Nations Connected by Fisheries Past and Present / Des Peuples Unis par leur Patrimoine Halieutique

Downeast Fisheries Trail

Roosevelt-Campobello International Park

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The sea was essential to survival on Campobello. The native Passamaquoddy people hunted and harvested fish and shellfish from the surrounding marine waters. French settlers, and later Scottish and Irish immigrants, caught and dried cod and pollock to feed themselves and to produce salt fish, a major global commodity in the eighteenth century.

Fishing continued into the twentieth century, when Campobello’s great resort hotels promoted sport fishing to their guests, including James and Sara Roosevelt and their son, Franklin.

As fish populations declined, the drying racks, smokehouses, and sardine canneries disappeared. Today, Campobello’s fishermen and women remain linked to the sea as they continue harvesting lobster, scallops, sea urchins and clams, catching herring, and raising Atlantic salmon in the circular pens visible from here.

“I was thinking, as I came through the Narrows and saw the line of fishing boats and the people on the wharves, that this reception is probably the finest example of permanent friendship between nations that we can possibly have.”
— FDR, 1933

“En traversant le passage Narrows et en voyant la file de bateaux de pêche et les passants sur les quais, je me suis dit que cet accueil était probablement le meilleur exemple d’amitié permanente entre nations que nous puissions imaginer.”
— FDR, 1933

“We have only gone once to Herring Cove at night, to see the men driving the herring in certain boats, carrying bright lights, while others so manage the nets as to catch the fish that have been attracted by the blaze.”
— Norma Vaughn, Boston Home Journal, 1903

“Nous sommes allés une seule fois à Herring Cove pendant la nuit, pour y voir des hommes armés de lampes éblouissantes qui s’affairaient à canaliser le hareng, pendant que leurs compagnons géraient les filets, prêts à capturer le poisson attiré par cette lumière vive.”
— Norma Vaughn, Boston Home Journal, 1903

Background photo by Henry Peabody from The Coast of Maine: Campobello to the Isles of Shoals (1889), courtesy Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine. All other photos courtesy of Carol Joy Rice.