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Herring Landings by Types of Gear  
in the Bay of Fundy Region 1963-66

by

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Since 1963 the St. Andrews Station of the Fisheries Research Board in cooperation with the Economics Branch of the Department of Fisheries and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has been collecting records of herring landings by types of gear in an attempt to evaluate the changes that were occurring in the fishery of the Bay of Fundy region.

Prior to the beginning of the present decade, the Bay of Fundy herring fishery was prosecuted chiefly by weirs (including traps). Purse seines were used to some extent during the winter months, but the total annual catch was less than one third the weir catch. Beginning about 1960 purse seines became more popular and in 1964 the purse seine catch exceeded the weir catch for the first time. In 1966 the purse seine catch was more than three times the weir catch.

Table I gives the monthly landings by types of gear for the last four years for which statistics are available. Figure 1 gives the percentage monthly landings by the three main types of gear. The proportions in the figure are averages for the 1963 to 1966 period. There is a very obvious and dramatic change in the nature of the fishery in May when most of the catch is taken by weirs. Weirs become progressively less important as the season advances and by the end of October most of them have been deactivated. Gill-nets are relatively unimportant in the Bay of Fundy region, but are used to some extent to supply a restricted food market in the Nova Scotia area.

Table I. Herring landings in the Bay of Fundy (Division 4X) by months and by types of gear 1963-1966  
'000 lbs

Months	1963				1964				1965				1966			
	Total landings	Total landed	Landings by types of gear		Total landings	Total landed	Landings by types of gear		Total landings	Total landed	Landings by types of gear		Total landings	Total landed	Landings by types of gear	
			Seines	Hill-ets Weirs			Seines	Hill-ets Weirs			Seines	Hill-ets Weirs			Seines	Hill-ets Weirs
Jan.	2,562	2,338	2,289	47	4,705	4,706	4,706	-	4,706	4,706	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb.	3,740	2,737	2,720	17	5,537	5,537	5,537	-	5,537	5,537	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar.	257	257	236	21	1,561	1,305	1,270	-	1,561	1,305	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr.	356	356	20	343	212	190	-	-	212	190	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	2,201	1,122	450	303	2,406	2,375	-	-	2,406	2,375	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	12,951	12,014	517	189	23,386	23,356	2,882	-	23,386	23,356	2,882	-	-	-	-	-
July	35,112	33,050	2,751	2,241	43,320	42,525	13,743	-	43,320	42,525	13,743	-	-	-	-	-
Aug.	26,572	26,388	10,425	77	44,473	44,357	13,343	-	44,473	44,357	13,343	-	-	-	-	-
Sept.	25,111	24,143	13,373	709	24,547	24,531	13,333	-	24,547	24,531	13,333	-	-	-	-	-
Oct.	13,550	19,645	11,215	3	19,452	19,323	13,333	-	19,452	19,323	13,333	-	-	-	-	-
Nov.	1,507	1,507	1,191	316	3,322	2,272	3,339	-	3,322	2,272	3,339	-	-	-	-	-
Dec.	1,036	1,239	1,723	253	3,367	5,347	5,347	-	3,367	5,347	5,347	-	-	-	-	-
Total	126,112	126,844	42,716	73,971	164,789	163,327	92,530	-	164,789	163,327	92,530	-	-	-	2,564	87,733
Jan.	6,633	6,342	6,647	-	608	808	808	-	608	808	808	-	-	-	-	-
Feb.	3,456	3,456	3,456	-	270	270	270	-	270	270	270	-	-	-	-	-
Mar.	9,221	2,221	3,284	13	9,342	9,342	9,342	-	9,342	9,342	9,342	-	-	-	-	-
Apr.	1,091	1,097	336	751	14,189	14,184	14,184	-	14,189	14,184	14,184	-	-	-	-	-
May	5,368	5,247	364	564	8,707	8,586	1,670	-	8,707	8,586	1,670	-	-	-	-	-
June	26,757	26,332	6,621	5,743	45,447	45,383	22,342	-	45,447	45,383	22,342	-	-	-	-	-
July	65,070	42,147	15,318	26,354	90,705	90,501	59,345	-	90,705	90,501	59,345	-	-	-	-	-
Aug.	60,293	60,221	34,267	25,055	115,373	115,255	74,711	-	115,373	115,255	74,711	-	-	-	-	-
Sept.	50,910	50,910	35,357	15,004	74,251	74,235	47,059	-	74,251	74,235	47,059	-	-	-	-	-
Oct.	17,012	17,012	13,247	3,705	23,071	23,059	17,222	-	23,071	23,059	17,222	-	-	-	-	-
Nov.	4,343	4,343	4,726	122	8,182	8,064	7,222	-	8,182	8,064	7,222	-	-	-	-	-
Dec.	4,141	4,141	4,141	-	11,984	11,874	11,874	-	11,984	11,874	11,874	-	-	-	-	-
Total	255,425	232,272	133,536	26,346	402,349	401,784	304,161	-	402,349	401,784	304,161	-	-	-	2,141	95,482

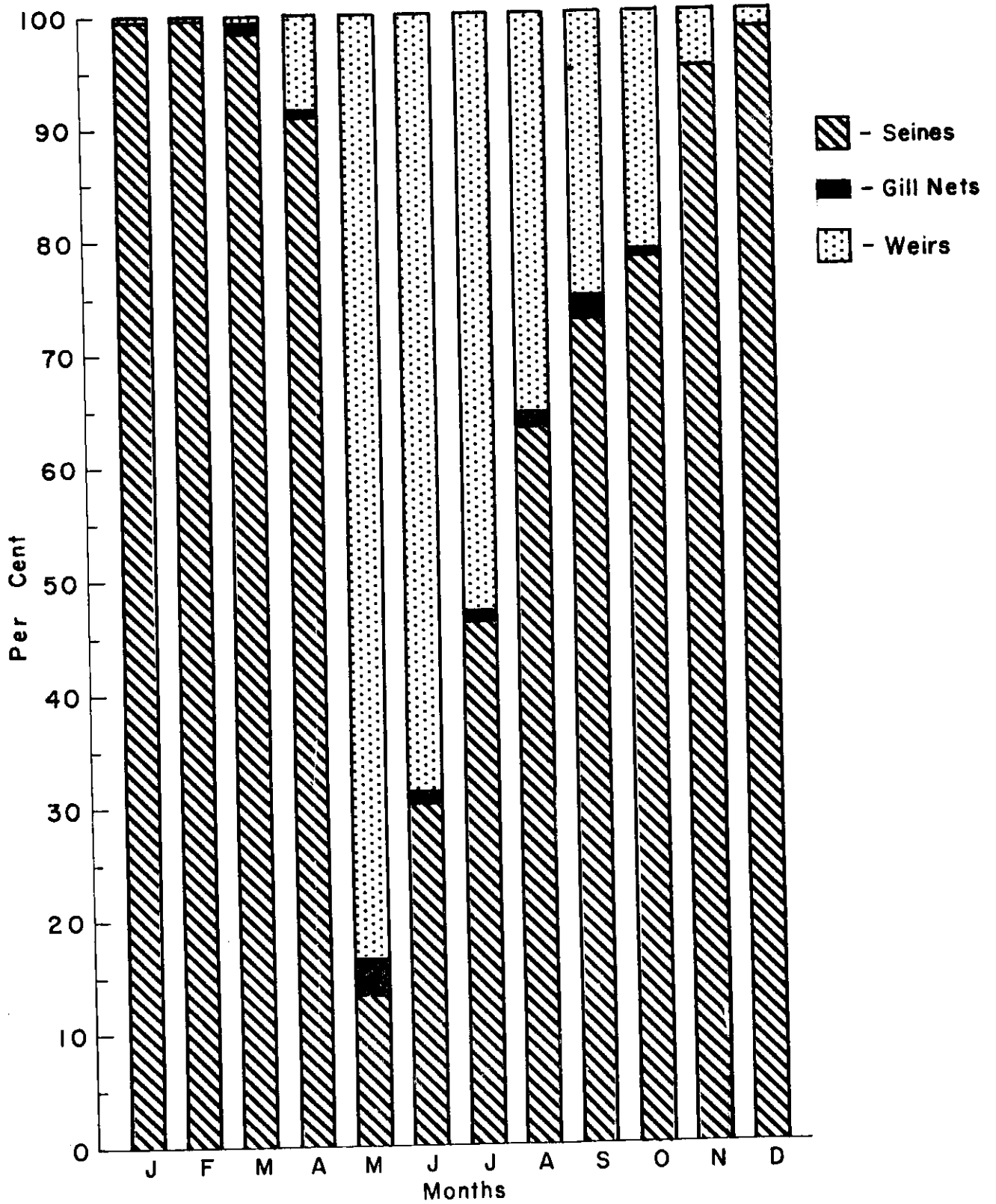


Fig. 1. Average proportions of herring landings by months and types of gear in the Bay of Fundy region 1963-66.