

LAKE SUPERIOR NOTES

BOOK XVII

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MSc Thesis Research

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OCCF Meeting May Thunder Bay

- block licenses were the former method
- still in effect in Thunder Bay
- new statistics forms i.e. Green forms supplied by MNR
- MNR has a lack of samples it is because they have not put men on the fishing tugs
 - they have wasted money in buying their own expensive boat which cannot take adequate samples during the year.
- Bateau Rocks - was formerly a single block at 6000 lbs.
 - now the area has been reclassified as TUB and spread as far as Gull Rocks. The area should only include Bateau Rocks which is a discrete fishing unit.
- the biggest chub quota area is J.B. - the biggest quota, ~~at least~~ ^{where there are no chub}
- Black Bay - couldn't fish over 10 fathoms deep for lake herring
- Black Bay pickeral are down due to the fishing pressure
- the MNR regulations encourage fishermen to keep fishing. If they do not fill a certain percentage of the quota the license is taken away (in Nipigon Bay 10% of the quota must be fished.)
 - a fisherman may want to not fish a season, for tax reasons, low market prices, etc. but cannot
- MNR requires an appeal board for the fishermen.
- the low quotas also force fishermen to larger rigs and more capital investment - some will be forced to sell out
- the MNR system of setting quotas does not

take into account factors of weather, temp,
fish movements, economic conditions.

- MNR at Nipigon - head Ross Chessel,
- see Reg Windsor - MNR
- chub have been fished for 3 to 4 years at
this end of the lake.

RESPONSIBILITIES

① Access existing data

- liason with L. Sup. Assessment Unit.

② Identify any failure of communications

③ Estimation procedures for alternate methodologies

- in final report - recommendations for review

F. Legault, Rossport April 27/79 ~~XII~~ p. 54

- the bay of Rossport used to be a mass of herring
- They left before the Terrace Bay mill came in here.
- In 1914 he fished for them after school.
- In 1924 or 1925 in Thunder Bay herring ran 3 to a pound. Now they are getting 3lbers
- Herring were never fished out of Rossport.

S. P. Brouin, Mt. McKay Indian Reserve, May 4/79 ~~XIII~~ p 5

- the whitefish are starting to come around again really well in these waters. The Indian grounds is also one of the best grounds for herring. Menomence is also caught.

B. Arnold, Thunder Bay: May 4, 1979 ~~XIII~~ p 15

- the finest herring fishing in the west end of the lake was right where the Thunder Bay mill is now. There are few herring left now.

get his diaries.

O. Nordlander, Thunder Bay, May 2, 1979 ~~XIII~~ p 15.

- right now the herring are on the shore

R + G McKay, Squaw Bay, April 29/79 ~~XIII~~ p 71

- Herring spawning times varied. One used to catch herring in Squaw Bay 2 to 3 weeks before they were spawning in Thunder Bay. Some falls the fishing was finished before it ever 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 ft down, up onto the banks
- The biggest w.f he had ever seen (Bob?) was caught

4 Ken McLeod - Recommends Lorne Townes MUR re. early C. Nipigon, - ask him about the 7 different species of herring

in a pound net at Magnet Pt by his father - 36 lb.

F. Legault, Rossport, July 9/78 III p 17

- Herring - used to come in by the dock (Rossport). The Bay would be a solid mass of them. "You didn't see a damn one now. What I'd like to know is what happened to the herring. They used to snag them off the dock. In the 1920's they started to go down." (these were ordinary herring not ciscoes)

- In 1928 the herring ran about 3 to the lb on the average. Years ago F.L. used to net herring off the point, and fill up washtubs with them. "I can't figure out where all the little herring went to." Now the fishermen are catching up to 2 or 3 lb herring. Since the trout started disappearing the herring have been getting bigger.

G. Tyska * G. Miller, Amethyst Har. July 15/78.

- Whitefish get black dots and black edge on their scales toward spawning time, when they come into shallow water (or to feed). This is a signal to set nets shallower. (this apparently is not a widely known fact among fishermen) Also w.f. that spend time on brown sand in shallow water develop a brown coloration. When they come from deep water they are a silver colour.

P. Dahl, Terrace Bay, Aug 18/78 II p 31

- 1963 was the first year he saw alewives around Jackfish but had heard about them before this. Ling used to be taken. They really liked to eat the alewives

Mr. Baker, T.B. Aug 18/78 VI p. 44

- Nipigon Bay w.f. were referred to as paperbellies. The bellies are very thin due to a cyst in the belly that grew and distended to such a large extent that it caused the "paperbelly"

H. Gouley, Aug 20/78, Johnson's Ldg VI p. 45

- in the old days there was not a herring in Black Bay. The pollution out of Thunder Bay drove them up into Black Bay.

OMNR
Conversation with W. Macallum, June 18/80

- Pic River is the traditional cutoff point between east and west
 - eastern licenses fishing west of Pic are Edward Mitchell + Mike LeBlance
- permits vs. licenses
 - permits - "experimental"
 - can be cancelled at any time for any reason
 - until ~~then~~ 3 or 4 years ago chub were fished in the east end on permits
 - the first fishermen were Seroclad + LeBlance.
 - initial worry was over chub cat nets catching small lake trout
 - some fishermen say cannot avoid catching l.f. no matter where they set nets
 - it has been suggested to others

- that they move the nets
- fishermen can sell small quantities of incidental catch
 - in West End the chub fishery is done under license so far
 - licenses - issued at the beginning of the year
 - cannot be changed during the year without the agreement of the fishermen
 - officially licenses are not renewed but reissued each year

- CHUBS

- Shunder Bay has little chub water - some are fished outside Pie Island.
- Napier Bay + Terrace Bay have most of the chub waters
- QUOTAS - the district offices contacted the fishermen to see if they wanted to apply. Everyone got an equal share of the overall quota
- re. fisherman complaint that they are forced to fish their licenses
- this only applies to chub.
 - if they don't fish it for 2 ^(months) years it will become void
 - MNR as such do not care if it is not fished (except that some might regard it as "wasting a resource")
 - in March everyone ^{wishing} must apply for a chub license and the quota is divided among everyone
 - the rule is to discourage people from applying and not fishing. This isn't fair to the rest. If they don't fish a

portion of the license they must forfeit
 - the problem was encountered at Superior Shoal. Everyone used to apply but few would go the long distance to fish it (some would take fish from elsewhere and say they were from Superior Shoal.

- QUOTAS - only quotas in West end:
- Black Bay herring only
- chub quotas proposed (under permit now)
- trout quotas across the west end
- no quotas for mackerel + morm + plaice - morm value much lower than W.F. W.F.
- one can at the moment fish as many W.F. as one wishes

- this does not mean they are overfished
 - eg along Black Bay Peninsula + Nipigon Islands - not heavily fished because most fishermen were fishing herring in Black Bay at the best time

- B Schelling, Oscar Nordlander + Ron Gerson are (were) the only real fishermen

- quota philosophy - Nipigon District office looked at catches on recent years (maybe a three to five year period in the 1970's)

- BLOCK SYSTEM

- Lawrie (1967) grounds were biologically meaningful but were not based on the block system

- started in early 1900's

- fishermen had exclusive fishing rights to their grounds

- in time blocks became vacant and perhaps fishermen were allowed to fish in the vacant lots? The process is not clear to W.M.

- when quota management started fishermen had the choice of keeping their block or giving it up. If they gave it up they could fish anywhere in the quota area ^{except on increased blocks}. If they

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did not they could fish only in the block but with exclusive rights

- Between 1975 to 1978 sometime the rule began that the only way one could chub fish was to give up the block
- (Complaints - O. Nordlander accused A. Nuttall of fishing block. Nuttall would fly his plane in in early spring before Oscar could get there)

- a tug license does not have a ground associated with it

- in the west end there are

① tug licenses (licensed for 12,000 yds - or maybe 24,000? w.m.)

② block licenses

- Trawl licenses - in 1967 began in Black Bay. This is the only place they are allowed.

- COMPLAINT - Sanctuaries

- MNR is taking another look at the rationale of these

- want lake trout quotas enlarged because they can't catch whitefish (which is what they want to fish) without taking lake trout

- re. Samplers not being put on boats by MNR

- Jerry Gehring does sampling in T.B., and Mort Purvis out of Sop.

- this year there will be more emphasis upon it; Φ They try for 1 week a month, which means 2 or three fishermen sampled a month

- Problems - drive all the way to a fisherman's dock to find it is not going out

- sampling someone like Ron Gerow requires 2 or 3 days (camp at Pt Magnet.) If the weather is bad at that time no samples are taken
- it is more feasible to ~~sample~~^{meet} the fishermen when they come to the dock. This way 2 or three can ~~be~~ be seen in a day. The emphasis is on getting the fishermen to sample their own catch
- the main problem for MNR is lack of time and money
- an extra technician is supposed to spend time on the boats in the fall.
- now Experience '80 students are sent - ^{some} they are not good, but they come cheap
- The current CHUB ZONES are a modification of Lawrie's (1967) zones and according to W.M. are not reasonable, as chub zones
 - some are originally based on landmarks
 - they do not follow inshore and offshore areas
 - eg 4.A
 - 40 fathoms tends to be taken as the offshore-inshore depth for assessment purposes
- re. chub area TB (see p. 1)
 - this is the biggest area + 0% has the biggest quota

DATA

(A) WHITEFISH SCALES

- scale data - 1975 + 76 read by Irene Weir
 - later years by Jim Smith
- many from Shunder Bay, ~~south~~
- older in Div. 14 - 5-6 years
- in Nipigon Bay area only samples are

- those from Bill Schelling and Oscar Nordlander
- in 1979 Pat Hamilton took many samples from ~~Upper Black Bay~~ Nipigon Bay
 - Jim Smith aged them and they are on the way but not entered on computer
 - the Shunsee Bay office has nothing before 1975.
 - see Andy Laurie for past data
 - * - one needs an interpretive program to run his data. He multiple punched his cards to have only one card per catch (or sample?)
 - 1975-76 data used Laurie (1967) and converted to 5' grid
 - M. Subance said didn't catch older ones but that they were there. - Pura seines in Lake Michigan were getting older ones
 - re. Ricker Model - Joe O'Connor of Winnipeg Freshwater Institute claims give overestimates
 - Jack Christie condemns Patriarche (1977)
 - disagrees with mortality data
 - fishermen claim there are more W.F. around today than they can remember. - W.M. suggests that this is probably true.
 - re. NET SELECTIVITY CORRECTIONS
 - based on Robson + Regier paper
 - MNR computer - AGE DIST - reassesses age population structure according to net size used.

(B) Herring

- Aged 1978 - more since
- ~~two arrays I & II being aged in 1978~~
- age structures available from early 1960's to 1974 or 1975 but most not on computer

- summaries on Shunder Bay office
- Black Bay - early 1960's 300- (1000?) taken per year
 - 1975 or 1975 ≈ 1000 taken
- samples in other than Black Bay haven't been read
- 1978 + 1979 haven't been read
- Black Bay herring quotas - not many fishermen are upset by them
- Shunder Bay scales being read now and may be done by the end of the month and on computer a couple of weeks after that
- only sporadic herring fishing along the Black Bay Peninsula + islands
- see Summary by Rabner + Elsey

③ Chub - none read
 - fishing only started a couple of years ago.

- CF-1
 - nothing on computer prior to 1975
 - 1975-79 - on System 2000 in Toronto
 - see Gil Lance
 - since 1962 rough catch/effort summaries by statistical division (see Bob Hamilton)
 - 1948 and part of 1949 on tape - 1949 not in TO yet
 - 1949 only Purvises in Toronto
 - Jaworski has catch/effort data from 1960's when he sampled - organized by fishing ground (A. Jaworski has some tagging data from West end but only lake trout)

- Trout quotas - based on 1916-1940 data as baseline
 - determined as 1/4 lb/acre (taken as mean level)

- W.F. - MNR assessment recommends that the

- minimum mean age should be 5-6 years
- GREEN SHEETS - started in 1975
 - fishermen are usually told regulations when they come to pick up the licenses

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- MNR personnel

- Jim Atkinson - Regional Fisheries Biologist

- Al Elsey - Regional Fisheries Bio.

- retires in one month

- Nipigon - Lorne Towers

- Ross Chessle - Fish. Management Officer

* - reeling planimetry data

- Bob Hamilton (I.B.) - Fisheries Management Off.

CF-1 1948-49 - license nos changed each year
- access fishermen by serial no
(see xerox)

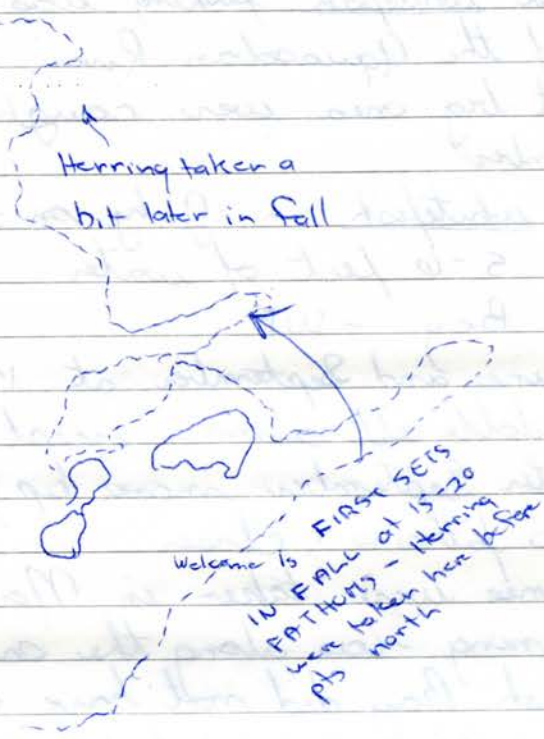
Conversation with Mr P. Dahl, Thunder Bay, June 18/86

- went back to fishing in 1963 but just at the mainland
- the best whitefish fishing was west of Victoria Cape and west of the Aquasolan River
 - ~~most~~ big ones were caught later August + in September
- fished whitefish in July on the sand beaches, corks out in 5-6 feet of water
- Victoria Bay - WF
 - in June and September at 12-18 fathoms - whitefish
 - available all summer except part of July
 - in later September move up from 25-28 fathoms to 15 fathoms + closer
 - big ones were taken in November
 - spawning was along the sandy beaches
- Jackfish Bay did not have good fishing south of Slate Island lighthouse A. King said he caught whitefish early in December and that they were spawning - up to 25 lb.
- P.D remembers that in the 1920's they were in McGreevey Hbr for two years in July - then they did not return
- in P.D experience WF spawned in November
 - they averaged 3 to 5 lbs and some were bigger
- lake trout
 - in the early 1900's trout ran in the Aquasolan (Black River)
 - he heard that poachers caught trout here
 - the dam was built at the same time as the mill in 1948-49.
 - Hays lake was created by the dam, but just prior to this an underwater tunnel to Service Bay was constructed
- when his father came in 1890's trout were in the Steele R
- P.D fished herring in 1933 & 34 for a couple of years

Conversation with Vic Bergman, Thunder Bay,
June 19/80.

Passage Is to Thunder Bay

VIC
BERGMAN
June 19/80



- 71 years old.
- fished for 20 years in Black Bay
- good for pickeral spring & fall
- when the lake trout became depleted there were empty licenses & open waters.
- tugs moved into Black Bay from Nipigon, etc. and tremendous pressure on the yellows arose
- he could see the pickeral going down but MNR didn't do anything about it
- pickeral will not come back now. There are too many perch & smelt
- when he moved into Black Bay there were many saugers

- he would get saugers in the $4\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh when he was fishing for whitefish
- he requested that MNR allow him to fish $2\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh sauger nets + they said it was alright if he didn't catch pickerel.
 - he did alright with saugers for awhile but the price was low
- BLACK BAY HERRING
 - Vic Bergman came to Black Bay in 1949 and started fishing herring in 1951 - took 20 ton/year
 - the first herring fishing in Black Bay started in 1939 from the dock at Camp I (now Mell Gerow's at Squaw Bay)
 - Frank Sampier began fishing with gill nets
 - only $2\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh was allowed and the nets were cotton
 - at the time the fishing depended on a good frost in order that the herring could be kept frozen; and they were used for mink feed only
 - Sampier had a freezing house to the left of Camp I Dock
 - however some short time after it had begun Reg Wunderson (Shoulder Bay game warden) stopped the fishing because ~~he~~ Sampier could not keep the fish frozen - it was some time before it began again)
 - Vic Bergman returned to the area in 1949 after working on Lake Nipigon for a time
 - he had worked for Roy Maki there but the whitefish fishery had been closed because of the number of worms found in the fish
 - Roy Maki applied for a new license on Black Bay (he had previously held one at the bottom of the bay but it would freeze up too soon in the fall)

U.B. - Ken McLeod died Fall of 1979
- took a heart attack on his boat on L. Mipigon

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- the license was granted and Maki moved his boat from S. Mipigon - to
- (Mel Gessow had been fishing out of Squaw Bay for a couple of years previously)
- (Maki got on Lake Mipigon after Bruley died and was backed by Booth)
- at the time there were two fish buyers
 - ① Mipigon Bay Fish Co
 - ② Kemp (Cecil Humby)
- the bottom went out of the herring market in 1951 and R. Maki got out of the business entirely
 - he also owned a small fish company but could not take the competition from the other two
- trawling
 - Vic Bergman held the first trawling license in Black Bay
 - Sam Chevser started next after 1962 (in 1962 he went to Lake Erie to and learned the techniques)
 - A Nuttall was next, then Gordon Sampson
 - there were only 5 trawlers
 - others wanted to gear up to trawling but an OCEF meeting was held and it was decided to limit the bay to 5 trawlers

- Herring

- at the time he ~~started~~ ^{started} was fishing in Black Bay there were no herring ^{fishing} in spring or summer
- the herring are running different now previously fishermen had only been allowed a 2 1/2" mesh but now the regulations are more flexible

- in 1949-51 - 3 herring to lb.
- now 1 herring to lb.
- Fall
 - "hit bottom" at 10-12 fathoms Nov. 12-15 - ie they were spawning at this time.
 - now fishermen fish in early fall which they did not do before - however the herring are pelagic at this time and the nets were floated.
 - spawn in \approx 10 days time but this would depend alot on the weather
 - in Thunder Bay herring "hit bottom" later in the season
 - in the 1930's he fished on tugs for a short period of time and the herring went to the bottom \approx November ²⁰⁻25th. (he doesn't know where they left)
 - herring follow water temperatures
 - which side of the bay they move in on will depend alot on the current
 - storms change water level flow and herring will follow these
 - some herring live in Black Bay but U.B. does not think these are many.
 - when the lake trout went down the herring populations increased.
- HERRING SOUTH OF THUNDER BAY
 - believes the herring move northward in the fall. He first heard the idea from Grand Menais fishermen
 - he also found that they move from west to east. He would begin to ~~have~~ first have trouble with them in the pound nets in August.
 - his pound at Jarvis Bay would become polluted with them. There first were many

signs of them at Caldwell Point

- Herring net

- before nylon mesh nets were 30 meshes deep
- when fishermen started with nylon there was a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mesh limit + nets were 36 mesh deep
- experimental nets were begun that ran 60 mesh deep
- now there are no restrictions. This fact does not bother him as long as there are quotas. He agrees with the quotas and ~~he~~ knows that fishermen would fish out the lake if they were left alone. - Bob Hamilton is a good man.

- WHITEFISH

- whitefish are not fished as much in the fall.
- it is safer to fish herring - the nets seldom get ruined because they are floated
- fished in spring
 - now (June 19) they are at 2-4 fathoms
 - they will not stay here long. The whitefish are feeding
- Shunder Bay whitefish spawn end Oct to 1st part of November
 - there are only one kind - some are bigger and some are smaller. They are the same as those in Black Bay
 - Shunder Bay w.f. are greasier than those in Black Bay. Also the w.f. outside Black Bay are not as tasty as those in Black Bay.

CHUB

- * - prices are down on whitefish + chub in 1980.
- they are down on chub because of the Lake Michigan quota - 1M lb
- 1977 or 1978 was the first year chub

fishing started in West End [although fishermen had taken incidental catches long before]

- the first place of fishing was Roesport. He had been fishing for B. Schelling at the time and stayed on one more year when chub fishing began.
- no one is supposed to fish shallower than 50 fathoms for chub. He thinks this is a good idea

- BLACK BAY CHUB

- chubs are taken in the channel in 15 - 16 fathoms
- fishermen used to fish for blues - which appeared more like a member of the herring family
 - really blue on back
 - very wormy
- fishermen went after them in a big wogy with 2 1/2 in mesh for a time. but they stopped fishing them
 - 3 to a lb.

- LAKE TROUT

- Edward Island

- big spawners only - didn't see any small blacks. These were more up Mel Gerous way on the Black Bay Peninsula
- fished here in 1950 or 1951

- spawning

- Caldwell Shoal (Pt Caldwell)

- little bit earlier on shoal than at other places because of the current
- 1st part of November - didn't catch Black trout here
 - 7-8 up to 15 lbs - these trout were dark but not as dark as the blacks
- Black trout were taken past Magnet Island
 - 3 to 4 lbs.

- never got blacks in his areas

- Beaver Island - Craigie had a toy license

here before Vic Bergman began

- did not spawn in 1 to 2 fathoms, but spawned deep in moss
- these trout looked like a salmon - bright [silvery?] and not as dark on the back as the trout at Caldwell shoal
- 3rd kind - northwest shore of Victoria Island
- last to spawn in fall
- yellow-finned trout - huge trout
- 3 or 4 made up 100 lbs.
- brighter looking & not as dark
- (these days one had to cut the heads off lake trout over 7 or 8 lbs)
- according to M. Devo Black trout would come in when the leaves were turning yellow
- the area is now a sanctuary - there is no fishing toward Cloud Bay.
- North of Monk Island
- SPRING - lean trout good (he calls them leane)
- 3-5 lbs.
- only set $4\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh because there were no larger trout available
- spawning at Monk Point was a little easier than at Caldwell shoal
- there is money today in herring roe
- last year Marchand (Marshall?) sold \$17,000 worth of spawn in addition to his quota
- HISTORY
- fishermen were fishing the Cloud Bay area years before he ^{came in} started fishing ^{in 1932} - ~~Marshall~~
- U.B. had a camp at Princess Bay while other fishermen were at Cloud Bay
- the area was not fished heavily - not many fished south of Sturgeon Bay
- Exclusive Fish Market in ^{St. Wm} Shoulder Bay -
- U.B. fished on their license
- there were also Craigie Fisheries

- Booth left about 1933 - they went bankrupt
- Nicol from Rossport took them over
- + Frank Lerow took over after that
- the Royal Fish Market lasted only for 2 years
- Cec Humby began it
- Kemp Fisheries came in after Cec Humby died in 1952-53 (he was the same age as V.B.)
- Abe Kemp started it (he died at the age of 45 and was also the same age as V.B.)
- before ~~he~~ ^{Cec Humby} died he started to build a place for his fisheries
- re. Lake Nipigon
 - the original tugs ① Embobica ② Pewabic
 - the Pewabic was a two decker tug + took passengers as well.
 - Sawland was the dock in the north - here supplies were unloaded
 - two or three men died during the construction of the railway tunnel at Macdunnid ~ 1915.
 - first thing after the railway went through the government sent a man from Toronto to check on the fishing potential (ie for war supplies)
 - the govt. built a packing house at Macdunnid and retained a man there to check the fish
 - the govt. put a control on the licenses
 - all fishermen had to pay a royalty on their trout + w/f because the government looked after packing.
 - the first trout taken were the racer type or razorbacks because they were overpopulated
 - after a number of years of commercial fishing the situation changed
 - at first the fishermen used a 4 1/2" mesh to fish w.f. which did not hunt the large ~~fish~~ lake trout. Then they went

- to a 6" mesh which knocked the hell out of the trout.
- lake trout used to run in the Sturgeon River
- logging on the Sturgeon River may have hurt the lake trout.

Note. Kerth Denis died in fall of 1979

- A. E. Allin's notes are at the University
- try John Ryder 345-2121

Conversation with Alonso Nuttall, + Jimmy Nuttall (T. Chevrier present), Hurkett, June 21, 1980

- Herring

- used to fish $2\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh - then went to $2\frac{5}{8}$ " then to 3"

- now herring are up to 4 or 5 lbs each.

- years ago there was a different type of fish

- black on back (got same kind in S.B.)

- smaller - ran 3 to 4 to lb.

- one doesn't get them anymore

- also bluefins available

- green on back (name - they do not know the origin) (fine not blue - this was just a)

- they were full of cysts

- taken in fall in as little as 12 ft

(these types are "breeds", not just a factor of the mesh sizes fished.)

- fishermen never used to float their nets. Early on there was no price for herring

- in 1953-56 started fishing them and sold them to the mink ranches

- then the price went up and fishermen could

can their many ton ~~catch~~ in a month

- re trawler quotas (1964?)

- MNR were going to give the full quota to

the trawlers. Then the fisherman had a meeting and the gill net fishermen were also allotted a portion of the quota

- when the trawlers first started they could fish as many herring as they wanted. At the time herring was only \$ 30 a ton and therefore fishing was light

- when the price went up Yards + Sons figured they should set a quota

- CHUB

- fished chub for two years ^{in Black Bay}. They could take 17 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ T in 6 nets [1951 or 1950]

- chub were 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs each

- big brown ones - one doesn't get the big brown ones anymore.

- (see W. Pauluk).

- fishermen do not have to give up their block license to go and fish chub.

- PERCH - now to fish perch on the blocks one has to get a permit. Formerly only a license was required. This was the same with all species - recent permit

- permit began 4 or 3 years ago

- this spring they didn't even set nets for perch because the price was 22¢/lb.

- last year at this time the price was 95¢/lb.

- whitefish

- would take a few in the spring. These come from outside

- they were $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 lb and averaged 3 lb. each

- some also lived in the bay

- these were a little shorter, darker + fatter

- they would sport more quickly in the net

- averaged 2 to 3 lb.

- there are lots of pink salmon now. Bob Thompson

told them that they should only get them every year, but this is not right as they are getting them every year

- get lots in pd. net at the Sturgeon River.
- some lake trout would make there way right to the bottom of the bay
- see map

- W.F.

- A. Nuttall would not fish them when the price is 50-60¢/lb. He would not start until it was \$1.00
- the fishermen are not going to fish w.F in the fall when the price is low. A. Nuttall fishes w.F in the Swede - Stanton Island (and south) area in winter when the price is \$1.20/lb.

- believes market conditions would keep the fish from being fished out

- admits however if the price for herring continues to go up they will take a real beating

- SUPERIOR SHOAL

- the MVR quotas (new) are too low
- Pat Hamilton took 57 there last year (year before?) - this year he has only been allotted 2000 lb.
- not worth rigging out for it
- he has troubles - has to pay for new boat

- HISTORY

- a local history has been written (author?) ^{by Peacock unpub ms}
- Nuckle Siding was the original name
- Kate Merson used to be first fishing out here
- A. W. Nuttall was one of first to come - he used to patrol the shore as Game Warden

on the "Happy Days"

Conversation with W^m Pawluk, Dorion June 21/80

- bought license from George Watson in 1958. He fished with Watson before that & they bought the boat during the war
- the government started planting pickerel in the 1970's. They disappeared about this time
 - not allowed to fish pickerel now
- he stopped fishing saugers in 1964
- pickerel should be planted from Sturge Lake
 - they should plant eggs or small ones instead of the large ones
- HERRING - spawning late Oct and November start
 - herring don't push up to the end of the bay
- WHITEFISH
 - Black Bay whitefish stay in the bay
 - they are bigger than the outside whitefish
 - in the late 1940's he took 18 lb. fish in a 2 1/2" mesh
 - it is very unusual to get 10 lb. whitefish outside - avg weight 4 lbs
 - Black Bay avg weight more
- whitefish & pickerel move in a counter clockwise direction around the bay during the summer fishing he believes
- one year (1955) he fished chub at Granite Island. This was unusual and they never came back.
 - It was a big year for chub. With 6 nets he shipped a ton a day

- they started in September + were still there when he went fishing
- PROBLEMS
 - he has been sick for the past four years, but hopes to get out later in the season
 - he has managed to keep the license open but if they base allocation on his past four years he will not get what he deserves
 - he believes MNR should be in charge of allocation. The fishermen fight among themselves and that is not right
 - if one gets a south ward there are more fish in the nets
 - if the ward is offshore one wouldn't get fish
 - when the weather is calm one won't get fish, but perhaps this is because they are moving all about

Conversation with Jarvis Sameluk, Wild Goose Pt, June 21/80

- Herring - start fishing them November 25th
 - J.S. is going to try earlier fishing this year
 - it is the southern part of the lake around Shunder Cape where the herring are taken first,
- Jarvis Sameluk's father started in the early 1930's and J.S. took over his license
 - in 1940's one left took 50T herring once (with only one Ingham helper)
- the bottom of the Bay is good for w.S. lie, the North End
 - this year he is also going to try some

- whitefish fishing around the Shunder Bay breakwall where they are plentiful in June
- some whitefish are taken in winter just north of Carlow Island
 - CHUB - thicker around 90-90 fathoms - he only had a sounder to 80 fathoms but found them going down much farther
 - Kind - paperbellies (bloats) are mixed with the others
 - also good meaty ones mixed in with the bigger chubs.
 - LAKE TROUT
 - spawning - Pie Is
 - Sawyer B. - good
 - Hongem Bay - good
 - Claret Bay - good
 - sometimes will take pot-bellied fish after 20 fathoms. They are not fin-clipped and seemed to be native to the lake
 - not bombers
 - tried the 50 fathom hole off Claret Bay
 - never got siscowet here (sampling for MNR)
 - got chub however
 - Geo Marchand is getting lots of siscowet off Edward Is.
 - PROBLEMS
 - incidental lake trout quota too low
 - the lake trout are strong & not all fin-clipped
 - last spring 90% native were being taken (from MNR sampling)
 - herring quota in Shunder Bay should be 100 T - the same as Black Bay
 - whitefish quota should also be higher
 - Shunder Bay is whitefish ground.
 - there is no sense in even buying rigging with such a low quota

- some years he might try chub in the spring and leave the ~~low~~ whitefish alone. The fishermen are not going to fish them out
- whitefish price now low - 45¢ at Kemps' - 55¢ at Rainy Lake - selling to Rainy Lake
- the fishermen are not out now, but everyone was fishing earlier
 - when the smelt + suckers come in this discourages some fishermen from setting nets. Whitefish come in to feed. However, J.S. fishes when the W.F. are with the smelt for the fish are all marketable
 - smelts won't come in to spawn unless the ice is out
 - W.F. leave about the end of June
 - in 1980 he pulled out June 15th and the W.F. were still here. However MNR shuts off the commercial fishing at this time for the sportfisherman
- re. monthly meetings with MNR - thanks they are effective
 - the fishermen of Lake Ontario tried ^{to have} the same thing but MNR turned it down

Conversation with Ross Chesse, MNR
Nipigon, June 23/80

- took over from Dave Penney one year ago
- D. Penney now in Sagama

- QUOTAS

- 4A - w.F., lake trout, chub ✗ Proposed
- 3 - w.F., perch, lake trout ☐ On license now
 - chub on experimental
- 4B - chub, lake trout (permit)

- 4A - WHITEFISH

- fished by Pat Hamiltor, Gerous, Alpo Koskunen,
- only two blocks in zone - Koskunen & James Nuttall (Lot 55)

- Susak gave his up
- probably kept the blocks because w.F. fishing was good
- proposed

- based on M.E.I.

- Dave Penney originally calculated MEI

- ① water 750 fathom chub
 water 750 fathom others (incl w.F.)
- 2 MEI
 = production
 (lbs/acre)
- calculated a mean depth of 270 ft in area less than 50 fathom (300 ft)
 - This does not seem correct and it is not known how D.P. arrived at this

- see sheet. (40% of production is w.F. = 66,000)
- reason for 40% not known
- ② Ross Chesle did not do this. Rechecked MEI using all water in area 4A.
- arrived at higher production
- preliminary calculations show 116,000 lbs.
- ③ If you first work out MEI for whole lake and multiply it by percentage in 4A arrive at 160,000 lbs.

- allocation will be a problem in this area
- so many fishermen

- 4A - CHUB

- $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs/acre - (on basis of literature)
- allocated to fishermen on basis of lbs/share
- if fishermen ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to fish chub they had to give up their blocks
 - fishermen owning blocks can only fish on their blocks
 - these are open zone fishermen
 - chub put on main license in 1979
- 3 WHITE FISH
 - 1978 Jack (Elvin) + Randy Samper given whitefish quota
 - put on hold in 1979 + 1980
 - 1978 - Feb. - MNR held a meeting with the fishermen
 - proposed a 46,000 lb quota allocated on basis of one share (9236 lbs) per 6000 yard license
 - fishermen involved - Harold Elvin Samper + G. Humby (Hemp hold license in west end of Nipigon Bay)
 - fishermen agreed but didn't go on license
 - probably worked out by MEI
- 3 - CHUB
 - experimental licenses are given out for waters less than 50 fathoms
- 4B - all permits - chub + lake trout
 - no one is licensed
 - every year the quota is reallocated according to whoever applies for them
- 3 PERCH
 - closure of Hughes Point area cost R. Samper \$2000
 - closure of Nipigon Bay as desired by the

anglers won't go through,

- however, if the federal start to come back it will go hard on the fishermen. The Bay will be closed.
- Six Mile Bay (apart from the 1000 yd limit of not fishing near a river mouth) has no closure as R. Sampier believes
- years ago there used to be a gentlemen's agreement between the anglers and the fishermen, that there would be no commercial fishing \approx north of Vest Island from Jackpine River west to Six Mile Point (according to R. Sampier "there are no gentlemen left now")
 - the anglers fished walleye
 - when the walleye went down the anglers left and the agreement was forgotten
 - then perch fishing caught on at Hughes Pt in the 1970's.
- there is at present no angler quota - this is one of the top priorities in the Nipigon office this summer.
- HERRING - no herring quotas + none proposed
 - no one fishing herring in 3 or 4A, 4B
- re. Rossport Island closed area
 - Pat Hamilton wants Nipigon Moffatt Straits opened up again to gill nets
 - the Rossport area is closed only to gill nets
 - trap nets are permitted
- tug license - a tug must be licensed within any zone where it wants to fish - but may then fish anywhere in the zone.
- N.B. - regulations (see book 1950) re. licenses
 - changes in regulations must be approved both by head office MNR + Ottawa
 - offices can write and change anything they wish on the licenses

- 3 - Randy Sampier is just getting nicely geared up
 - Jack (Eben) Sampier does not need fishing
 - Muggin Bay is not a problem area
 - the fishermen are happy with the quotas (w.s.) - they must also have agreed to the lake-hout because it is on the license
 - MKTS for sale of fish
 - Kemp
 - Jim McCarthy's Fish Co.
 - also known as Rainy Lake Wildlife and Fish Co.
-

Conversation with Oscar Nordlander, Squaw Bay, June 22/80

- 77 years old
- Whitefish
- Welcome Islands are the best grounds
- Nuttall took 21T out of Black's sock
- also takes alot each winter at Sheesheet Bay
- this kind of fishing will deplete the lake and also drive prices down
- Chub - used to fish them in 10 fathoms (after 1955 sometime)
- ~~before they were not even in 50 fathoms like they are now~~
- had a squaw jaw - herring have a pointed jaw
- still getting HERRING with blue backs - shiny blue back
- grayback herring as well

- all herring are together - and what's the difference as long as one is getting herring
 - Kemp
 - holds 16 licenses altogether - some on inland lakes
 - he has caught them fishing on his block (L-39)
 - why do they have 60 ft reserved (and painted) at the Silver Islet government dock. - is it legal?
 - Kemp boxes up the north end of Thunder Bay with nets during its open season so others can't put theirs in
 - drives prices down on fish
 - herring quota - the fishermen were asked what they wanted. He wanted 23 ton for himself
 - Black Bay division used to be at Senners Point. then they moved the line to Sunday Bay & he didn't know about it until he got his license
 - * - one doesn't have to give up one's block to fish open water
 - a tug license can go anywhere - Dampier & Mel Lerow are fishing in Thunder Bay (not true)
 - NOTE get O.N. - history of prisoner of war camps at Neys (S.A. Mountain)
 - acetate
-

Conversation with Randy Dampier, Nipigon,
June 22 / 60

- got his license three years ago - but has been fishing since he was young - he is 5th generation Dampier (all fishermen)
- fishes all of Nipigon Bay
 - Terrace Bay to Marathon (S.A.) also included on his license
 - he fishes here in summer occasionally getting over there when he can

- fishes chub, whitefish, lake trout & perch
- (Gordon Sampier trawl fishes in Black Bay
 - Randy Sampier fishes in Black Bay with him in the fall & he does not fish Nipigon Bay at this time
- HERRING - fishermen never fished herring in Nipigon Bay (Zone 3)
- PERCH - Zone 3
 - there is a conflict with the Anglers Association
 - they want all of Nipigon Bay closed to fishing - there is a petition up in the Trading Post in Nipigon [R. Chesle said that it was begun by a new resident of only one year] - "they will do almost anything to get the fishery out" (R.D.)
 - this past year ¹⁹⁷⁹ MNR closed the Hughes Point area
 - they were not fishing perch this year because the price was too low - Lake Erie flooded the market - 1979 - 85¢/lb
 - 1980 - 25¢/lb
 - Randy Sampier's father, the first, started perch fishing in the area - 1974 or 1975 (Henry Sampier)
 - Henry Sampier died in 1977.
 - the Hughes Pt area [see map] is closed until June 30.
 - best time for perch is June
 - the Black Bay perch fishermen have not been bothered by closures because there are no anglers - there is no place for them to dock.
 - MNR has put no quota on the anglers
 - there are only two ~~two~~ fishermen (Randy & Elvin (Jack) Sampier) and many anglers.
 - the major part of the fishing is done out of Red Rock.

- MNR knows that the anglers take more fish than the commercial fishermen do. + do more damage to the popns.
- There was supposed to be a quota on perch this year but it is delayed due to the OCAF moratorium
- The Sampsons were willing to give up the perch if they were allowed 25 Ton of herring in Black Bay
 - Nipigon MNR office was for it but Shudder Bay office was against it
- Six Hill Bay is also closed because pickerel was planted in the Jackfish River - MNR said it will be permanently closed for a few years [not true see R. Chassek]
- fish a bit of perch in August
 - perch come in to spawn in June
 - July is not a good time - the suckers come in and foul the nets
 - May-June catches - 1979? - 5500 lbs
 - August - ~ 2000-3000 lbs
- fishermen had agreed not to bother where the anglers were until the end of June (north of Hughes Pt.), however, MNR closed off a much larger area.
- MNR has never talked of the perch popns being in trouble
- there has been no joint meetings with the Anglers Association
- CHUB - Zone 3
 - fished in 7 fathoms - some fishing
 - MNR does not bother them fishing in 40 fathoms or so - they just do not want the fishermen taking small lake trout

- chub are not on a quota but only permit so far
 - lake trout + wip. are on a quota
 - chub - 4A
 - first one to fish chub was Pat Hamilton in 1978 - he did so well that the others wanted to start
 - price - 1980 - 55-60¢/lb.
 - 1979 - 85¢/lb.
 - Blocks are still in effect in Nipigon Bay
 - Kemp owns a block also
 - the Long Plat Band does not do much fishing
 - Nipigon Bay was once closed (spontaneous) to commercial fishing
 - his grandfather opened it up again
 - MNR is trying to bring back the closure
 - N.B.
 - Charlie Macdonald
 - still has a license outside
 - he is at Lajuk Is - but is retiring soon
 - it is possible to phone the island
 - Leo Marchand
 - lives at Red Rock - moving to Squaw Bay
 - has picture of his great grandfather with a large lake trout
-

Conversation with Ken Maki, Thunder Bay.
 June 21/80

- in September fishermen float nets for herring
- tug licenses range very far afield
- Herring

- in June at 8-10 fathoms
- pelagic now
- Black Bay - hit bottom in Nov. into December
 - good in September & caught in floating nets
 - concentrate the fishing in all the white areas on the chart especially Copper Pt to George Pt (Squaw Bay).
- Thunder Bay
 - fished a bit later than Black Bay.
 - also spawn quicker than Black Bay herring but the length of time varies
- Chub
 - no one is fishing right now on account of the market
 - MNR should take this into consideration in their calculations
 - the fishermen should write why they are not fishing right on their green sheets
- Bill Schelling still manages the Kemp tug (Clarelee) out of Rosport
- praise for Wayne Macallum.

Conversation with Alfred Ronquist, Squaw Bay, June 22/1980

- trawlers - Black Bay
 - licensed for 100 T each
 - Hee Bouley fishes gill nets - 2 blocks 50 T each
 - in 1972 herring quota brought in
 - prior to that the trawlers took 200-250 T each each fall
- different class of herring now than used to be
 - in late 1950's started selling headless & dressed herring

- formerly the herring were bluebacks
- small
- then a larger broader fish came - fatter
- more like a chub
- all herring are dressed now
- Kemp often wants them backsplit when there is a big volume
- never find worms in them (bluefins had a lot of worms)
- seems to be lots of large ones now
- the bluefin is a different fish yet
- 1942-46 - fished bluefins in Squaw Bay
- fast spoiling fish. There was not any fat on them and they were a hard fish.
- they looked like a chub and one could only tell the difference by their back
- the back was green, not gray like the chub
- would stay in the early summer for $1\frac{1}{2}$ months
- spawned in the bay
- perhaps some of the big herring they are getting now include bluefins. Maybe all the bluefins aren't gone.
- (Robt McKay claims bluefins are not taken anymore)
- CHUB (R. McKay also talked about the kind known as "mooneyes")
- taken off Semers Point
- ⊕ grayback chub ↓
 - brown, fat - called "bloats"
 - like used to get before - one still gets the odd one
 - weigh up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
 - they were shaped like a whitefish - and

- had a mouth like the whitefish but ^{the head was} ~~was~~ broader
- in the 1940's his father (Charlie Ronquist) would start fishing chub at the end of July
- ② the chub now are more like a herring only brown in colour. They are different from the graybacks.
- C. Ronquist started fishing chubs in 1978
- the old farm brown chub spawned in the same areas as herring in the fall (this was in the years 1949 - 1952 when his father gave up fishing) - off Redd Pt.
- he figures that chub + herring interbred and this is the reason there has been a change in the herring
- the herring are now fatter + good frying whereas formerly they were lean + tougher and would not fry well ("like eating cardboard")
- he first noticed the new breed of herring about the time he got the ^{steel} tug
- from then on they also started to get bigger herring. The grayback sea chub had already disappeared by that time - before the trawlers came
- w.F. quota in Black Bay - opposed by the fishermen. It is 33,000 lbs and for a time they were going to cut it down to 30,000 lbs.
- w.F. - believes whitefish live ~~up~~ up at the head of Black Bay
- in the 1960's Grow + Bergman fished w.F. in center up to Green Bay
- they were getting lots of whitefish + pickerel right up to the end of the bay (last year maybe)
- A.R. figures that the first whitefish ~~they~~ he

would get in the spring come from out of the Bay.

- LAKE TROUT

- they are now picking up non fin-clipped lake trout

- he believes they are the progeny of the planted trout because they are lighter and the spots are not as obvious as the old natives (eg those from Batteau Rocks)

- Herring

- the trawlers used to run a much longer season years ago - up until Christmas

- now the quota is filled before the season is finished and before spawning starts

- the herring roe industry has been around for about 4 years

- MNR gave the fishermen a fair deal on the herring quota

- A.R. thinks the whitefish + perch quotas are unfair and this is the major fishermen's complaint

- also the Black Bay lake trout quotas are too low (ie volume in the Silver Silet and outside area where lake trout come)

- the month of May is good for lake trout in Black Bay but after this one may never see a lake trout in the area

- Vic Bergman used to own a place next to Nec Goulet's

- he would fish whitefish after the herring were finished. They were feeding on the herring eggs

- HERRING

- re. taking of smaller herring
- G. Nuttall gets lots of smaller ones in the ~~low~~ trawl in autumn
- gill nets - A.R. fishes $3\frac{1}{2}$ " for herring, and $2\frac{5}{8}$ " is used more in the spring
 - $3\frac{1}{4}$ " - uses 6 cord mesh and the small herring will pass through - this is probably the reason for not taking smaller ones
 - Hec Goulet still fishes small mesh nets ^{in fall} + would probably be getting smaller herring
 - She Nuttalls began using large mesh herring nets ($3\frac{3}{4}$ ") three or 4 years before G. R. Lyko began in 1978
- herring hit the bottom the last week in October
- WHITEFISH
 - first come up on shore (2 - 6 fathoms) the last week in May. Early in May nets are set in 20 fathoms and moved up onto the shore bank
 - when the whitefish come into shallow water they remain and don't leave the bay. They may move up and down a bit in the water but they don't leave the area.
 - this also happens outside Black Bay - ask ~~Man~~ Ron Gerow
 - there is lots of dirt + mass in Black Bay - This often will stop the fishermen from fishing when the weather is rough. Clogs nets

Conversation with George Tyska, Thunder Bay,
 June 18, 1980
 Died 1986 1983(4)

- WHITEFISH

- 80,000 lb. of whitefish is proposed for Shunder Bay

- Is this correct?

- it is based only on recent catches of the fishermen in recent years

- these year's catches were much less than George Syka had previously caught for a number of seasons (see below)

- movements

- May 1st the whitefish collect in the 25 fathom hole just north of Caribou Island

- then they disperse to move into shallow waters all along the shore

- they used to eat mosquitoes and now they pick up smelt spawn

- then the whitefish move to Mutton Island in July

- at one time the fish would pick up industrial phenols on the bottom - they earned the nickname "desals" as a result of their taste

- later in September at Melancon Point one would pick up phenol-tasting fish

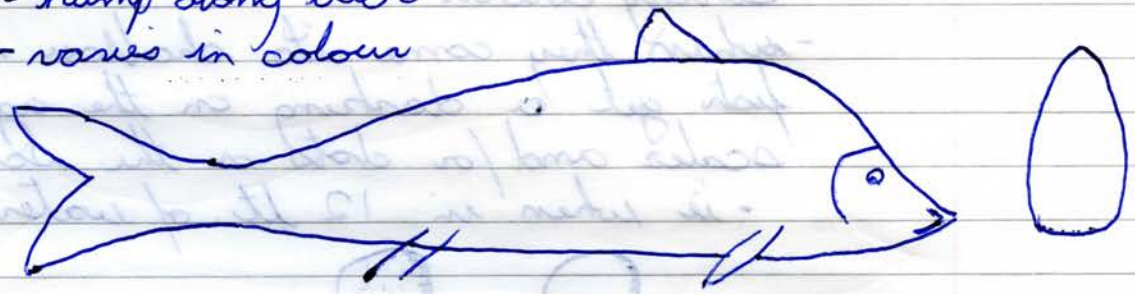
- by later October these fish were back north of Caribou Island for spawning

- season Oct 20-30 - usually finished by Nov. 1.

- one year after the whitefish had finished spawning G.T. set in 20 fathoms south of Caribou Island and caught many up.

- he therefore assumes that whitefish move out by Caribou Island into deep water after spawning

- kinds (see map)
- ① - hump along back
- varies in colour



- ② - smaller head
- rounder



- orange fins
- can be same size as ~~one~~ ①

- ③ - smaller fish with pointed tail



- darker body
- dark fins



- at Kay's end there was also found a long + thin variety - it went through 4 1/2 inch mesh fairly easily

- avg - 3 lb.

- re. whitefish scales
 - when in deep water the fish is a silvery colour
 - when they come into shallow water some fish get a darkening on the age of the scales and/or dots on the scales
 - ie when in 12 ft. of water



- also whitefish on brown sand will look brown & those on rocks will look (paler?)
- re. Lake trout incidentals with the whitefish
 - it is hard to stay away from the lake trout and a 935 lb incidental quota on each fishermen is unreasonable
 - MNR is loading the end of the bay with planted lake trout - planted right off George Syka's dock
 - Spring is the worst problem - time for taking fake trout in his area
 - in the fall north of Caribou Island
 - 7-11 trout ^{only} would be taken in up to 14 boxes of lake trout

- HERRING

- the last four or five years his catch has been low because the ice has been late out and he could not get to his grounds
- Caribou Island holds in the ice in spring and it is heavy on his block - he could not get to the grounds as soon as other fishermen in Shudder Bay could
- this affects his allocated quota and has nothing to do with the fish abundance

Leo Arvelin + Arvo Karkainen drowned
2 years ago - Squaw Bay 45

- His grounds are excellent for herring in early spring
- in allocating the quotas MNR should look at his past years when the fish were abundant in the spring.
 - the reason he could not catch fish does not show in the C.U.E. and does not reflect the fish there - eg two years ago the ice was 42 inches thick and therefore he didn't get sprung w.S.
 - the younger fishermen are fishing like hell and it is to their benefit
 - the proposed allocation encourages overfishing
 - there used to be 12 boats in the North End 20 years ago, and now there are only 3.
 - what is the panic? Why is MNR so worried about quotas
 - ~~overfishing~~ spawning
 - 1979 - herring were fished in the North End until Dec 10th when spawning was finished
 - Kemp was still getting a couple of tons on Dec. 10th at Welcome Islands
 - Bob Hamilton will tell you that there are November herring and December herring in Black Shunder Bay but this is not true. They are all the same kind of herring.
 - the proposed herring quota in Shunder Bay is only $\frac{1}{3}$ of that in Black Bay
 - Shunder Bay has the same area approximately
 - herring do not inhabit Shunder Bay in the summer
 - they do inhabit portions of Black Bay
 - (what about w.F? Does not know)
 - G.T. has taken 25% of the fish (18,000 allocation of 80,000 quota)

- 80% at least 25% of the samples must have come from him - not everyone sampled.
- + some have not been in the fisheries long
- 80% the quotas may be based on his poor years of fishing

- CHUB

- they used to be ~~at~~ chub around Carlow Island
- they were pretty well all around the 20 fathom line
- he used to fish for them 20 years ago but now, of course, fishing is prohibited in shallow water

- re. QUOTA change announcements (from M.N.R.)

- Sept 24, 1977 letter sent by Association of Comm. Fishermen of Shunder Bay
- this is the first anyone heard of it
- then several meetings with the fishermen
- fishermen do not want quota determinations based solely on the CF-1's.

Conversation with Bill Schelling, Rossport, June 2nd 1980

- Pays Plat Indian band have already caught 1000 lbs. on their quota
- WHITEFISH - Nipigon Bay
- spawning dates depends on water temperature
- from end October to or beginning of November starts - for three weeks or after one month
- if one gets a blow the whitefish to not

stay in the Bay

- Nepean Bay whitefish are smaller than those outside

- the whitefish stay in the bay but will move out onto Nepean Straits to Moss Island and into Moffat Strait

- avg wt - 3 lbs.

- bigger ones taken in fall

- outside avg - bigger class - 4-5 lbs avg.

- they are not fatter however

- whitefish spawn in Moffat Strait

- whitefish have been caught here since Rosport began and they have never been any trouble with them

- trout and whitefish are coming in right now

- they generally come in June 20-25

- the Indians say the whitefish are coming inshore right now (Pays Plat)

- CHUB

- the grounds are from here to Nepean Bay

- they have been fished for 5 years or more

- Kemp was the first in the area

- chub fishing has changed the fishing patterns

- fishermen are fishing chub instead of fishing other species - then MNR thinks the other species are in trouble

- HERRING

- Bluefing were like small whitefish

- now the herring are getting big - there are not as many big ones in this area as down in Port Coldwell.

- PERCH - in Marokamah Bay (good ground) and Five Hill Bay

- once the pulp wood rafting was discontinued in Mazokamah Bay the perch seemed to decline a bit
- the pulp wood seemed to attract the fish
- PICKEREL - the pickerel won't come back again
- the pollution is still coming from Red Rock and there is no vegetation left on the bottom in which they may live
- pickerel used to thrive on the pulp wood material in Nipigon River
- gone more than 6 years (?)
- Superior Shoal had a different kind of trout with a bad taste
- WHITEFISH
 - Jackfish has big whitefish (6 or 7 lbs). She Clare Lee is fishing there this year.
 - why but quotas on whitefish. She lamprey are taking ~~from~~ them all (scavenging is heavy in the area this year).
 - Nutall fished whitefish in winter last year in Montreal Channell (Lasher Is + Spain Island area)

Conversation with Olof Kukko, Camp Bay,
June 26, 1980

- poor fishing this year
- has only taken 500 lb. of herring so far
- the herring are behaving differently this year and are very down
- is this due to the weather?
- Could it be due to the ice breaker breaking up the ice in Black Bay?

- a northeast wind changes the currents in Black Bay
- herring tend to move out if they feed against the current.
- on the other hand a north east wind will bring in whitefish along Easter Point
- O.K. theorizes that this year there has been much N.W. wind. That would mean the herring are moving up into the bay.
- Mac Goulet should be getting them when O.K. is not. Last year when O.K. started to get herring H.G. was not
- O.K. is taking many less herring this year using the same nets on the same days

- WHITEFISH

- fished in June with corks out
- these are pound net ~~bagged~~ whitefish and will lead along a net. One has to put a bend in the net or ~~all~~ they will not be caught
- CHUB there was a chub fishery here before
- these chub looked like herring but were different
- thinks that they spawned in summer
- usually they were caught in 3" or 2 7/8" mesh
- the odd one would be taken in 4 1/2" mesh when alot were around.
- this spring he caught one scowet in 1 1/2 fathoms at Big Findley Point
- problem - fishermen holding more than one license will catch fish in one area and put it on another license

Conversation with Harvey Charlie, MA. McKay
Indian Reserve, June 24/80

- there are five commercial fishermen on the Band licence
 - the proposed quotas were approximately 10T of whitefish and 75 to 85 ton of herring
 - L. Trout quota - 3265 lbs
 - when five are fishing on the licence one can't save it up until one wishes or the others will use up your share
 - the quotas are insufficient to make a living on
 - others may throw in nets for local consumption but many fish are taken (they don't even catch 50 lbs for themselves)
 - Harvey Charlie will ask MNR if he can get a licence to fish a bit in the Cloud Bay - Jarvis Bay area (now closed)
 - this area is better in July for lake trout and whitefish

- WHITEFISH

- most are taken in the fall - October
 - he would take 5T^(total) each year himself
 - also come inshore about the 1st week in May
 - a first run comes at this time and leaves after a month
 - right now a second run is in for about one week to 10 days
 - these whitefish are a little bigger
 - spawning occurs Oct 20th to the end of the month

- HERRING

- spawning is late here - November 20th
 - they always seem to hit the bottom in a big wind

- he would take about 16 T each year
 - he doesn't find that the fishing has changed in the past ten years - used then only 8 nets (300 ft each)
 - the Band also catches pike
 - after fishing will be discontinued in summer
 - one reason is that the band has no building in which to clean the fish + no ice house - they have been trying to get some money to expand a bit
 - he is having trouble with fish being stolen from his nets this year
 - MNR doesn't patrol and state that this is ~~the~~^a problem for the police
 - cottagers?
 - last year was the first year that the fishermen tried ice fishing
 - quite a lot of herring were taken in 30 to 40 ft of water
 - the ice breakers turn in the Pie Island area and cause worry over weakened ice conditions
 - re winds
 - a Northeast wind keeps the fishermen from going out but probably does not affect the fish
-

Conversation with Pat Hamilton, Dorion, June 25, 1980

- QUOTAS
 - his license in 1980 for Batteau Rocks is 880 lbs
 - there are too many licenses for the Rocks
 - chub quota in 4A is too low
 - there are too many fishermen taking out

- licenses and not fishing
- the price on chub is low - 45¢/lb.
- chub in 5B - there are too many Eastern fishermen fishing there
- his quota on lake trout at Superior Shoal was cut down
- the Moffat Straits were closed because of Charlie Macdonald's license - he owned a block in the Straits. Wishing to keep others off it, and give it up he allowed the closed area to include his block
- P.A. wishes it to be opened for gill netting (now only trap nets are permitted)
 - it could be fished in the fall when no anglers were there
 - there are now lots of large whitefish in Moffath Straits - 8 to 10 lbs.
- Prices - perch - 22¢/lb } very low
 - whitefish - 45¢/lb
- all winter whitefish in the round brought \$1.70
- last fall herring was 32¢/lb
- it is due to too many fish coming from Lake Michigan and Lake Erie
 - perch ^{from} Lake Erie are still sitting in the freezers and so will keep the price down until they have gone
 - Lake Michigan was opened for chub fishing
- Pat Hamilton's Quota Reductions

1977	- 60,000 lbs chub	- 4A	}	5B.
1980	- 24,550 lbs. chub	- 4A		
1978	- 40,686 lbs chub			
1979	- 67,833 lb chub			
	- 5000 trout extended to 7,500			
1980	- 27,450 lbs chub			

- 2000 Trout

- Expenses - Profit (at 1977 prices w.f. 40¢/lb, chub 45¢/lb)	
5 ton whitefish @ 40¢/lb.	4000.00
8 ton chub (4A) @ 45¢/lb.	7200.00
10 ton chub (5B) @ 45¢/lb.	9000.00
	<u>total catch 20,200.00</u>
Crew - (share) 40%	8,080.00
Fuel	2,500.00
Boat payments (600.00/month)	7,200.00
Fuel + depreciation for truck hauling fish	4,500.00
Depreciation on nets + equipment	1,000.00
	<u>Total 23,280.00</u>
	<u>Total Loss \$3,080.00</u>

- bought his license in 1977 - it had not been fished much by Gordon Sampier before that
 ∴ his allocation is too low.

- CHUB

- early in spring at 40 fathoms
- in summer at 60-80 fathoms

- WHITEFISH

- whitefish come in in fall and stay all winter
- they come in the end of September until May 1st.
- spend the winter at anything below 10 fathoms to 25 fathoms
- in summer at 35 fathoms
- spawn in 15 ft.
- breeds

- Black Bay whitefish are shorter and fatter and more like the Shunder Bay whitefish

- along the lake (i.e. in the Shour Island area where he fishes) whitefish average 2½ lbs
- in Amour Harbour in spring whitefish run 10 to 12 lbs

-HERRING

① green backs

- very green back
- taken in whitefish nets in fall
- in spring in 7-10 fathoms - in Bowman Bay (Bowman Island)

- remain for two weeks and then leave.

These fish come in to feed on insects

- very shiny fish

- also found in Blind Channell and Jimmy Nutall got some at Sheeshee Bay

- average 43 / 100 lbs.

② browner backed herring

- smaller

- mixed in with others

- spawn in Black Bay - Jack and Norm Cherwin would take them

- one never sees them up in the Shoor Island area

③ when you fish for chub you get a different kind again

- LAKE TROUT

- Superior Shoal trout brought the same price as other lake trout - 80¢ / lb

- these fish are not as fat as those taken along the shore.

- racers were known as "Steamboat chasers" - some are present - not alot

- the big shoal on the north is the best for lake trout (teams)

- many lake trout are taken in whitefish nets

- the lake trout are getting bigger

Conversation with Horne Townes, MNR Nipigon.
June 25, 1980

- the lake trout quotas zones are based on A. Laurus original numbers.
 - in 1973 L.T. and Art Martin (Fisheries manager, Thunder Bay) redrew some of the quota zones
 - the new quotas were determined from the old, corrected for changed areas.
- it was found that the block system was generally unenforceable, and it was hoped to phase it out.
 - fishermen were given the option of fishing in their block, or giving it up and fishing open waters
- re. lake trout incidental
 - the licenses state that one cannot fish whitefish with less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh and that one can't use $4\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh after the lake trout quota is filled
 - in 4A the whitefish fishermen never expressed concern over their incidental lake trout quotas
- fishermen who had historically fished in two zones were licensed in both
- PICKEREL
 - decline in Nipigon Bay - D.D.T spraying of the forests (insecticide) may have been a factor in their decline L.T. believes
 - D.D.T was not banned until \approx 1969
 - he believes this because pickerel stopped spawning a while before the population crashed and they disappeared (spraying was carried out north of the area & washed into the Nipigon River)

- the decline of the pickerel in Black Bay however was erratic and (strongly fluctuating year classes) and clearly showed the effects of overfishing
 - re. HERRING COLOUR - it is important in marketing
 - Nipigon Bay - fishing for herring + cisco
 - 3 years ago experimental permits were started - 0 - 50 fathoms
 - L.T. phoned Dave Penny re. M.E.I. - does not remember exact procedure for calculation although he was always fairly careful in his work
-

Conversation with Jim Chappell, MNR Terrace Bay, June 25/80

- ZONE SA + SB - LAKE TROUT
- lake trout quotas are only in effect right now.
 - SB - 20,000 lb. - divided equally
 - SA - 6400 - share by 6000 yd license
- fishermen - Ivan Johnson, Randy Sampier, George Humby, Pic River Band (Heron Bay)
- ZONE SB - CHUB
- 13 fishermen - both East and West End fishermen are licensed here.
 - the West End fishermen complain about the presence of the East Enders
- East - West limit
 - 1978 - the statistical division (SA?) the statistical division was at Sewell Point. Prior to 1978 there was however a tradition that East Enders could go as far as the Pic R. In 1978 the line

- ... was officially moved to the Pic River
- QUOTAS
 - lake trout
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb / acre
 - he does not know how the total quota was calculated. So what depth? 100 fathoms? 50 fathoms? Was all the zone area considered?
 - chub
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb / acre
 - Ross Chessel worked out the quota zones for the Terrace Bay area district
 - for years there were seasonal quotas on lake trout but these proved a disaster
 - the markets were too easily manipulated against the fishermen
 - Superior Shoal - is included in 5B
 - the quota was divided equally among all fishermen
 - the fishermen seldom hit their 20,000 lb quota
 - lake trout quotas have been around for 15-20 years.
 - Wayne Macallum is working on a map of over 20 quota zones
 - the fishermen will not tolerate many more changes.
 - Nipigon Bay is divided between Nipigon + Terrace Bay Districts
 - the line was drawn in 1973 when Lands and Forests was reorganized to create the Ministry of Natural Resources
 - the Rossport Islands area has been closed since 1976, but all this area is open to trap nets
 - J.C. knows of no major complaints from the fishermen in his district

Conversation with Hector Goulet, Johnson's
Landing, June 2nd, 1980

- WHITEFISH.

- fished very little for them in 1976 + 1977.
- fished a little for them in the past

- PERCH

- fished for them last year only.
- allotted 4000 lb. on 2 licenses (proposed)
- this year the price is too low for them

- HERRING

- price - 1979 - 35¢ dressed
- 1980 - 30¢ dressed
- there is a better market for herring now
- one has to left whitefish every day if they are to be sold in good condition
- herring HG lefts every one or two nights
- w/for setting herring are backsplit
- 6-14 fathoms are fished all season for herring
- varieties
 - ① blue-fin - up to 3 lbs.
 - ② regular herring - 3 lbs - ? lb.
- 100 Ton of herring dress to 66 T (backsplit)
- trawlers sell their herring in the sound and they are processed in the States - 15¢/lb.
- there is more money to be made by the small fisherman if they sell theirs dressed
 - 28¢/lb.
 - it costs approx 3¢/lb. to pay someone to dress them

- CHUB

- price - 1979 - 85¢/lb.
- 1980 - 50¢/lb.

- Hemp didn't put their boat out this year to fish herring because of the low price
- Chub are taken in 45 fathoms + more
- when he ^{first} fished chub they were big + fat
 - 2 to 3 to the lb.
 - chub became intermixed with the herring
 - now the chubs caught are "bloats" or "papabellies"
 - 4 to 5 to lb.
 - chubs used to be brown-backs
 - short stubby head. These were the regular kind
 - ? they were a little smaller although some were up to 1 1/2 lbs
 - now what are known as chubs or bloats
- SUCKERS - have to be sold dressed. They lose 50% of their weight when head + guts are removed.
- re - Blocks
 - in Black Bay the fishermen chose not to give up their grounds
 - Hec Goulet has lot 47
 - kept his block for 30 or 40 years
 - it is very good whitefish ground. Alf Ronquist is fishing it now because HG has been fishing whitefish + not herring
 - fishermen in Black Bay will fish on others grounds with mutual agreement
 - the fishermen here have always cooperated and worked together
 - the new allocation scheme could destroy some of this cooperation. Fishermen fishing on another's ground will list the fish as having been from his own in order that his personal quota would be larger.
 - why should a fisherman be penalized

because another fisherman is fishing whitefish on his grounds

- LAKE TROUT

- H.G. could have had 1500 lbs of lake trout ~~quota~~ but he does not fish many of them so he gave 500 lbs to Ingvis & Ronquist. These men can move farther afield to fish.
-

Conversation with Bob Hamilton, MNR Thunder Bay, June 20/1980

- LAKE TROUT

- the original quotas were determined in the 1950's based on the number of ^{samples} ~~quotas~~ needed by Andy Laurie & how many were needed by the original sampling scheme was involved a joint agreement between the United States and Canada

- quotas were worked out by poundage and by numbers

- open quotas by zones were not working. Six quota seasons ago the fishermen requested individual quotas

- ZONE I - THUNDER BAY

-- total quota 18,200 lb - divided among the fishermen at 934 lbs dressed / 6000 yd license

- most fishermen do not care about catching lake trout because it is not profitable

However once their lake trout quota is taken they must stop fishing whitefish

- worried that lake trout quotas may become a limiting factor on their W.S. fishing

- B.H will allow a good whitefish fisherman who has gone over his limit a bit additional, so he would not be forced out of business
- HERRING - Black Bay
 - now \$550,000 lbs (recently increased by 50,000 lbs)
 - quota was instituted 1972 - prior to this about 5M lbs were taken
 - the quota was started because the populations appeared to be in trouble - growth rates had accelerated and CUE's fluctuated
 - it has taken from 1972 until 1979 for the CUE's to flatten out
 - recent changes in seasonal fishing patterns have been to the benefit of the herring stocks
 - fishermen used to take 80 to 90% of the catch during three weeks in November
 - now they are taking only 50% in November and the harvest is spread over other seasons
 - this is generally due to market values
 - little fishing in spring - September to March is the season with the main part in October & November
 - if the quota had been set down to reflect the period when the stocks were low fishermen would not be complaining now - it could have been raised gradually rather than existing at an already high level
 - there is a fear among the fishermen that once a quota is set it will not be changed. Re the Black Bay quota, however, there was no reason for changing it
- HERRING - Thunder Bay
 - main fishing is in December

- there is no quota here as yet
- MNR is trying to get the fishermen to come up with ideas. The fishery is growing tremendously and a quota is needed
- the fishermen (G Humby, G Tyska) wished the bay area to be broken into four separate quota zones.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Caribou Is. (North End) | According to the CF-1's analyzed by B. Hamilton:
CUE - 2nd |
| ② Welcome Is. | CUE - best |
| ③ Indian grounds | CUE - 3rd |
| ④ Outer area - Shunder Cape outside of Pie Island | CUE - fluctuates |

- the 5' grids correspond to these areas quite well

- B.H. thinks this is a good idea and has been looking at the CF-1's according to these four areas.

- best fishing - Black Bay Nov. 8-10
Shunder Bay Dec 3

- CHUB

- determined on the basis of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb/acre for all waters between 50 + 100 fathoms
- chub are fished in all water over 50 fathoms
- Thunder Bay (based on literature)
 - 20,000 lb. - according to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb/acre the quota should only be 14,200 lb. but B. Hamilton knew there should be more chub than that without checking
- Humby, Sameluk + Nordlander are fishing chub this year
- the fishermen presented the argument to B.H. that chub production should also come from waters below 100 fathoms which was not taken into account

- B.H. agreed + added an additional experimental 25,000 lbs. on the condition that the fishermen must fill out the green sheets and fill this expt quota on new grounds.
- most of the chub were being taken out of grid location 520 in south of Shunder Cape
- the fishermen were quite willing

- WHITEFISH

- Thunder Bay

- according to fishermen there are in the north end two different stocks + these are also different from the ones the Indians fish. B.H. believes this.
- re. Welcome Islands - B.H. does not know if there is another stock here or a mixing of stocks from the north or south
- whitefish move from the south along the east and west shores. There are spawning grounds along the way, and probably a mixing of stocks in the north end of the bay
- he would consider analyzing Thunder Bay whitefish according to the four zones proposed by the fishermen for herring

- Black Bay

- 32,000 lbs, 3000 experimental
- re 4A + 4B - see Nipigon office
- the whitefish fishery in 4A only really developed in the past 4 years and there are no clear ideas for assessing quotas
- the Cloud Bay area was closed in the early 1950's to commercial fishing
- it is unlikely that a gill net fishery would even be allowed now because of the number of cottagers + sportsmen

- it might support a limited no. of trap nets which would add to the quota.
- CF-1's
 - Bob Hamilton has worked manually back through them for a number of years (not using System 2000 in Toronto)
 - he had a student doing some work on them
 - he has also looked at the 1948 CF-1's
 - ~~see~~ request a summary.

Conversation with Wayne Macallum, ^{MNR Thunder} ~~Thunder~~ Bay; June 26, 1980

- WHITEFISH

- assume that they first spawn at 4 years
- based on those seen on spawning beds
- gill net selectivity corrections should be made on the data
 - W.M. has based his on the data presented in the Regier and Robson paper
 - one determines a corrected length-frequency distribution and from this produces a new age frequency distribution
 - one can thereby get a better idea of mortality rates.

- QUOTAS

- Bob Hamilton has looked at CUE's for recent years in order to determine quotas
 - the CUE for Black Bay was going down
 - the baseline years 1915 to 1940 were examined in order to assess yield, but this was concluded to be an unsatisfactory method and not used in determining the quotas

- COMPUTER

- to avoid erasing any data copy it over onto your own disc file

- BLACK BAY HERRING

- 1½ M lbs - in place since 1967
 - 5 Trawlers each at 100 T - Gerow, G Sampier, Chevrier, Nutall, Yves Marchand
 - Hec Goulet holds a 100 T gill net license
 - quotas apply to the Indian grounds if the Indians are fishing on a license - to sell they must hold a commercial fishing license
 - fishermen are upset at the whitefish quota in the Nipigon Bay area (both zones 3 and 4A)
 - fishermen believe these are too low, although the proposed quotas are higher than any catches of recent years.
-

Conversation with W. Macallum, June 19/80.

- floating herring nets have ~~not~~ been fished in earnest only in the past couple of years
 - Hec Goulet has done it for years.
 - these have changed the pattern of fishing
- pound nets
 - not many - Mel Gerow uses them occasionally + intermittently (has one set now)
 - Jimmy Nuttall sets some
 - Pauluk had traps at one time
 - Sammeluk sets a few trap nets (supplied for ^{expt purposes} ~~sampling~~ by Bill Sammeluk)
- HERRING
 - the west end fish have been traditionally smaller than East end fish
 - legally the mesh size is 3½" limit

- this is not really enforced
 - N.B. all mesh sizes in the computer are in millimeters
 - herring meshes began at $2\frac{1}{2}$ ($2\frac{5}{8}$) and increased in size
 - when correcting for net selectivity redo the age distributions
-

Conversation with Al Elsey, Thunder Bay MNR,
June 19/80

- fish populations are a common property resource and must be managed as such
- the district office will tend to play it on the safe side when assigning quotas
- CHUBS
 - the old laws (date?) required the fishermen to fish chubs in shallow waters
 - ~~when~~ chubs have just recently hit the market and this has changed the patterns of fishing
 - there is no market for chubs this year and the fishermen are pulling out their nets
- HERRING
 - when A.E. first came in 1963 the fishermen were just choking herring in gill nets
 - Sam Cheverie went to Lake Erie to study trawling
 - up to that time the maximum catch was 1.3 M lb. when the trawls came in over 2 M lb. were taken
 - the rate of herring growth changed
 - Rabner + Elsey felt the quota should be 1.3 M lb.

- the quota was put up to 1.5 M ll
- AE's contention
 - the fishery has been stable since that time
 - 1.5 M seems to be the right quota

Appointments.

wed. Even graft. - 9 AM Mel Gerow (phone Tues
to confirm)

after 2 Sat or Sun A Ronquist

Phone Conversation with B Hamilton, July 16 /80
T.B to T.O.

- meeting with Fishermen Aug 28 1:30 Bd. 2A
in MNR offices
- Quotas
 - all lake trout quotas in dressed weight
 - a perch quota for Black Bay has been proposed but not decided on yet because the fishery is the new.
 - it will be in excess of 100,000 lb
- no chub quota is proposed for Black Bay because it has no waters greater than 50 fathoms
- only 1 fisherman taking chub (A. Ronquist) and he only takes a ton or so - a few others take incidental catches
- the MNR (Toronto) figures for 1978 and 1979 are confusing chub taken by Black Bay fishermen in outside waters with those from the zone. 2.
- Harvest - Herring

Zone 1 - 1979	610,622 lb
Zone 2 - 1979	1,466,773 lb.

- are there any sources of data apart from those collected by MNR - federal?
 - university?
- calculate length-weight equations - useful in stock comparison (Patriarche 1977)
- ✓ - what are the powers of each district office in setting quotas
 - how are quotas determined
- ✓ - how are w.f, chub & herring defined for quota purposes
 - Dr. A.E. Allin
- all correspondence between Fishermen & MNR relating to quotas
 - map of quota areas
- ✓ - what is Bob Hamilton's, Al Elzey's position

-
- what quotas are the fishermen upset about
 - how are the w.f quotas going to be determined
 - what is the current B.B. herring quota
 - what will be the I.B., Nipigon, etc quota

-
- when did trawler quotas come into being in Black Bay
 - which were the big herring years? chub years

MNR Spring 1979 - A Proposal for the development of Management Plan for Lake Superior Fisheries Draft

- why was 40% allocated to w.f

SunCon
~~SunCon~~
16th Floor
20 Eglinton W.

Thunder Bay Amethyst
Mining Co.
178 Margaret

The Agate Shop
RRX 11 John St Rd., R.R.

Wawa - Rocks + Rocke Shops

Swendigger Mining

Rehabilitation Industries
899 Ft Wm Rd, T.B.

T.B. Amethyst - E. shore of Elbow L
Mine - 4.5 mi. north of
Highway 19
- McTavish Twp

Dorion Amethyst Mine - Dorion
Loon Lake.

Moyses Quarry - Rd * 5

Pass Lake - Mr. N. Dezube,
ST