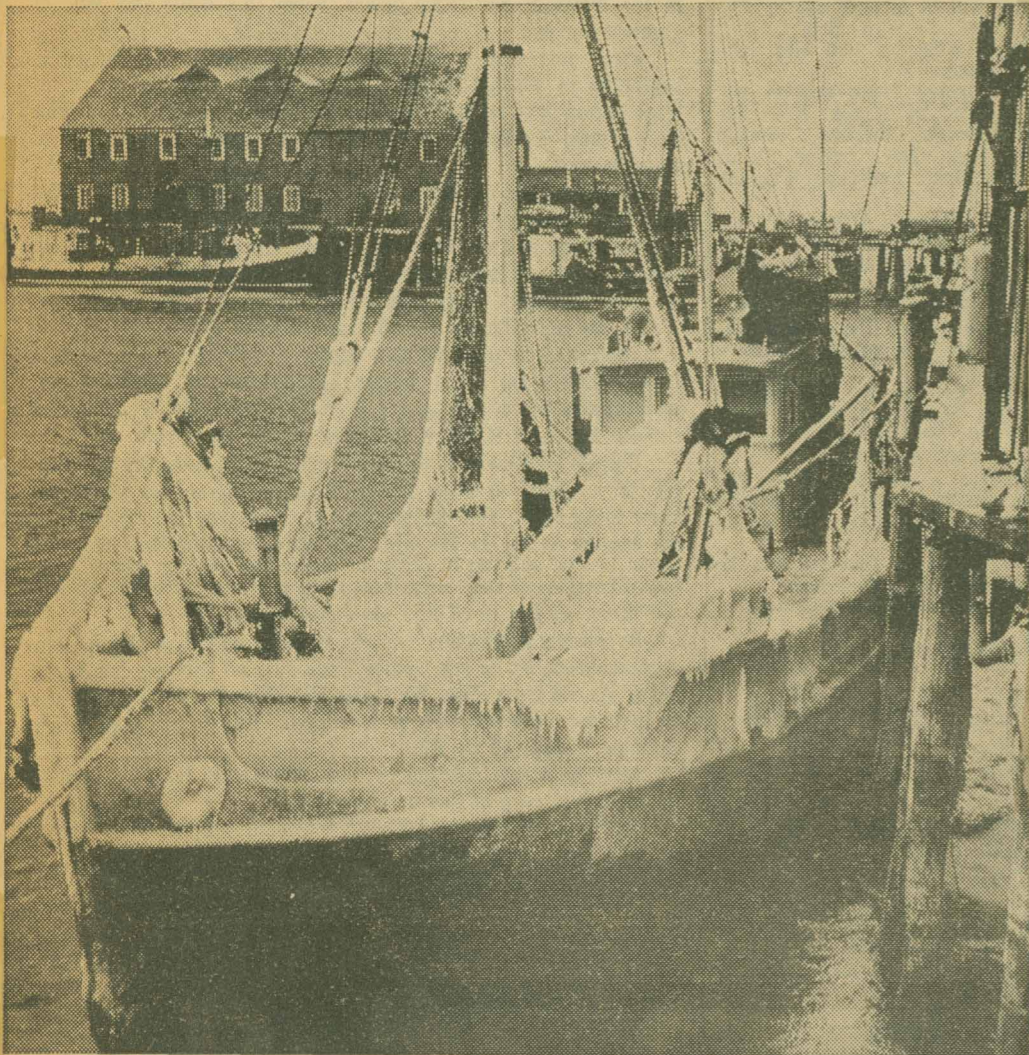


CAPE COD STANDARD-TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1961

Bitter Cold Halts Fishing Trips



(Cape Cod Standard-Times Photo)

A fisherman's life in Winter is not an easy one as evidenced by the ice-covered dragger, Catherine G of Provincetown. With Captain Henrique Duarte at the helm, the vessel ventured out Thursday but was forced to return to port when the bitter weather made fishing operations all but impossible.

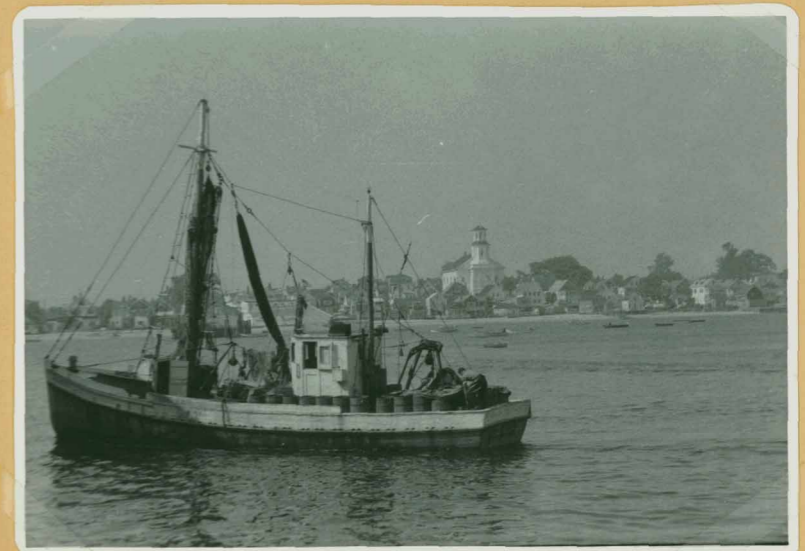
SHALL WE ABOLISH THE PURSE SEINE?

The fact, as stated by a correspondent in this week's REGISTER in regard to the destructive use of the purse seine in catching mackerel, is a truth. And the value of the statement is now being considered. The writer says that by the use of this destructive instrument the day is not far off when we shall have to seek even other localities than Africa if we wish to procure mackerel, from which it is inferred that this destruction will amount to absolute depletion. In a report laid before Parliament Commander Gordon, in charge of the Canadian fishery protective service, makes some important suggestions regarding the protection of the mackerel fishery, in which the United States, as well as Canada, is interested. He says: "I would strongly urge upon your notice the advisability of endeavoring to make an arrangement with the government of the United States for the preservation of the mackerel fishery. The best method of protecting the fishery would be the absolute prohibition of the use of the purse seine, and this prohibition would be made quite effectual by the passage of a law in Canada similar to that in force in the United States, but to extend over the whole year, and the extension of the United States term of prohibition to the whole 12 months. If this were done experimentally, say for a period of five years, the beneficial effects of the legislation would, I am sure, justify its enactment. The destruction of these migratory fish before the spawning season must result in the depletion of the fishery, and if it is desired to prevent this destruction by wholesale, the abolition of the purse seine in the above limits and for the periods mentioned is the minimum of protection that must be insisted on."

While the advice of Com. Gordon may be sound, it may not be made in absolute candor and good faith. A writer in the *Boston Journal* shows that the abandonment of the purse seine would not of itself protect the mackerel, while Canada permits the use of the net and trap and hook during the breeding season. Altogether, it is apparent that Commander Gordon's recommendation is rather a shrewd dodge on the part of our Canadian neighbors to obtain the monopoly of the mackerel fishery themselves. The correspondent suggests as a proper solution of the difficulty that Canada prohibit the use of traps and nets about Nova Scotia during the mackerel breeding season, and join with the United States in prohibiting the use of seines until after June 20. By such an agreement he thinks that the mackerel would be so protected that at the end of five years a fair supply would be found to be in existence.



The Net Mender - Sept. 1961

The Wallace & Roy
Center Methodist Church - Sept. 1961