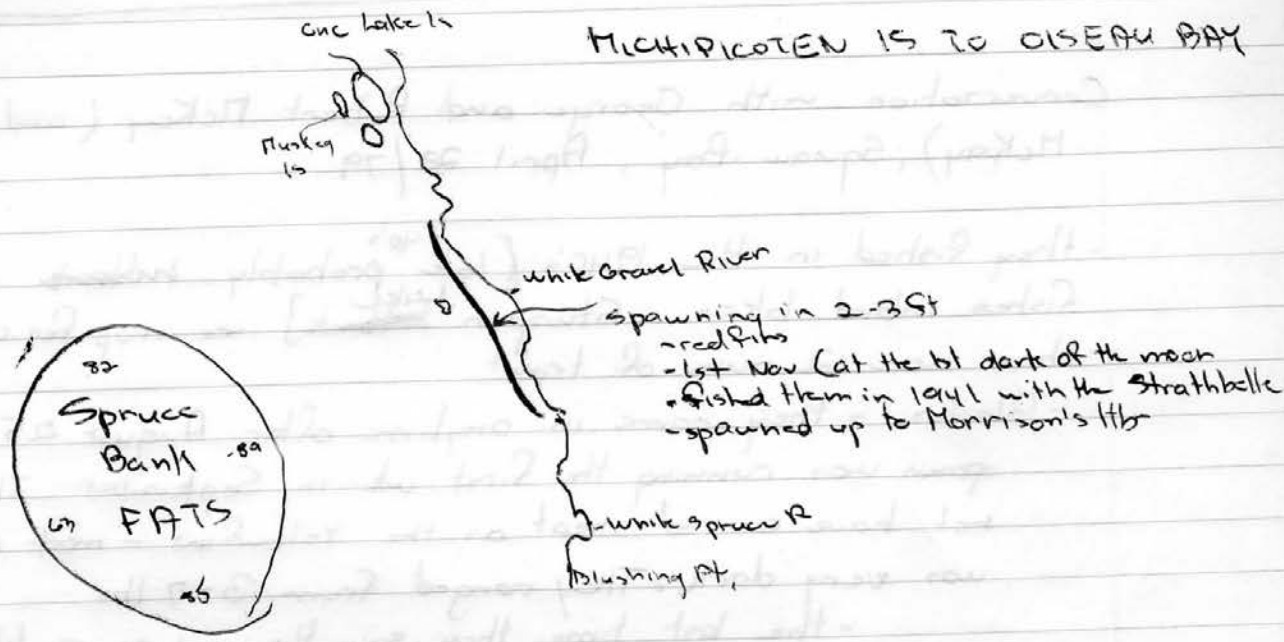
Carlander, Harriett B. (1954) A History of Fish and Fishing in the Upper Mississippi River. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, 1954. 96p

XEROXES Chris Tommondson, Tofte, MN 55615, July 29/77

- of Norwegian descent - moved to Tofte area when thirteen, early work in fishing helping his uncle - he was 90 years old at the time of the interview

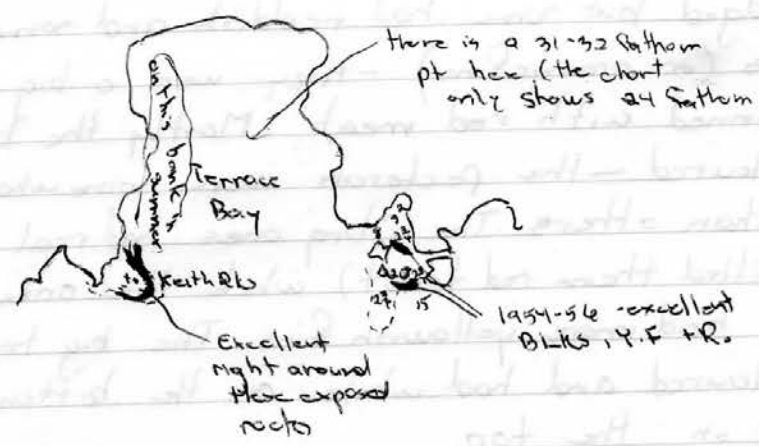
George Torgeson, Box 104, Knife River, Minnesota 55609  
 - Norwegian descent - described his family's background in comm. fishing in the 1920's - he became involved himself the 1930's

Ivan Johnson (cont.)



MULTIPICOTEN IS TO OISEAU BAY

JACKFISH BAY TO ST IGNACE IS

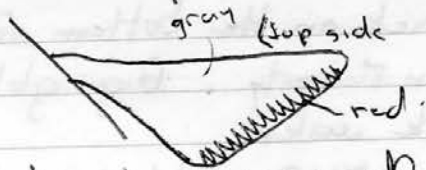


- pollution is thick on the bottom of Terrace Bay - coming all the way from Moberly. Big globules of oil could be picked up in the water
- someone from MNR told LeSarge that a certain kind of weed is needed in an area for trout to spawn [I think he has this balled up]
- complains about the mill trying to take over rights to the place where he parks his boats. Complains about MNR restrictions on fishing

Ann Barker, Kathleen Alban's daughter (daughter of Nicoll) lives in Marathon.

Conversation with George and Robert McKay (and Mrs Edna McKay), Squaw Bay, April 29/79

- they fished in the 1940's (late <sup>40's</sup> probably. ~~probably~~ R.M. still fishes inland lakes - Sturgeon ~~lake~~ <sup>lake</sup> see map for area
- there were 2 runs of trout
  - Blacks - they came in anytime after August 25, and the spawn was running the first wk in September. They did not have as red meat as the yellowfins - most of the body was very dark. They ranged from 3-7 lbs
    - the last time they saw them was a little before the last time they saw yellowfins
    - some of the blacks had coloured fins. Most were white edged but some had reddish and some bluish fins.
  - Yellowfins (or orangefins) - they were a big trout and orangefinned with red meat. Mostly the belly fins were coloured. - the pectorals were somewhat brighter colour than others. The big ones had real red fins (they called them red trout) while the ones a bit smaller had more yellowish fins. The big trout were really coloured and had white on the bottom of the fins and red on the top



- Sturgeon Lake has some redfins where Bob McKay was fishing
- Blacks spawned more on the inside of islands in the shelter than the yellowfins did. When the fish were laid together in a box they would change colour where they were touching
- Yellowfins spawned at about the same depth as the Blacks

- They would quit fishing each year around October 25 and the y.f. were still spawning at this time.
- Robert McKay maintains that there was a run of inbetween sizes, between the yellowfins and Blacks. They were a mixture of the blacks and big reds (y.f.'s) and some had reddish and others yellowish fins.
  - before the big trout came in they would go into deep water and get siscowets anywhere from 70 fathoms down (to 100 fathoms about). They would fish ~~out~~ down the slope. Fats were taken by the McKays and sold to the Nipigon Bay Fish Co + Kemp.
  - There were certain points that the fishermen would always fish and were one could be pretty sure of getting good trout (i.e. the trout do not change their grounds that much).
  - Trout are on the surface in July. The fishermen never used to float their nets around here - not since they quit fishing Superior anyway.
  - Spawning times
    - Herring spawning times vary. One used to catch herring in Square Bay 2 to 3 weeks before they were spawning in Thunder Bay. Some falls the fishing was finished before it even started in Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay is warmer than Black Bay because Black Bay is so shallow).
    - Herring would spawn just on the dropoff of the bank from 60 feet down, up onto the banks.
    - spawning of lake trout occurred about the same time at Edward Is on the area George + Bob fished.
    - However Silver Islet spawning commenced at a different time than No. 10 light. George Dick used to catch trout about a wk before McKays.
    - perch will also change colour at spawning time.
    - trout generally came on the same grounds each year.
  - (I mentioned that on L. Nipigon there was a lull in the fishing in the early 1920's - see F. McKay) There was a dull in the lake trout catch of Lake Superior in the 1930's. The McKays only heard about it but try to ask Mel Gerow about it. [was it in this area on the whole lake?] (Maybe it was equipment

From cotton to linen? After the war nylon came in 1948 to 49 about the same time the lamprey came

## HISTORY

- Pt Magnet was one of the main fishing centers. Booth Fisheries had a station at Magnet first. <sup>(Gagne?)</sup> Conier and <sup>Gourdreau</sup> Gourdreau fished there, perhaps for Booth - fishing only pound nets. Frank Gerow took over from them and he fished for Booth or for Wolmsely.
- the Finlanders fished at Tee Hbr first, and fished Sawyer's Bay at the same time. In the 1930's they moved to <sup>Camp</sup> Bay
- the used to be a fishery at Swede Is Fred <sup>Wittard</sup> Wittard and Ace Gouley fished here at the same time Paul Bougie came in later
- Bob Dick had a fishery at Shaganash. His brother George Dick had a fishery at Black's Dock. George McKay was the last person to fish out of Shaganash. The Dicks fished pound nets
- the road into Squaw Bay was built in 1948, after which J.A. Nicol picked up fish by truck. Prior to this tugs ran up the shore to Swede Is + vicinity and picked up fish to take them to Port Arthur. The tugs had always been doing this.
- Frank <sup>Lahri</sup> Lotti was at Edward Is. Mannula. From Sawyer's Bay, fished at the island before him.
- Wolmsely had a fish company in Port Arthur (in 1934?) ~~then~~ before it was taken over by the Royal Fish Company. Cecil Humby worked for the Royal for a time and then bought it out
- 1945 or 1947 was the peak period along the Black Bay Peninsula. After the war the younger fishermen came back and again went into the business which boomed for a time
- Billy Gannett fished out of Thunder Bay in the early 1940's. The "Glen G" was his tug
- Uern Erickson fished from Tee Hbr + Camp Bay in the 1940's. He moved to Magnet in 1948-49
- the Northern Fisheries operated for only a few years in the 1950's in Thunder Bay. It was started by Roy Maki who is still in Thunder Bay
- Edward McKay fished at Battle Is starting in the 1800's (brother of Charles's) The name of his tug was the "Grebe"

- Craigie started on L. Nipigon in 1916 (?) He was in Rossport before Lake Nipigon but not fishing. After <sup>Rossport</sup> he fished out of Thunder Bay. At the time he sold out his boat tug was the "Marlene Grace" now owned by G. Humby. It was wrecked & rebuilt a few years ago.

- Pound nets

- Dickie fished pound nets

- Cliff McKay had ponds in Otter Cove

- Mel Gerow had ponds on Emerson Is.

- Ike Gouley fished ponds

- also some of the Finlanders out of Silver Islet (Sam Lourens & Kostki were partners)

- pound nets have always been here. The old fish companies had them as well.

- the biggest w.f. he had ever seen (Bob?) 36 pounds, was caught in a pound net at Magnet Point by his father

- fishermen used to tan their nets. They would boil catch to liquify it and then dip nets in it. They would also put linseed oil on the net coats

#### RECOMMENDS

① Helgie Kostki - son is Leo Kostki

② George Dick - in Winnipeg now

③ Vic Bergman - he worked with Frank Gerow, fished Cloud Bay area also Jarvis Bay a bit

④ Russell Gerow, Fred Gerow's son is in Terrace Bay - he fished a bit

⑤ Gordon Dampier at Nipigon

⑥ Gus Boulanger at Thunder (K. Maki says that he has no address and is hard to find. Try asking at the docks.

Joe Boulanger is in hospital in Vancouver

⑦ Bill Craigie in Nanaimo

⑧ Frank Bauman in Vancouver

⑨ Johnny Westerbach

⑩ Fear re L. Nipigon fishing see a) Roy Maki - he fished here before starting the Northern Fish Co

b) Buck Hadley - 458 Egon St (he

lives beside B. McKay)

⑪ Robert Speak - Second St. - Andrew Dick was his uncle

← E. McKay's cousin?  
 ② Clifford McKay - he fished from Brodeur Is to Mipigon Straits. He is now out on the light.

## NOTE

Edna McKay has photographs of

- the old tugs
- fishery pictures from the 1920's (tugs mostly)
- pictures at Keeweenaw Pt - 1926 - "The City of Bangor" tug
- early ones of the Battle Is light
- Arvo Karttainen drowned Fall of 1978. His brother still runs the Crystal Beach store. He sells some fish and fished a bit, but Arvo was the main fisherman

- Kemp now fishes two ~~large~~ large tugs and one small one
- the Kings were on the Slat Island light. One fall they missed the last ship and survived all winter on crows

## re. MCKAY FAMILY HISTORY

Gen. McKay

↓

son

Alexander McKay - his wife was Angelique White (she was an Indian from Racine, Wis)

↓

son

Charles McKay - took the Battle Is light in 1877  
 - he died in 1927 at 93 years old  
 - before Battle Is. he ran the trading post at Paps Pt  
 - he was from the Soo at war of L. Michigan

son ↓

George McKay - Edna McKay's husband

they are also related to the McKays at Batchewana

- Percy McKay is Joe McKay's son. Joe is Charke's brother.



nice white fishes and two trout  
27 (net - 14 w.f., 4 nice lake trout)

Dec 1 26 Fishes 2. 15 Fishes

April 13, 1921 Today Mr Bill Newman of Sand River came in

Dec 22, 1922 The wreck of the "Tug Reliance" - 3 drowned

June 8th, 1924 Harry + Joe decided they would go fishing + try the reefs...

They took "Blue Belle" and sailed to the fishing ground and saw lots of fishes there, etc.

June 26, 1924 Dave and Joe went fishing but Dave did not forget the bait. They came back with two nice lakers

Dec 1924

Hudson Bay Co. Had a Post at mouth of Agawa R till 30 years ago

- J. H. O. Roder of Cleveland purchased the 320 acres at the mouth of the Agawa

- William Schelling was the factor or chief trader at the outpost when it closed

- Dave Bussineau moved to Agawa Bay in 1915

\* - says he visited the post 35 years ago when trading was going on

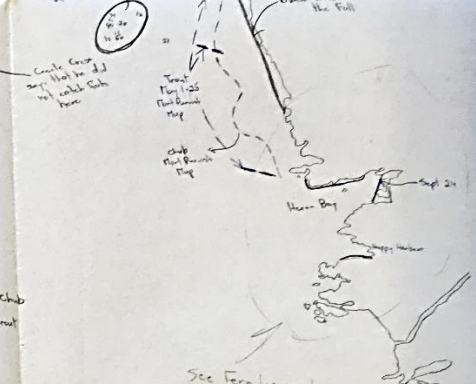
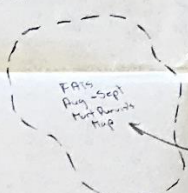
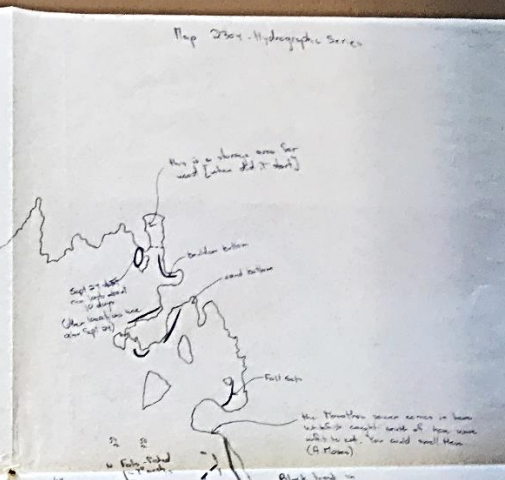
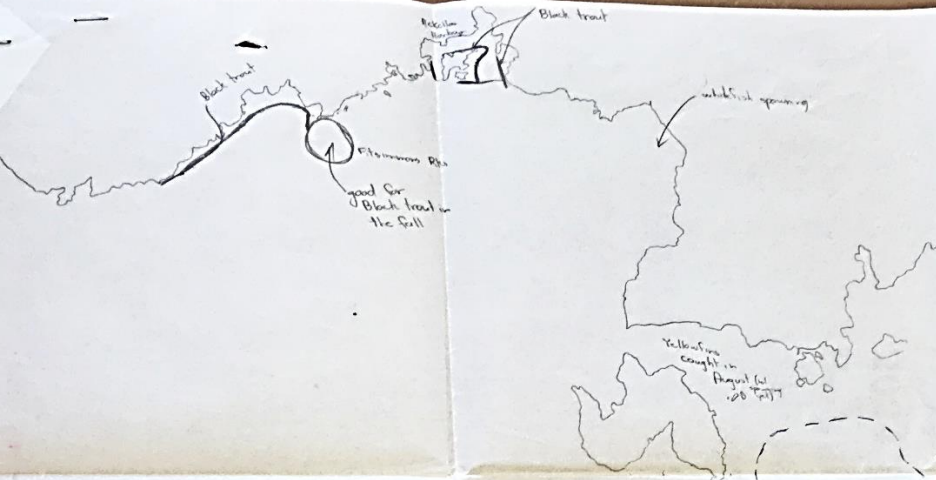
- Ganley's were first white people to do commercial fishing at Agawa, says Mrs Boucher. She came often to the Sault in their boats, and made the trip down with Capt Jim Ganley to the Sault in the Anna Clark to be married

Ag's 25  
25's

- there were about 150 people directly connected with the post in Wm Schelling's time, or, as Mrs Boucher says about 25 wigwams

## Agawa Bay Diary

- May 1916 Mr Miron light keeper at Gargantua - C Biran his helper  
- Harry Bussineau born 1905, April 5.
- April 1st, 1918 Just about this time Mr. Bussineau's Pulpwood job all done and  
[Bussineau] same had gone back to the Sault  
He (same) then hired with a man by the name of Charles Gustavson who hailed from White Fish Bay Mich. They were going to build an ice house on the Agawa Rocks Islands. They were working for the "Algoma Fish & Oysters Trading Company." They boarded here while they worked there.
- The manager of the Company's name was Mr. Gilpin  
[driving of Pulpwood on the Agawa River]  
[Dable - Sault of Perry]
- May 25 Mr. D Bussineau went down to the Sault on the little steamer "Trader" the Algoma Fish Co's boat. They were ~~not~~ a week making the trip
- June 1st Everything ready for the drive on the Agawa R.
- Dec 20<sup>1918</sup> Mr. Sirbeck keeper of the East end light of Mich Island... lost.
- Mar 3, 1920 The Algoma Fish Co men are Capt. Bennett, Joe Gingras, Gabe Gingras, Sandy McCoy, Alex McCoy - ~~is the man who~~ ~~F. Barnard~~ got struck with the hook and F Barnard
- June 4 " we went to the fish station at Agawa Rocks, called on Mr + Mrs Johnny Gingras and Mr + Mrs. Frank Benard
- Sept 3 " Mr Clark of Agawa Rocks, head man of "The Algoma Fish Trading Company" was here for a visit
- Sept 27 " ~~Harry~~ ~~(Agawa)~~ they went to Carters to get the saw, when taking back the launch to the river they notice the big lake trout coming in, so in a hurry they got their lines ready and went out again, but only caught two trout but the two was sufficient.
- Oct 8 In the evening (Harry + Clem) went fishing and caught two large trout, weighted 18 pounds each
- Nov 12 mention Manatiau or Inq Reliance - mention at earlier date of the Ceribau  
grandfather
- Nov 25 Mr. Bussineau and Mr Crushier went to the net and got ten



- Coast Cross
- Alphonse Place
- Fort Perce's Map - Club
- Fort Perce's Map - Trout

