

Page 71 - Tuna Fishing in St. Ann's Bay ISSUE : <u>Issue 56</u> Published by Ronald Caplan on 1991/1/1

vears ago. I beached him in 42 mins. at the chalk cliffs (N. end • few rocks) and after heavy bleeding on gaffing he weighed 577 lbs. Sept. 3rd. After a period of high tides & consequently dir? ty water (for trolling) also such a plenty of bait in the in? ner Bay that the Tuna were acting crazily and would not look at our bait • the bait thinned out and at 1.15 stan? dard time having sighted small Tuna just W. of Tuna Brook we came on large ones and hooked what looked like the smallest one, on mackerel, he fought very well after being stmck hard and we had to cut the hook out of the usual joint of the jaw in 1 hr. 4 mins. he weighed 606 lbs., the next morning. At 4.05 standard time • hooked a large one, from same school, but this time we made a hasty pass from being dropped off of "Sea Pioeon II" and presented the bait "as if swimming with the Tuna" too much: so that the line was a bit slack after the strike and : I couldn't get a hard strike on him. He made a grand first mn • taking about 300 yds. off my reel went in to shore, broke and then made the line cut the water so fast that it threw spray 3 ft. up from the line in a large crescent • a great sight • ygry fast. I played him hard for 20 mins. and had the worst of him beaten when he got closer & closer and ended up right under the Tuna boat • I felt a couple of "chugs" as of the line slipping off turns round him and then up it came • unhooked. 1950 Written up in 1951 Saw very few Tuna on surface during whole year, but at West end of Dynamite Alley in the bay past the red point saw an enormous fellow 5-6 ft. between tail and fin. Saw him in same spot two or three days. Sept. 2nd. With Mackerel bait hooked a smaller, unseen, Tuna which was ahead of 5 large ones which were swim-| ming fins-out. 1 hr. 40 mins. of the most lovely and spec? tacular fight Percy or I had ever seen. (Percy said Cdr. Ross's first fish was the only other such he had seen.) This one did a 100 ft. tail-walk • his tail thrashing thun? derously along the surface. He made 100-200 yd. mns and made 5 ft. jumps at the end. At one point at the end of one of his longest mns he made for "Sea Pioeon" fast? er than she could get undenway and almost fouled her. He was a very fine colour and beautifully proportioned 420 lbs. Sept. 4th. Labour Day. Last day of my leave. A dull day; saw the big one in his bay and nothing else all morning. At a couple minutes to one gave up and signalled "Sea Pioeon." Percy rowing towards "Sea Pioeon" i un- '""- ?- '- Ho