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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

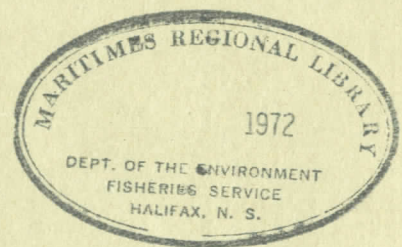
MANUSCRIPT REPORT

No. 59 - 2

Predatory Bird Control - Data
Miramichi River, N.B.
St. Mary's River, N.S.

by

Ward Coates



FISHERIES SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY OF CANADA
HALIFAX, N.S.

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Predatory Bird Control Data.

(H)

Miramichi River, N.B.

St. Mary's River, N.S.

AT BACK

Cost of Rearing 18 month old Salmon in
Maritime establishments. 1956 & 1957.

SUMMARY MIRAMICHI MERGANSER CONTROL

1959

This year the actual control was carried out by the Protection Branch. The Fish Culture Development Branch carried out surveys of the merganser population of the river system.

Three circuits or surveys were planned and were to be carried out, covering the entire river system in a systematic manner, by boat and on foot as water and other conditions permitted.

The first survey was carried out according to plan and a written report was made on it. The first guide quit before the circuit was finished and a new guide was appointed.

The second circuit began satisfactorily, but after finishing the Cains and Dungarvon rivers, the second guide quit. A third guide was hired for the trip from the head waters of the Main River to Boiestown only, this man had another job and went along on this trip as a holiday. After this several guides were appointed and several more came to make enquiries, but none would work for the wages offered. A few patrols were made alone and with fisheries officers, but the circuit was not completed satisfactorily.

A guide formerly employed on the control project brought to my attention a paragraph in the bulletin, Investigation and Management of Atlantic Salmon 1958. This was reprinted from May 1959 "Trade News". The paragraph referred to the Merganser Control Project and read in part: "Although the number of hunters participating was reduced to eight men, from the former strength of ten and twelve, the officer responsible for the operation considered the effectiveness of the 1958 hunting force equal to that of previous years".

This was wrong. On page 1, par. 1, of the annual report, speaking of the eight guides appointed in the spring it was said that all but one were good and willing workers, that was true, but unfortunately only one of those good and willing workers behaved as though he would become even an average merganser hunter and he was always paired with someone who was neither a hunter or a canoe man and never able to devote any time to hunting mergansers. Two others of the 1958 crew, working together made a fair showing, leaving five dead heads as far as merganser hunting goes, in a crew of eight. Contrary to the opinion held by some people, it does not follow that because a man is a good canoeman, fisherman, deer hunter, cook or anything else, that he will make a good merganser hunter. Far from it, and people in authority *This refers to those responsible for appointing guides for us. H.N.C.* acting on this assumption have been a major cause of this project being operated inefficiently and in other than an economical manner. (Check pages 5 - 10 of the 1958 annual report and att. 2 pages dealing with guides employed in 1958). Again on page 1 par. 2, it was stated that the eight man crew was more manageable and the coverage was just as thorough. Here again the control of mergansers is not mentioned, the crew was more manageable because it was smaller, also the homes of the men were conveniently grouped. The coverage of the river was just as thorough because with four crews, instead of five or six, more attention was given to each crew, the result; any waiting to start patrols or for the truck at the end of patrols was cut to a minimum, this meant more hours of river travel for all crews each week, and all crews except the Main River crew began their patrols at the head waters of the rivers and finished at the mouth.

*See page 4
1958 report
H.N.C.*

continued on page 1958 report

The following is a breakdown of the 55 mergansers killed above Newcastle in 1958. Jos. Calhoun started work Oct. 1st and by the end of the season had killed 17. ^{(Fall migrants) 6 seen} Woods workers killed 2 and gave them to Norton and Tozer. Three were killed by myself. Of the remaining 33, four were Hooded Mergansers killed by Norton or Tozer, leaving 29 American and Redbreasted Mergansers (M. Serrator) not an impressive take for ten men other than Jos. Calhoun, who were employed for all or part of the season.

During the 1957 season 106 mergansers were killed, P. Young and J. Dunnett killed 45 of them. I believe had they been employed they would have killed as many in 1958, for certainly there was as many or more mergansers on the river system this latter year.

This project has been burdened more or less by 'dead wood' quality help since it began in 1954, and in 1958, the load of deadwood reached an all time high.

In the 1956 annual report it was stated that the 178 mergansers killed in that year was about the same as could be expected in succeeding years, and as yet there has been no reason for changing that estimate.

It is a disturbing fact that each year, most of the whistler broods disappear before they reach flight size, and this year the whistler population on the Miramichi was not much greater than the merganser population.

The third circuit started September 14 with Stafford Blackmore of the Little S.W. Miramichi as guide, he did well enough, but like the previous guides, thought the work too hard or the hours too long

for the wages paid. The going wage for guides on the Miramichi is \$7.00 per day, however, according to the Doctor's Island Club owner and other outfitters. In general, while guides are on the scene from eight to ten hours a day, they are rarely actively employed for more than an hour or two. Quite different from the eight hours on the river with an additional two or more hours camp chores, with the Department of Fisheries. To avoid the difficulty experienced in the summer, the pace was slowed somewhat and the circuit, with the exception of two or three small branches, was finished as required.

On the third circuit we saw an estimated 184 mergansers including 7 Hooded Mergansers and 11 Redbreasted Mergansers on the river system and 120 more on Crocker Lake. Twenty-nine were killed and recovered, this included 1 Hooded Merganser that had been wounded by some one else, also 1 Redbreasted Merganser, a very poor count, the guide needed experience and we both needed practice in wing shooting.

The Effectiveness of Merganser Control as Carried out in 1959

Had the survey crew carried guns and hunted from the first of the season as the fish wardens did, very few mergansers would have remained on the river after the first circuit. As near as could be determined, the wardens did not shoot any of the ducks we saw and we did not see any of the ducks that they shot.

There was no real problem until the fall flights started coming in, then the Protection Branch had two jobs on their hands and in trying to do both, in some areas failed to deal very effectively with either of them.

This statement is based on the facts that: (1) twelve men with shotguns for over six months failed to double the kill made by two men in under three months; (2) the price of October caught salmon dropped from the \$2.00, sometimes pay in advance, price of former years, to \$1.00 each with the supply good. Salted salmon were offered for sale as late as Nov. 12th. The run of salmon seemed to be about the same as last year.

Should the same program be continued next year, we would suggest that Wardens Young, Dunnett and Scott be kept in separate crews for they are the hunters and are trustworthy with guns. Courtney Tozer could be added to that list.

Some of the men who were issued with guns this year should not be trusted in the woods with anything more dangerous than a jackknife. This is a considered opinion, formed after listening to their ideas and their accounts of their own activities.

H. W. Coates (Sgd.)

COPY

- (a) Officers
- (b) Wardens
- (c) Guardians

- (a) Dates from and to.
- (b) Approximate percentage of time spent actually hunting birds.

Number of patrols in each section.

December 8, 1959

Mr. C. E. Kilpatrick,
District Protection Officer,
Department of Fisheries,
Fredericton, N.B.

Mr. M. A. MacDonald,
District Protection Office,
Department of Fisheries,
Newcastle, N.B.

Re: Predatory Bird Control - 1959

The Atlantic Salmon Scientific Sub-Committee requires a report dealing with the activities of the Protection Branch in the management phase of Atlantic salmon conservation work in the Maritimes Area, and it will be necessary for me to prepare this report as soon as possible.

In this connection, I would thank you to provide me with answers to the following questions concerning the part the Protection Branch had in predatory bird control this year:

1. How many men took part in this work in your district.
 - (a) Officers
 - (b) Wardens
 - (c) Guardians
2. How much time did they spend in the work.
 - (a) Dates from and to.
 - (b) Approximate percentage of time spent actually hunting birds.
3. Number of patrols in each section.

December 8, 1959

4. Number of birds destroyed.
- (a) killed
 - (b) wounded
 - (c) samples submitted
5. Amount of ammunition expended.
6. Approximate additional cost of this work to the Protection Branch.
7. General remarks, giving your views of the advantages or disadvantages in carrying on this work by Protection Branch personnel and your opinions concerning how an even better job may be done, including your recommendations with regard to equipment required.

Please let me have this information in duplicate at the earliest possible date.

Forrest Watson,
CHIEF, PROTECTION BRANCH
MARITIMES AREA

COPY

By H. W. Conner

MIRAMICHI MERGANSER SURVEY

Second Circuit

The second circuit began at the head of the Cains River, July 8th., James Taylor from the Little S.W. was guide, he resigned July 16th., the reason given was not enough wages for the amount of work expected. For the same reason, the local authorities were unable to supply a regular guide until the 10th of September.

Jos. Calhoun from Norrad's Bridge assisted from July 27th. until August 1st. but declared himself not interested in the job for more than one trip.

A few patrols were made alone; and on rivers with a mild current, travel was safe and faster and better observations were made, than with two in the boat.

The second circuit was the one from which the best count could have been obtained, and should have been done between the first of July and the last of August, starting after most of the broods have hatched and finishing before they have started to fly. Because of the difficulty with hiring and keeping guides, and the break from August 16th to August 30, this circuit was never finished as a brood survey, and the results were less than satisfactory as the coverage of the river was not completed in time to check for some of the expected broods. However, the known broods were: one at the head of the Cains, one at the mouth of Muzerol Brook on the Cains, and one at Campbell Pond above Blackville. The last two were killed by Warden Young of the Protection Branch.

By H. W. Coates

Merganser Survey 1959

Second Circuit

Suspected broods were: One above Fifteen Mile Brook on the North Branch of the Main River, and one near Slate Island on the Main River, splashes on rocks in these areas indicated the presence of mergansers, on the first survey a male merganser was seen at the Upper Forks of the Little S.W., believed to be one of a pair and a brood should have followed. On the South Branch of the Sevogle, near Travis Brook, the splashes on rocks showed that one or more mergansers had been staying for some time in that area, the splashes were all in such a small area that we believed them to have been made by a nesting female.

There was a total of three known broods and four suspected broods on the river system. Of these one known brood and all four suspected broods were in areas seldom if ever visited by Fish Wardens.

From July 8th to September 10th the time was spent as follows:

- July 8 Cains River, Boiestown Crossing to Deepwood Camp, saw a female with small brood near the mouth of Wild Cat Brook.
- July 9 Deepwood to mouth of Cains, a female reported at the mouth of Muzeroll Brook, we failed to find her.
- July 10 Looking for two mergansers reported by game wardens to be staying between the mouth of the North Branch of the Renous and Flat Landing, found plenty of signs but failed to find the ducks.

Merganser Survey 1959

Second Circuit

- July 11 Care of equipment, brought records up to date, cut poles for proposed shelter for plywood boat.
- July 12 Simard's to King Brook on Dungarvon, no mergansers.
- " 14 King Brook to Underwood Brook, No mergansers.
- " 15 Underwood Brook to Mouth of Dungarvon, no mergansers.
- " 16 Guide arrived and decided not to work but will return tomorrow, got his pay list and other papers in order.
- " 17 Guide arrived with resignation, spent the rest of the day looking for another.
- " 18 still looking for another guide, brought records up to date.
- " 20 working on first survey report.
- " 21 to Hatchery and to garage in Newcastle.
- " 22 Visit by Mr. Stratton, still waiting for guide to be appointed.
- " 23 Patrolled from Boistown to Doaktown, alone, no ducks.
- " 24 Started for Doaktown, regular driver away, fishery officers away also, returned to Rencous and tried to find ducks reported to be there.
- " 25 To Newcastle to garage, re transmission adjustments, trailer strap required, extension for outboard motor tiller made.
- " 26 Finished report of first circuit and started typing it.
- " 27 Finished typing report and got it in the mail, to Juniper in PM.

11 Preparing for trip to Grever Lake, moved to Dulthe Forks.

Merganser Survey 1959

Second Circuit

- July 28 To bridge above 15 Mile Brook on N. Branch, ran to Juniper Bridge by canoe, considerable merganser sign at the upper end of this patrol.
- " 29 South Branch below Elliot Brook and down to Half Moon, No mergansers.
- " 30 Half Moon to Push and be Damned, signs of a brood of about five mergansers, above and below Slate Island.
- " 31 Push to Rocky Brook, no mergansers.
- Aug. 1 Rocky Brook to Boiestown, no mergansers.
- " 2 Daily and weekly reports up to date, Calhoun's pay list and other documents ready for the mail.
- " 3 Doaktown to Blackville, no mergansers, water lowest in years.
- " 4 Finished Main River patrol, no mergansers.
- " 5 Day off in place of Aug. 1
- " 6 Day off in place of Aug. 2
- " 7 Gordon Munn appointed as guide, started for head of South Branch of Renous, Munn decided not to go, not enough money.
- " 8 Hunting for a short way to get a boat to South Branch of Renous below Mattheson Falls.
- " 10 July accounts ready and in the mail, boats patched and painted.
- " 11 Preparing for trip to Grover Lake, moved to Smiths Forks.

Merganser Survey 1959

Second Circuit

- Aug. 12 Smith's Forks to Grover Lake, failed to find brood expected to be in this area.
- " 13 Returned to Upper Forks.
- " 14 Upper Forks to Bailey Bridge and back to Quarryville,
- " 16 Sept. 1 Leave.
- Sept. 2 To Newcastle, Bank, UIC office, Dept. of Fisheries.
- 3 Patrolled the North Pole Stream, small canoe 15' overturned, some loss of equipment (cooking utensils) Mr. Jas. Catt and associate also working on this stream, heavy rain.
- 4 Reached Quarryville on return from N. Pole at 2 AM. Phoned Halifax, cleaning and drying equipment.
- 8 Guide appointed but failed to come to work, odd jobs.
- 9 Guide again failed to come to work. Aug. accounts made out and in the mail.
- 10 Stafford Blackmore came to work today, to Fisheries and UIC offices, made out Blackmore's TD 1 & F52B.
- The fall circuit will start Sept. 14th.

H.W. Coates (Sgd.)

SPRING AERIAL MERGANSER SURVEY - MIRAMICHI WATERSHED

1959

The spring aerial merganser survey on the Miramichi Watershed was carried out again this year. The same rivers were surveyed in the same manner as in previous years.

Unfortunately the Beaver aircraft was not available so a Beachcraft Expediter was used. This type of plane does not provide as good ground visibility as the Beaver but this disadvantage was overcome by the use of two observers. The second observer was Mr. Hugh Haswell, Biologist of the N.B. Fish and Wildlife Branch.

The plane was provided by the N.B. Department of Lands and Mines.

The survey was made on May 13, 1959.

Results of Survey:

Southwest Miramichi River - Juniper Station to mouth of the river.

Distance - approximately 124 miles.

	<u>Falcons</u>	<u>Loon Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
50 Totals	7	8	3

Total Mergansers Observed: 25. In 1957: 31

Rensselaer River - from close to the source of the South Branch on the Rensselaer Highway to the south on the Southwest Miramichi.

Distance - about 40 miles.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Mergansers Observed</u>		
		<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Lone Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
Juniper Station - R.R. Track	16	1	-	-
R.R. Track - Clearwater Brook	20	-	1	4
Clearwater Brook - Boistown	30	-	2	-
Boistown - Doaktown	16	1	-	-
Doaktown - Blackville	22	1	3	-
Blackville - Newcastle	<u>20</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>124</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	

Total Mergansers Observed: 34. In 1957: 88

Little Southwest Miramichi River - from mouth to Jacks Lake.

Distance - about 50 miles

<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Mergansers Observed</u>		
	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Lone Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
0-20	7	7	3
20-40	-	1	-
40-50	-	-	-
50 Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

Total Mergansers Observed: 25. In 1957: 31

Renous River - from close to the source of the South Branch on the Renous Highway to the mouth on the Southwest Miramichi.

Distance - about 40 miles.

<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>
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Mileage

(the spring surveys were made in 1957)

	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Lone Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
0-10	-	-	-
10-30	5	-	-
<u>30-40</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
40 Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Total Mergansers Observed: 14. In 1957: 1

Dungarvan River - from mouth to Peaked Mountain (below Simard's Camp).

Distance - about 40 miles.

Mileage

	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Lone Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
0-20	-	-	-
<u>20-40</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
40 Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Total Mergansers Observed: 3. In 1957: 4.

Total Observations:

<u>River</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Mergansers Observed</u>		
		<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Lone Drakes</u>	<u>Others</u>
Southwest Miramichi	124	7	9	11
Little Southwest Miramichi	50	7	8	3
Renous	40	7	-	-
Dungarvan	<u>40</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	<u>254</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>

Comparison with other years:

(the spring surveys were not made in 1958 and 1956).

In this comparison, lone drakes are counted as pairs.

<u>River</u>	<u>Mergansers Observed</u>							
	<u>1954</u>	<u>Pairs</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Others</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1959</u>
Southwest Miramichi	49	46	20	16	272	138	56	11
Little S.W. Miramichi	21	20	15	15	12	14	7	3
Renous	14	16	1	7	6	27	-	-
Dungarvon	18	13	4	1	2	28	-	1
Totals	<u>102</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>15</u>

With continued merganser control on this river system, it appears from these survey figures that the merganser breeding population has continued to decline.

B. C. Carter,
Wildlife Biologist

June 11, 1959

30/1/58

MIRAMICHI MERGANSER CONTROL 1958

The 1958 merganser control season began fairly satisfactorily. Eight guides were appointed, five of them were inexperienced in control work; all but one proved to be good and willing workers, and that one quit in June. A replacement was appointed immediately. Two other guides quit before the season was over; replacements were made.

The control crew for the river system was reduced to eight men, four two-man teams; this proved more manageable than the five or six two-man crews of former seasons, also the coverage of the river was just as thorough. The system of having the guides work only in their own county was abolished; this reduced management and transportation difficulties and increased the efficiency of the patrols.

Four of the guides were from the Norrad's Bridge area, on the South West Miramichi, a very satisfactory arrangement. The closer the guides' homes are grouped, the less driving has to be done to keep them busy, and the easier it is to check on them. Guides hired from part way along the section can and sometimes do, spend considerable time each week in their home area or at home. (See 1955 report re Buggie and Donovan).

One pair of the South West guides was made responsible for control on the South West from its source to Newcastle. The other team was given the Cains, Dungarvon, Bartholomew and Renous to patrol. The following schedule was set up for the two teams; the team patrolling the main river left Norrads Bridge Monday morning and reached Quarryville Wednesday afternoon; they were taken then by truck to McGivney and from McGivney they travelled to Juniper by train.

particularly one leading to the head waters of the south branch of

Thursday morning they left Juniper, patrolling the river down as far as Norrad's Bridge, arriving there Saturday afternoon. This system was carried out each week, with only a few interruptions, until the first of October. After the first of October the team went to Juniper on Monday and spent the whole week between there and Norrad's Bridge. (See table last page).

This year we were instructed to give the Cains special attention, so the other team patrolled the Cains every other week throughout the season. The weeks they were not employed on the Cains, they made patrols on the Bartholomew, Dungarvon or Renous, also after the first of October they made an occasional patrol over the Norrad's Bridge to Quarryville section, using an outboard motor on their canoe.

The four guides for the North-West patrol were from the Sunny Corners - Redbank area, two from either place. The two men from Redbank were allotted the Little South-West, its branches and the Little Sevogle to patrol. The two from the Sunny Corners area were made responsible for main North-West and the Big Sevogle.

The eight guides were laid off November 29th.

The water level in all branches was good throughout the season, and all patrols were made by canoe or rubber boat. Ice formed in some branches, particularly the main river, earlier than usual. Heavy slush ice was running in all branches by November 14th. After November 11th operations were considerably hampered by deep snow.

Some new roads that were useful to us were built this year and some that we have used in the past became impassable. It is hoped that roads under construction in 1958 will be open for traffic in 1959, particularly one leading to the head waters of the south branch of

the Sevogle and one leading to the Dungarvon above the Patchell Dam.

The Protection Branch has built several camps along the rivers for the use of their wardens and guardians. Our guides have been permitted to use these camps. However, their camp at Juniper is often crowded, and our guides must pitch their tent for the night; since it is about 11.00 p.m. when they arrive this is quite a hardship, especially in rainy weather and during the colder months of May, October and November, therefore it is felt that we should have a small shelter of our own in that area. It would also be very helpful if there was a similar shelter at or near Renous as the guides are reluctant to move very far from the Blackville camp in cold, wet or windy weather. These shelters could be of a pre-fabricated type, about 8' x 10' with 6' posts and fairly inexpensive.

On a trip along the North Branch of the North-West on October 13, it was noted that pulp wood operators had erected a barrier a short distance above the mouth of the South Branch; above this for some distance the river was jammed with pulp wood and more coming down. The guides reported that later on in the fall a similar barrier was built in the South Branch near its mouth and that branch filled with wood. That particular area is supposed to be a protected area for spawning salmon. On October 13th of this year there was enough pulp moving in the North Branch to keep salmon away from the bars and shallows where they normally spawn, and as it was stopped by the barrier it packed so tightly that only eels would be able to move up or down stream through it and little else could live under it except in the deep pools. The guides reported that by freeze-up thousands of cords of wood were jammed in the North and South branches. This is

the second year that this has happened. If the Research Board has seining sections in this area they should be able to tell if the practice mentioned above interferes with spawning.

The crew of eight men was the best arrangement we have had so far, but since May, October and November are very busy months, and June, July, August and September are months when very few mergansers are to be found on the river systems, if May patrols have been efficient, both the nesting pairs and the non-breeding females have been killed. It is believed that a further improvement could be made by securing six top-flight merganser hunters for the season, and six others, perhaps more ordinary guides for the months of May, October and November to make up six teams of one good shooter and a canoe man each.

October and November is the most difficult time of the year. Large flocks of migrating mergansers drop in on the river, feed for a day or so, perhaps pick up and fly miles to another part of the river system, stay there for a short time and move on again, avoiding the control crews entirely, and cancelling out some of the benefits derived from the previous five months protection. This year it seemed as though they moved in for the spawning season and then left of their own accord.

It was noted that the minnows are making a comeback. In the shallows, backwaters and along the banks of most of the streams they were observed in considerable numbers, in some places as abundant as before the budworm spraying. This may have some effect on the number of breeding mergansers found on the river in succeeding years.

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Kill by Months and Rivers

River	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Totals
North West	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	10
Sevogle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Sevogle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little S.W.	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	14
Renous	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dungarvon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bartholomew	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Above Norrad's	2	1	-	-	-	13	4	20
Below Norrad's	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Cains	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Taxis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bartibog	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
Totals	4	1	5	7	0	22	23	62

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Wounded by Months and Rivers

Sight records by months

River	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Totals
North West	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sevogle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Sevogle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little S. W.	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	6
Renous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dungarvon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bartholomew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Above Norrad's	-	1	-	-	-	10	4	15
Below Norrad's	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Cains	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	5
Taxis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bartibog	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	4	0	0	14	8	30

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958 Season

Sight records by months

Crew	Ducks Sighted	Ducks Killed	Ducks Wounded
Johnston & Bryenton	79	7	1
May Johnston & Taylor	105	4	2
June Hunter & L. Mann	20	1	2
July Hunter & F. Mann	25	5	4
August Hunter & MacDonald	13	7	0
September Hinchey & F. Mann	7	0	0
October Hinchey & L. Mann	147	22	14
November Hinchey & MacDonald	103	23	8
Hinchey & F. Mann (20 time)	420	62	30
Hinchey & Calhoun	91	17	14
Coates	3	3	—
	430	62	30

The sight records are very incomplete. The kill records are correct and the wounded records are not far wrong. Norton and Toner's kill included four hooded mergansers.

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight Records and Kill by Norton and Tozer

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight Record, Kill and Wounded Totals for Season

Crew	No. Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
Norton & Tozer	87	10	1
Johnston & Bryenton	59	7	1
Johnston & Taylor	66	14	5
Hunter & L. Munn	30	3	-
Hunter & F. Munn	5	1	1
Hunter & MacDonald	37	1	2
Hinchey & F. Munn	14	1	2
Hinchey & L. Munn	3	-	-
Hinchey & MacDonald	1	-	-
Hinchey & F. Munn (2nd time)	24	5	4
Hinchey & Calhoun	91	17	14
Coates	3	3	-
	—	—	—
Nov. 5	420	62	30

The sight records are very incomplete. The kill records are correct and the wounded records are not far wrong. Norton and Tozer's kill included four hooded mergansers.

Totals	87	10	1
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Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight Records and Kill by Norton and Tozer

Date	River	Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
May 6	N. W.	4		
7	"	6		
9	"	6		
13	Main River	6		
15	Sevogle	1		
17	N. W.	2		
Jun 11	Cains	1		
10	"	3		
Oct. 8	N. W.	4	1	
9	"	3		
20	"	8	2	
21	"	1	1	
22	"	3	2	
25	"	1		
28	"	1		
Nov. 5	"	1		
10	"	5		
12	"	2	1	
13	"	4		
14	"	7		
15	"	1		1
Jul 17	"	3		
19	"	3		1
Aug 20	"	7	1	
21	"	2		
24	"	2	2	1
Totals		87	10	1

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight records and kill by Johnston and Bryenton

Date	River	Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
May 3	N. W.	2		
5	Little S.W.	3		
6	" "	1		
10	" "	3		
12	" "	3		
13	" "	2		
14	" "	2		
15	" "	5		
16	" "	1		
19	" "	1		
20	" "	1		
22	" "	2		
24	N. W.	7		
26	Little S.W.	2		
30	" "	1		
Jun 3	" "	3		
21	" "	1		
24	" "	2		
25	" "	1		
27	" "	1		
28	" "	1		1
Jul 4	" "	1		
18	" "	3		
Aug 5	Bartibog	7	7	
12	N. W.	3		
	Totals	59	7	1

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight Records and Kill by Johnston and Taylor

Date	River	Ducks sighted	Killed	Wounded
Oct. 2	Litt. S.W.	1		1
16	" "	1		
18	" "	2	1	
22	" "	1	1	
23	" "	4		
25	" "	5		
29	" "	8	1	1
30	" "	5		
31	" "	3		
Nov. 3	" "	9	3	
5	" "	2		
6	" "	1		
8	" "	3	2	1
11	" "	2		
13	" "	2	1	1
14	" "	6	2	1
15	" "	3	1	
17	" "	2	1	
20	" "	4		
21	" "	2	1	
Totals		66	14	5

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight records and kill by Hunter and L. Munn

Date	River	Norrad's	Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
May 5	Below	Norrad's	14		
7	"	"	3		1
8	Above	"	3		
9	"	"	2		1
12	Below	"	1	1	
14	"	"	2	1	
15	Above	"	3	1	2
16	"	"	2		
19	Below	"	2	1	2
21	"	"	2		
22	Above	"	3		
30	"	"	3	1	
Totals			30	3	2
Hunter and F. Munn					
June 5	Above	Norrad's	2		1
12	"	"	1	1	
Jul 3	Below	"	2	-	-
Totals			5	1	1
Totals this page			55	4	4
Totals this page			35	4	1

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

Sight records and kill by Hunter and MacDonald

Date	River	Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
July 9	Above Norrads	4		1
21	Cains	1		2
Oct. 7	"	5		1
21	"	6		
Aug 22	"	12		1
Sept 23	"	8		
Nov. 13	Renous	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	-
	Totals . . .	37	1	2

Hinchey and F. Munn

May 5	Cains	6	1	2
20	"	2		2
21	"	2		1
22	"	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	-
	Totals . . .	14	1	2

Hinchey and L. Munn

June 4	"	3		
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Hinchey and MacDonald

Jun 16	Dungarvon	1		
Nov. 4	"			
	Totals this page . . .	55	2	4

Totals 91 17 14

Totals this page 115 22 18

Miramichi Merganser Control 1958

SightsRecords and Kill by Hinchey and F. Munn

Date	River	Ducks Sighted	Killed	Wounded
July 8	Cains	1		1
11	Below Norrad's	6	2	1
12	" "	4	2	2
16	Dungarvon	1		
19	Taxis	2	1	
Aug. 6	Above Norrad's	3		
Sept. 3	" "	1		
5	" "	6		
		24	5	4

Hinchey and Calhoun

Oct. 7	Above Norrad's	11	3	2
8	" "	4	2	2
9	" "	3	1	1
21	" "	20	5	4
22	" "	7		
23	" "	4		
24	" "	5	1	
28	" "	6		
29	" "	5	1	1
Nov. 4	" "	8	2	2
5	" "	5	1	2
12	" "	9		
19	" "	4	1	

Totals 91 17 14

Totals this page 115 22 18

Guides Employed in 1958

Lloyd Munn - Quit in June, lazy and disinclined to leave home, careless with guns and other equipment. Recommended that he never be hired again.

Fred Munn - Quit in September, unreliable, not recommended for rehire.

Andrew Hinchey - Good canoe man, good and willing worker; can work with anyone. Easy to get along with.

Joe Calhoun - One of the four best merganser hunters we have had since the project started; but hard to get along with. Fortunately works well with Hinchey and seems happy with him. Recommend that they be rehired as a team.

Garth Hunter - Didn't have a fair chance to show what he could do; should be tried again.

Murray MacDonald - Good cook, good man around camp, good worker, but only fair with a canoe and of no use at all with a gun. Too stubborn to meet the requirements of even an assistant hunter; should not be hired again.

Murdock Bryenton - A good worker, but very temperamental. Quit in September, not recommended for rehire as he would very likely quit again.

Add. Johnston - Steady, good worker, good with gun and canoe; knows the country and rivers. Didn't show up too well as a hunter the first of the season, but when paired with Maxwell Taylor toward the last of the season did very well; they should be rehired as a team.

Norton and Tozer - Seemed to go very well together without taking the job or the job too seriously, or being too successful at the job, but they now have some experience, and I don't know anyone that might be better, so perhaps they should have another try.

Preliminary - subject to revision

MIRAMICHI RIVER SYSTEM

Merganser Kill 1957

<u>River</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
North West	3	-	-	-	-	4	2	9
Sevogle	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
Little S.W.	1	-	1	5	-	7	22	36
Renous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dungarvon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bartholomew	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
South West	21	4	10	-	-	6	8	49
Cains	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Taxis	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
<u>Below Barrade bridge</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>178</u>

Near broods were destroyed on the system in 1957:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>No. in brood</u>	<u>N.S. killed</u>	<u>Approx. Age</u>
Aug. 15	Cains	4	4	10 weeks
July 25	Bartholomew	9	9	11 "
July 3	Near Juniper	8	7	"
July 9	Below Cherryville	5	5	8 "
<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>	

Miramichi River System

Merganser Kill 1956

<u>River</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Total</u>
North West	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Little S.W.	17	2	3	-	2	5	3	32
Sevogle	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Sevogle	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Renous	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Dungarvon	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	7
Bartholemew	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Cains	1	2	-	4	4	4	1	16
Above Norrads Bridge	16	10	9	2	2	20	7	66
Below Norrads Bridge	7	-	6	4	3	3	10	33
Taxis	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	5
TOTALS	50	20	29	11	12	34	22	178

Four broods were destroyed on the system in 1956:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>No. in brood</u>	<u>No. killed</u>	<u>Approx. Age</u>
Aug. 15	Cains	4	4	10 weeks
July 25	Bartholemew	9	9	11 "
July 3	Near Juniper	8	7	
July 9	Below Quarryville	5	5	8 "
TOTALS		25	24	

MIRAMICHI RIVER
Scale 1:20000



Merganser Kill by Years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
NW. Miramichi	61	7	3	9	10
Savogle	15	2	1	4	-
Little Savogle	0	1	3	-	-
Little S.W. Miramichi	92	48	32	36	14
Renous	179	13	3	-	1
Dungarvon	46	29	7	-	-
Bartholomew	22	19	9	-	3
CAINS	46	58	16	4	1
Taxis	27	18	4	4	1
Main S.W. Miramichi					
Below Narrads Bridge	429	110	35	49	5
Above Narrads Bridge	111	131	65		20
Totals	1028	436	178	106	55

→ Upper patrol limit
 → Lower patrol limit

MIRAMICHI RIVER

Scale 1" = 10 miles

Watershed Area - 4460 sq. mi. (Above Newcastle)

not an area of whole watershed

MERGANSER CONTROL

1954

Pungarvon Renous - Town

Lower - River

Miramichi River System

3 for each County - no account
due to be observed

It had been shown by research groups that when inhabiting salmon streams, a large per cent of the food, of the American Merganser is made up of salmon parr, and that the number of parr taken by the Mergansers reduces the parr population of a stream to a fraction of what the stream would readily support.

Early in the year, the Department of Fisheries decided to put merganser control into effect on the whole Miramichi River system as a means of increasing the number of parr surviving to the smolt stage.

Plans, for the hiring of a crew to carry out the control program, their equipment and maintenance in the field, were formulated at the Saint John office. It was decided that ten men would be necessary to cover the river efficiently, and that control measures should commence the middle of April. However, because of difficulties encountered in securing men likely to be suitable to the department, the project got away to a very slow start. The last two men were hired and began work as a crew, on the Renous River, July 1st. Two and one-half months after the project was intended to begin, and twenty-two days after, the first brood of ducklings were encountered

The Fisheries Research Board continued to employ Wm. Curtis on the North West River. The Department hired Percy Young of Sunny Corner to assist him. Since Curtis had had several years' experience in this work, on the North West Branch, a much better control job was done there than on any of the other branches.

The control of the remainder of the river system was divided among the other eight men as follows: ① Two men to patrol the Little South West, The Little Sevogle and the Sevogle. ② Two men for the Renous, Dungarvon, Bartholomew and the Cains. The other four men were to take care of the Main South West River from the headwaters to Quarryville, this crew had also the patrolling of the upper branches of the river. The Taxis River, Rocky Brook, Clearwater Brook and Little Burnthill Brook. *Not done* *Not done*

The men were equipped as follows: A canoe and a tent for each two men, each man was provided with a sleeping bag and a pump action shot gun, ammunition was supplied as needed. An outboard 3 hp motor was issued with each of the Main River canoes and a 3 hp and 5 hp outboard motor was available when needed by any of the other crews. The men boarded themselves while in the field and were allowed the same amount per meal as the men of the protection branch.

Transportation was by truck, from the mouth of the river to the headwaters. Almost all patrols were made in a down stream direction. This method is faster, requires less labour and gives the hunters a chance to concentrate on watching for Mergansers.

In addition to a canoe, the North West Branch crew was issued with an inflatable rubber boat, which enabled them to make all patrols by water. They used the rubber boat on the upper reaches

of the river where the water is rough and sometimes shallow, and the canoe on the lower part of the river where the water is deeper and quieter.

This crew had the easiest river to patrol as they could be taken by truck to within four or five miles of the headwaters of the river. The upper reaches of the branches: Little River, Tomogonops and Portage, as well as the South Branch of the North West were this year also accessible by truck.

Most of the breeding adults on this river were killed before they could bring out their broods. Consequently only one brood of young ducks was found on the North West this year. This brood came down Little River.

In 1951, eight or nine broods were brought out along the river, above the Fisheries Research Board's counting fence, situated on the North West just above the mouth of the Sevogle.

The North West crew made their first patrol of the season on April 26th and the last patrol of the season on November 30th.

Little South West, Sevogle and Little Sevogle.

The men of the Little South West crew were each given two weeks preliminary training with the North West crew to give them some knowledge of the work and of mergansers and their habits.

The crew was fully equipped and started patrols on the Little South West June 9th.

The Little South West and the Sevogle are the two most difficult rivers to patrol. The North Branch of the Sevogle is entirely a walking patrol, and when a patrol is made on the North Branch the men must walk, in addition to the Branch, from the Square Forks to the mouth of the river, a total distance of about fifty miles. This is also an expensive patrol, since a canoe cannot be used, a pickup man with a truck is necessary to carry food, tents, etc., from one camping place to the next. A walking patrol can carry only a limited amount of equipment, as efficient hunting and good shooting is not possible when one is carrying a heavy pack.

That part of the South Branch of the Sevogle that was patrolled in 1954 was done by canoe but with normal low water, this branch also would have to be patrolled on foot.

The Little Sevogle was patrolled by canoe, it too will have to be patrolled on foot when the water is at normal summer low.

The Little South West except for about eight miles between Indian Brook and Libbie Brook can be patrolled by canoe. Here the water is too rough to be navigated with a canoe.

To patrol the section between Little Falls and Libbies Brook, a distance of fifteen river miles, and to the half way point between Libbie and Indian Brooks takes three or four days.

The canoe is put in at Little Falls and poled up stream to the mouth of Libbie Brook. In favourable water the trip is made in one day. In very high or very low water the trip takes two days.

Once at the mouth of Libbie they leave the canoe and walk up stream to the half way point and back the same day. The following day they return to Little Falls or as far down river as time and conditions permit.

This particular patrol is very unsatisfactory as on the way up stream both men must pole and are unable to watch for mergansers. Flightless ducks are often driven into hiding without being seen and flying ducks are driven up stream to the quieter waters above Indian Brook where they may stay undisturbed until the next patrol from Smith Forks near Holmes Lake.

To make the Smith Forks Patrol, the crew and equipment is taken via the Plaster Rock, Renous highway and the Holmes Lake Airstrip Road to Smiths Forks. From The Forks they proceed up stream by canoe and on foot to the head of the river. This up stream patrol is unavoidable but is not as unsatisfactory as the Little Falls to Libbie Brook patrol, since mergansers on the stream that are not killed are driven over land and away from the river, or, they fly over the hunters and down stream affording another opportunity to destroy them. On completion of the upstream run, the crew returns to Smith Forks and then down stream to the halfway point between Indian Brook and Libbie Brook, then poling back up stream to Smith Forks and returning to Red Bank by car.

Although the water between Libbie Brook and Indian Brook is too dangerous for a canoe, a rubber boat could be brought safely through.

Also by using a rubber boat the time required to patrol the Little South West would be cut from eleven to thirteen days to from six to eight days, and the car mileage for the patrol would be reduced by at least one third.

The Sevogle can also be patrolled with a rubber boat.

RENOUS

The Renous crew follows the Little South West crew in the amount of labour required in doing their patrols.

The North Branch of the Renous is a three-day walking patrol, and the men must carry enough food, etc., to maintain themselves for that time, as there are no roads to the river, and no camps where they may stay over night. This river is too shallow and rocky to use either a canoe or a rubber boat. Fortunately, it is also unsuited to the rearing of young mergansers. On this branch two adults only were seen, and both were killed.

The South Branch above the narrows is a one day walking patrol but since it is impossible to get a canoe to the river nearer to the narrows than the mouth of Monshan Brook, a second day's walk is necessary. Below the mouth of Monahan Brook the Renous can be patrolled by canoe. The mouth of Monahan Brook is about five miles above the junction of the North and South branches. From the junction to the mouth of the river is about thirty miles.

Two broods were seen and destroyed above the narrows.

DUNGARVON

The Dungarvon River is much easier to work than the Renous. The hunters can be taken by truck to Simard's Camps on the Upper Dungarvon. From there, a one day's walk up stream takes them farther up stream than mergansers are likely to be found.

Below Simard's except in low water a canoe can be used. When the water is at summer low only about the lower ten miles can be run with a canoe. From Simard's to the mouth of the river is about 40 miles.

Regular patrols were carried out on the Dungarvon from the time the Renous crew began work, until the road leading from the air strip road to Simard's became impassable, early in November.

BARTHOLOMEW RIVER

The Bartholomew was neglected this year because it was impossible to reach the river at any point, farther than five or six miles above Blackville, except with a team or horses, or a four-wheel drive vehicle.

A patrol was made by two of the Main River men. They were taken to the head of the river, by team, from Hopeville.

The Renous crew made a patrol from the Lower Doaktown Crossing. They were taken part way to the river by truck. The remainder of the way they dragged the canoe down a small brook to the river.

With a four-wheel drive vehicle regular patrols could be made from the Upper Doaktown Crossing at the forks of the river. Except for brood patrols, patrols above this point would be unnecessary.

Twenty-two mergansers were destroyed on the above-mentioned patrols.

CAINS RIVER

Regular patrols were carried out on this river by the Renous crew from the first of July to the end of the season.

The first patrol was made from the railway bridge to the mouth of the river. According to local river men this is a distance of seventy-two miles. All subsequent patrols were made from the Miramichi Lumber Company's bridge on the Boiestown to Bantaloor road. The bridge is about seven or eight miles down stream from the railroad.

Above the bridge, the river runs for the most part through burnt over country and no mergansers or merganser signs were found on this part of the stream. Further than two miles above the bridge, no fish of any kind were noted.

High water prevailed throughout the season and all patrols were made by canoe. However in a dry season the river would likely

become low enough to make walking necessary as far down as the old Grand Lake road, which crosses the river just below Hopewell Camp.

MAIN RIVER

By May 13th, four men were working as a crew patrolling the Main South West from Juniper to Millbank. With the exception of one three-day patrol on the Bartholomew by two of the men, the four men were busy the entire season, working the main river and the upper branches, the North and South branches above Juniper, Little Burnthill Brook, and Taxis River below Juniper.

The responsibility for control on Clearwater Brook and Rocky Brook was assumed by the Miramichi Lumber Company. However, Departmental hunter's killed approximately 30 ducklings at or near the mouths of these streams after the main river had been swept clear of juvenile mergansers so it would seem that these ducks came down the branch streams.

One walking patrol was made on the South Branch, from above Golden Ridge to the bridge on the Glassville to Juniper road, and two patrols were made from the above-mentioned bridge to Juniper by canoe. One brood of ducks was destroyed just above Juniper.

On the North Branch, one patrol was made from near the mouth of Dead Water Brook to Juniper: this was a walking patrol down as far as the mouth of Fifteen Miles Brook. Another patrol was made from Fifteen mile Brook to Juniper.

Transportation to Juniper was by truck going via Fredericton when patrols were to be made above Juniper. When the patrols were to be made from Juniper down, men and equipment were taken to Junction and sent by train to Juniper.

The taxis River was regularly patrolled. Transportation was by truck via Maple Grove to the Upper Taxis and down stream by canoe, except with low water when the section from Maple Grove to Redbridge was hunted by men on foot.

Little Burnthill Brook was also a walking patrol. The hunters usually walked up stream about nine miles and returned to the river. One brood only was taken on this brook.

Considering that all but one of the ten men were new to the work and that it was late in the season before the project was well under way, the 1954 season can be called a success. Only one brood on the whole river system is known to have escaped. A brood of ten was sighted below the mouth of Fifteen Mile Brook on the North Branch above Juniper. They went into hiding and were never seen again. It is believed that they escaped to above Deadwater Brook and stayed there until they were able to fly.

Each year from the middle of May until late in June, large flocks of mature and immature male mergansers are to be found on the rivers, between Quarryville Bridge and Newcastle and between Johnston's Bridge on the North West and Newcastle.

Since the smolt run from all branches of the river, through these waters at this particular time, it is possible that these seasonal visitors may do considerable damage to the river's yearly output of smolt.

Late in September, in October and November, large flocks of Mergansers again were to be found in these areas.

When the flocks first came, in the fall, they were encountered all along the rivers; but after being shot at a few times, most of them moved to lakes and the lower part of the river.

Many favourable comments regarding the project were received from club owners, out fitters, guides, local anglers; non-resident anglers, and men of the protection branch. Some described the parr as being so numerous as to be a nuisance to the angler, a condition which they had never before encountered.

It is hoped that in 1955 with experienced men and possibly additional equipment, Merganser control over the whole system will be the standard that now exists on the North West Branch.

The following tables are taken from the daily records of the various crews.

Galson and Scott killed 294
MacAllister & Hinchey 204

Little South West

(Dunnitt and Ervey)

Month	Killed	Wounded
April		
May		
June	41	
July	26	1
August	1	1
September	1	1
October	18	1
November	1	1
	102	4

Where Killed

Scoville Little South West Below Redbank
9 92 1

Main River Crew

North West

(Curtis and Hinchey)

Scott and Calhoun
MacAllister & Hinchey

Month	Killed	Wounded
April		
May	62	49
June	199	19
July	168	9
August	76	6
September	20	12
October	14	10
November	<u>39</u>	<u>6</u>
	578	111

Where Killed

Renous	Taxis	Below Norad's Bridge
14	27	416
Above Norad's Bridge	Burnthill Brook	Bartholomew
102	9	10

Calhoun and Scott killed 294
MacAllister & Hinchey 284

Little South West

(Dunnett and Estey)

Month	Killed	Wounded
April		
May		
June	41	9
July	26	15
August	5	1
September	6	1
October	16	14
November	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	102	46

Where Killed

Sevogle	Little South West	Below Redbank
9	92	1

Merganser Kill by Crews

Month	North West Killed	(Curtis and Young) Wounded
April	4	8
May	15	15
June	10	5
July	24	6
July	24	
August	11	
September		
October	2	
November		
	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 34

Where Killed

Sevogle	Above Counting Fence	Fence to Redbank	Redbank down.
6	26	22	12

Month	<u>Renous</u>	(Donovan and Buggie)
	Killed	Wounded
April		
May		
June	48	4
July	171	18
August	13	1
September	18	
October	11	1
November	8	
	<hr/> 269	<hr/> 24

Where Killed

Renous	Dungarvon	Bartholomew	Cains
165	46	12	46

Kill By Rivers

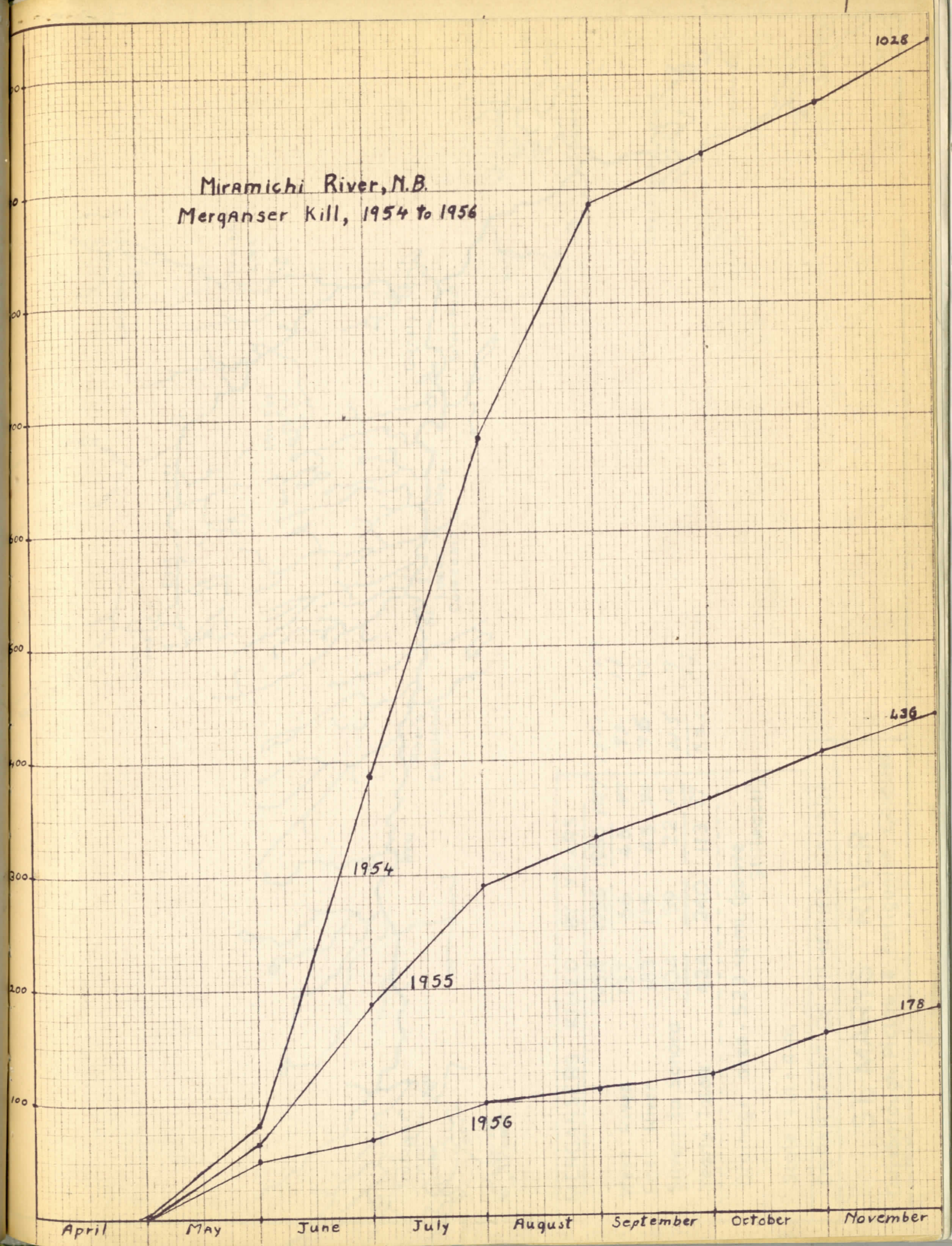
Main South West	527
Renous	179
Dungarvon	46
Bartholomew	22
Cains	46
Little South West	92
North West	61
Sevogle	15
Taxis	27
Quarryville Pool	<u>13</u>
	1028

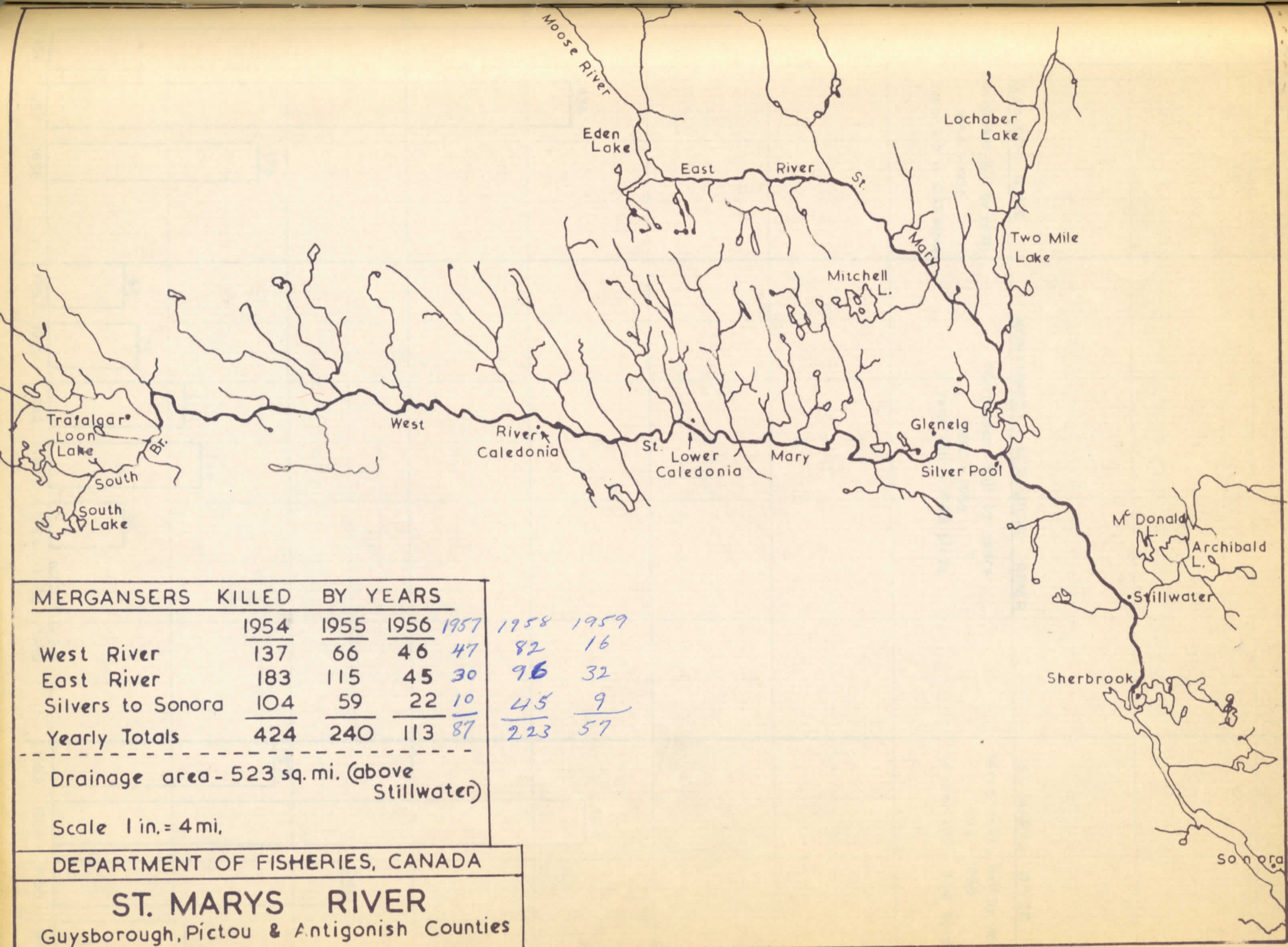
Kill by Months

April	4
May	77
June	306
July	394
August	105
Sept.	44
October	43
November	<u>55</u>
	1028

First ducklings killed June 9th
 Last under week-old ducklings August 9th
 Last mature male taken in breeding season July 9th
 Last male in eclipse plumage Nov. 10th Cains River
 Five banded females recovered.

Miramichi River, N.B.
Merganser Kill, 1954 to 1956





MERGANSERS KILLED BY YEARS

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
West River	137	66	46	47	82	16
East River	183	115	45	30	96	32
Silvers to Sonora	104	59	22	10	45	9
Yearly Totals	424	240	113	87	223	57

Drainage area - 523 sq. mi. (above Stillwater)

Scale 1 in. = 4 mi.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, CANADA

ST. MARYS RIVER

Guysborough, Pictou & Antigonish Counties

MIRAMICHI RIVER

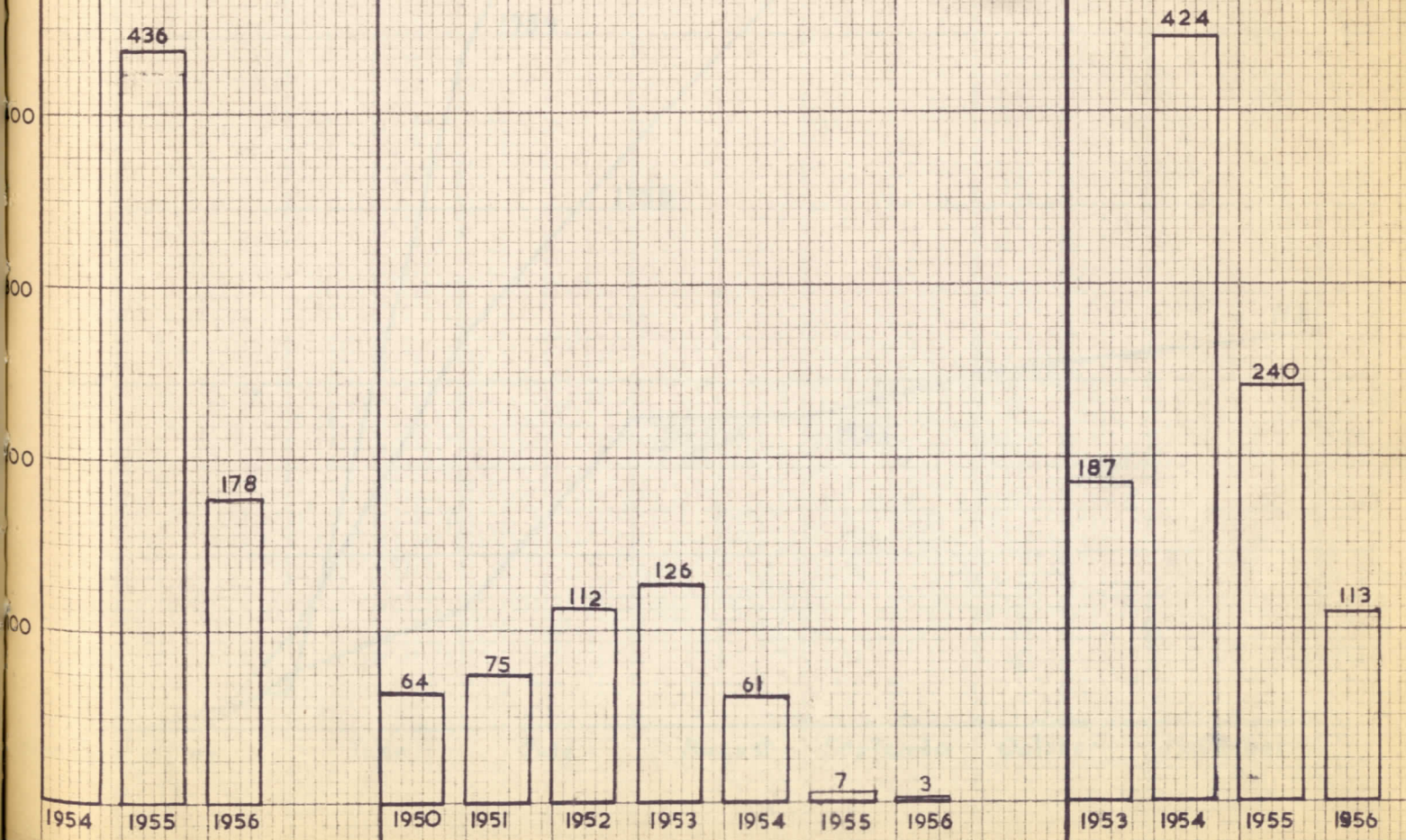
Merganser-Kill by years
1954 - 1956
3 year kill - 1642 birds

NORTHWEST MIRAMICHI RIVER

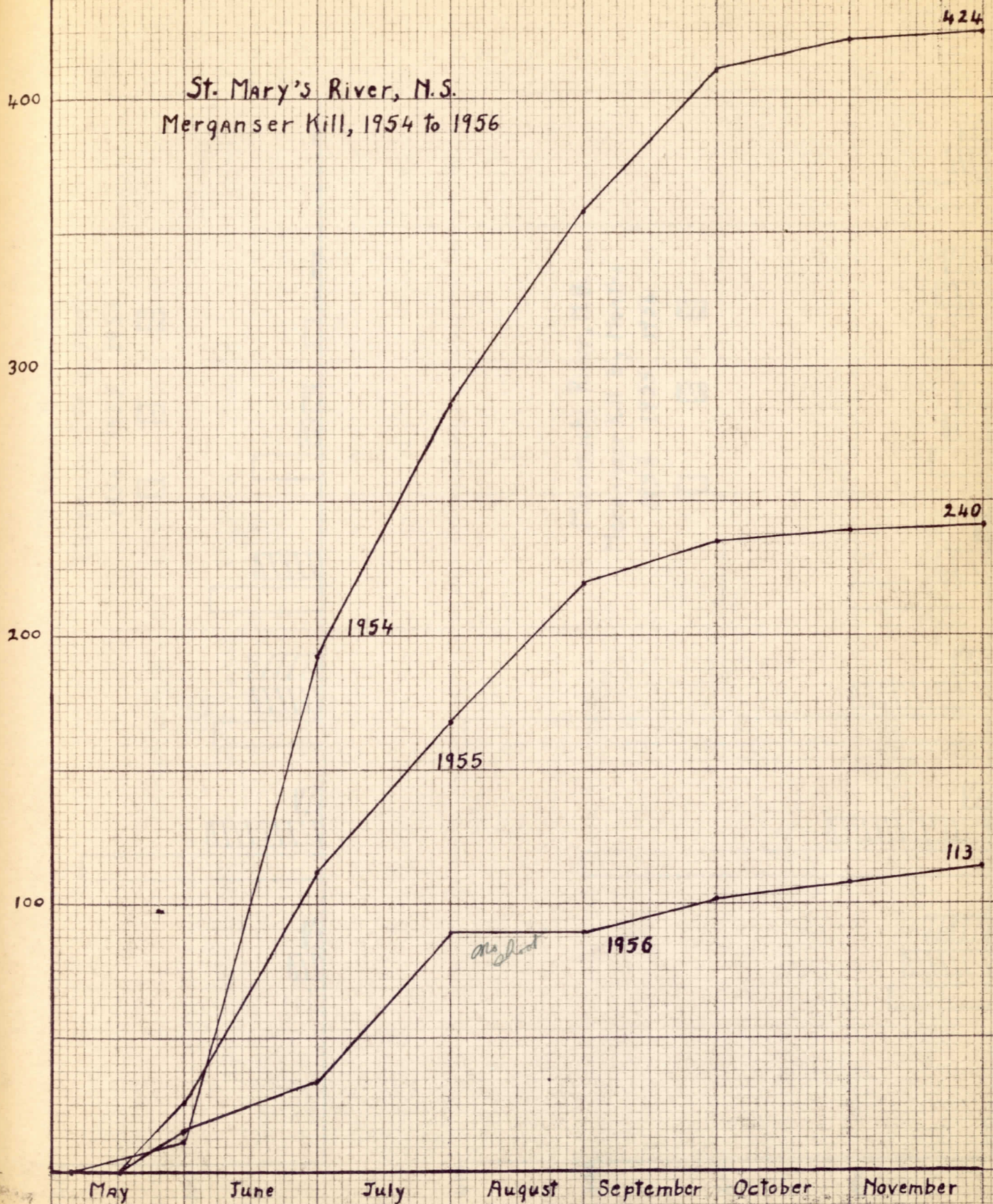
Merganser - Kill by years
1950 - 1956
7 year kill - 448 birds

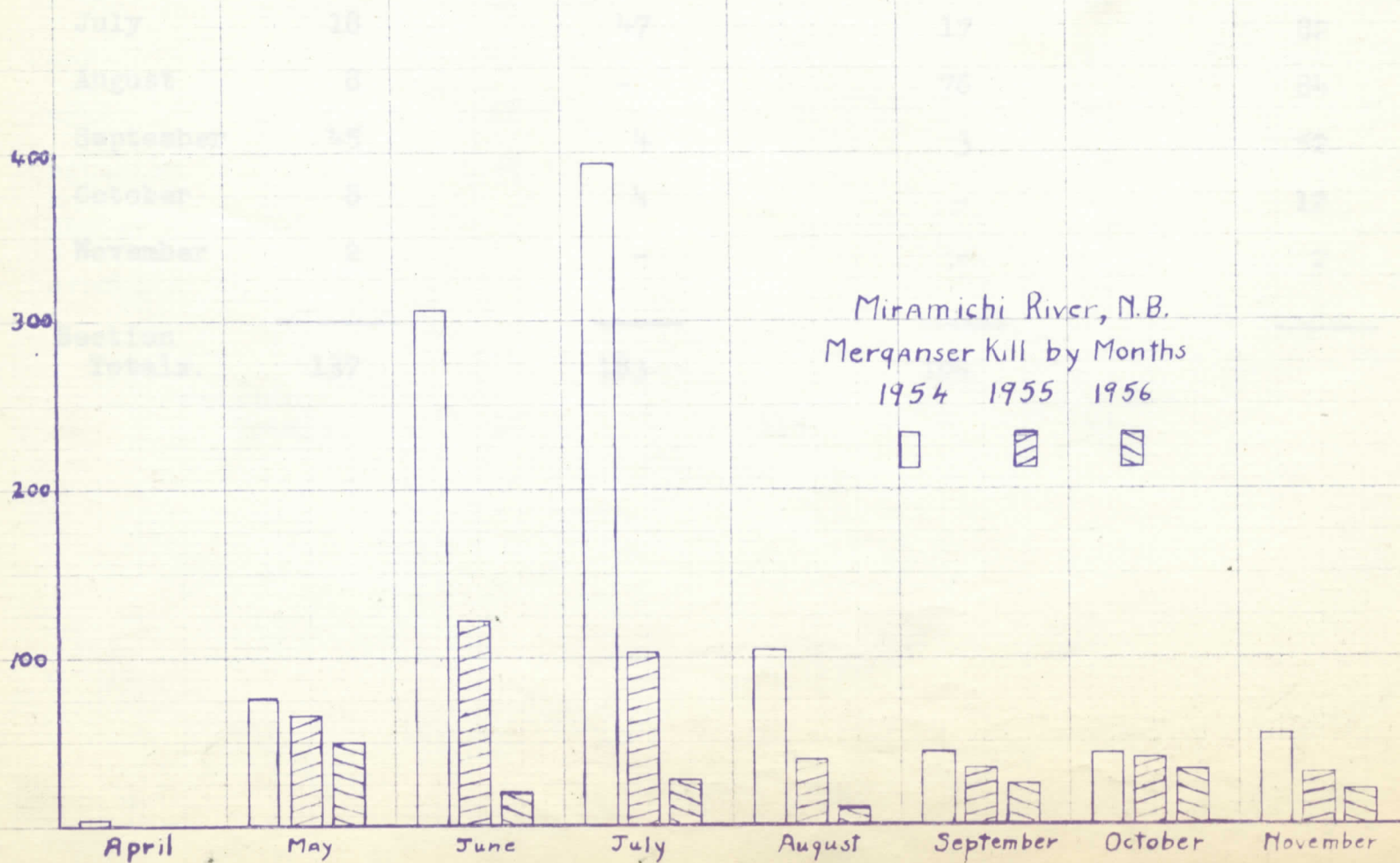
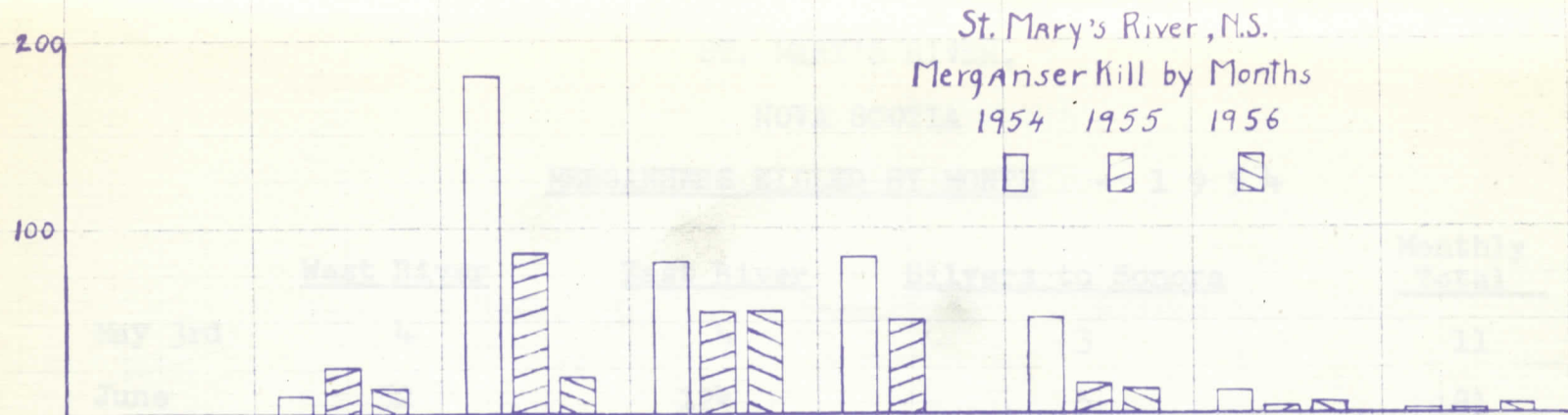
ST. MARYS RIVER

Merganser - Kill by years
1953 - 1956
4 year kill - 964 birds



St. Mary's River, N.S.
Merganser Kill, 1954 to 1956





ST. MARY'S RIVER, N.S.

NOVA SCOTIA

MERGANSERS KILLED BY MONTH -- 1954

	<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>		<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Accumulated Total</u>
May 3rd	4	4	3		11	11
May 16th						
June	52	124	5		181	192
July	18	47	17		82	274
August	8	-	76		84	358
September	45	4	3		52	410
October	8	4	-		12	422
November	2	-	-		2	424
Section Totals.	<u>137</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>104</u>			<u>424</u>

ST. MARY'S RIVER,

NOVA NOVA SCOTIA

MERGANSERS KILLED BY MONTH - 1955

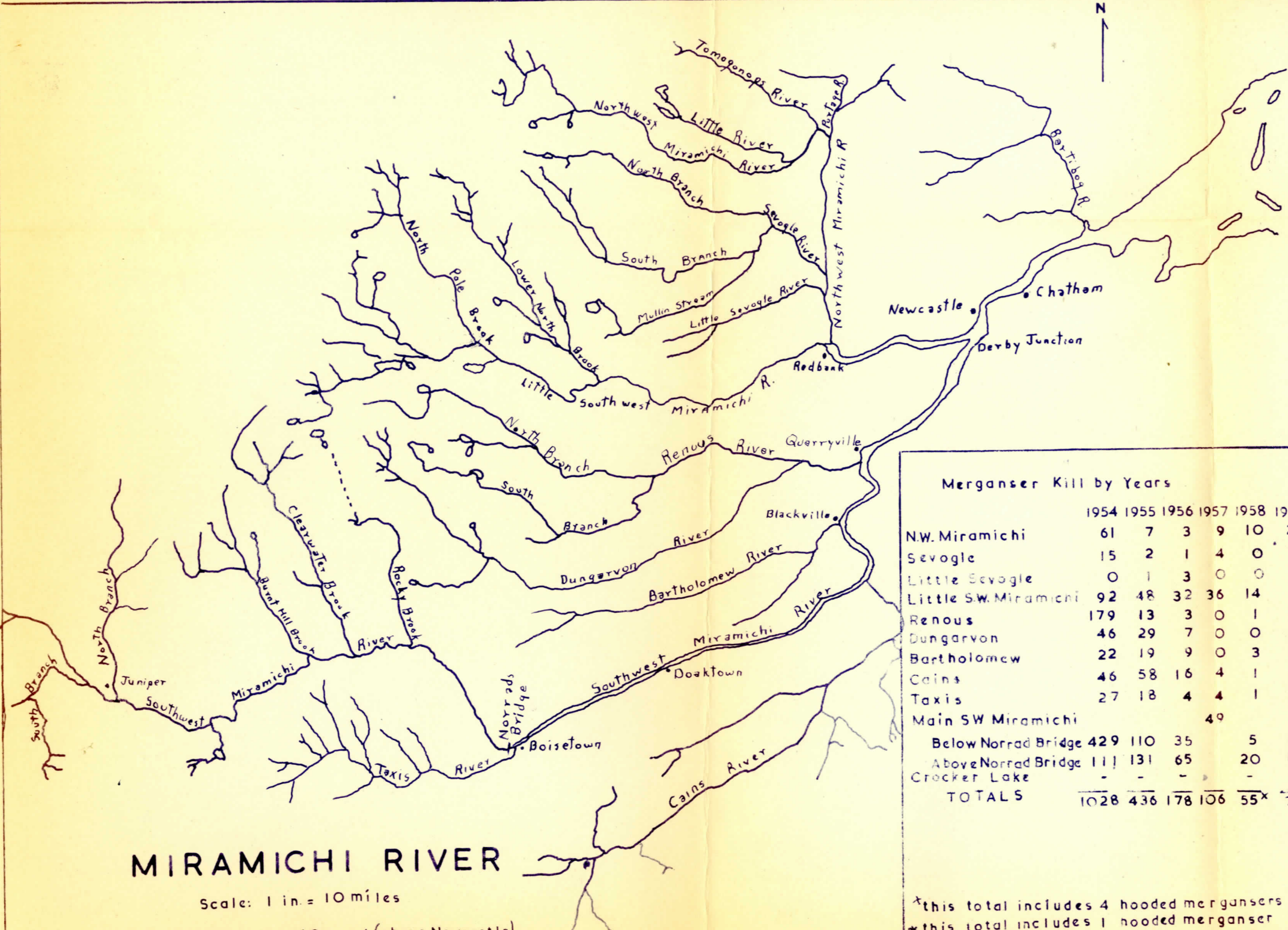
	<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Accumulated Total</u>
May 16th	12	12	2	26	26
June	21	55	10	86	112
July	15	28	12	55	167
August	11	8	32	51	218
September	6	8	2	16	234
October	1	3	0	4	238
November	0	1	1	2	240
<u>Section Totals.</u>	66	115	59		240

ST. MARY'S RIVER,

NOVA SCOTIA

MERGANSERS KILLED BY MONTH - 1956.

	<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Accumulated Total</u>
May 16th	9	0	5	14	14
June	11	1	8	20	34
July	15	32	8	55	89
August	0	0	0	0	89
September	5	7	1	13	102
October	4	2	0	6	108
November	2	3	-	5	113
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Section Totals	46	45	22		113



MIRAMICHI RIVER

Scale: 1 in. = 10 miles

Watershed Area - 4460 sq. mi. (above Newcastle)

Merganser Kill by Years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
N.W. Miramichi	61	7	3	9	10	20
Savogle	15	2	1	4	0	0
Little Savogle	0	1	3	0	0	0
Little S.W. Miramichi	92	48	32	36	14	8
Renous	179	13	3	0	1	3
Dungarvon	46	29	7	0	0	0
Bartholomew	22	19	9	0	3	0
Cains	46	58	16	4	1	11
Taxis	27	18	4	4	1	0
Main SW Miramichi				40		
Below Norrad Bridge	429	110	35		5	10
Above Norrad Bridge	111	131	65		20	17
Crocker Lake	-	-	-		-	5
TOTALS	1028	436	178	106	55*	74*

*this total includes 4 hooded mergansers
 *this total includes 1 hooded merganser

C O P Y

File No.731-11-2

Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N.S.
December 2, 1958.

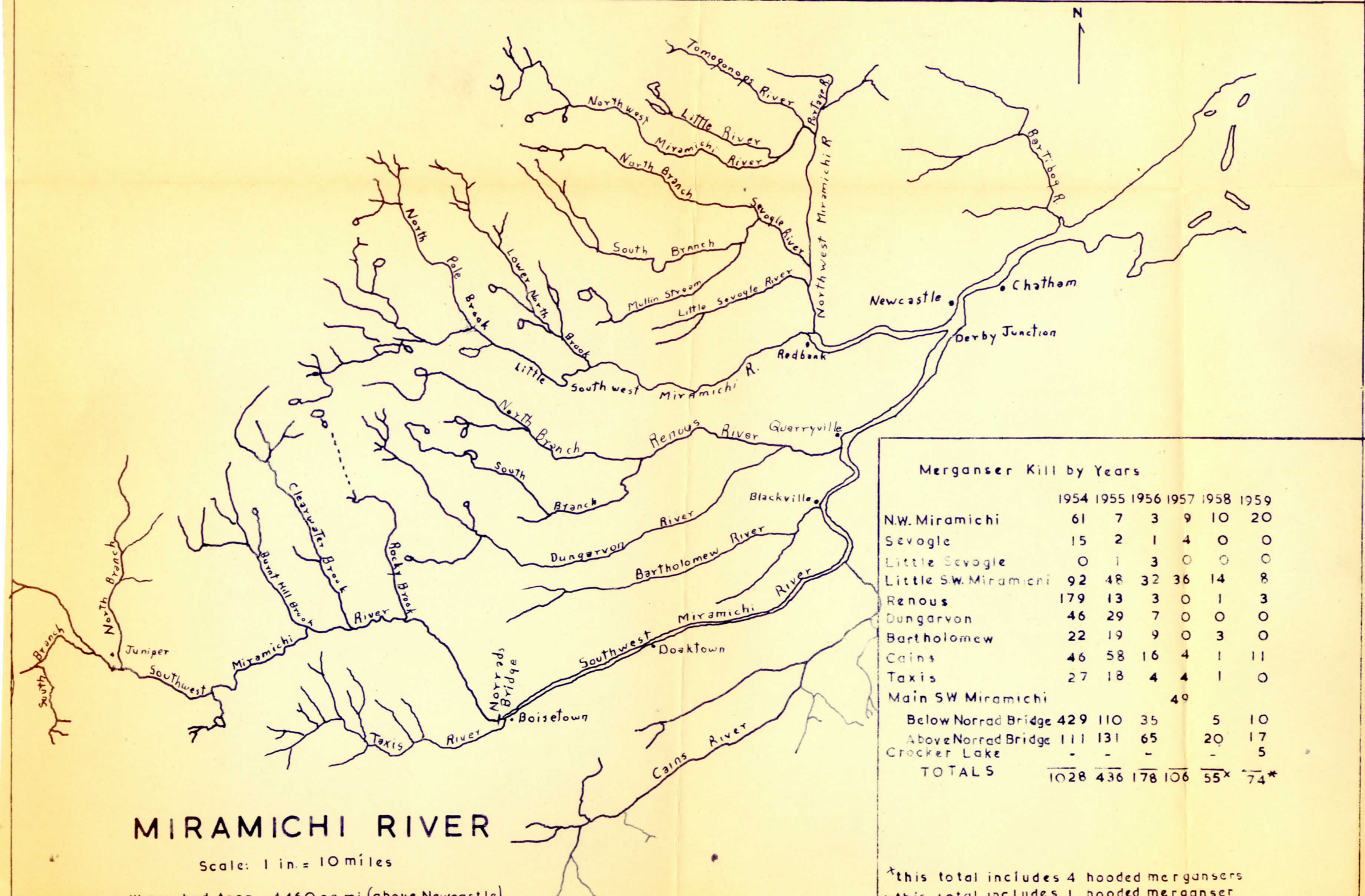
ST. MARY'S RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA

	<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Accumulated Total</u>
June	21	15	19	55	55
July	15	35	2	52	107
August	25	34	16	75	182
September	3	6	2	11	193
October	11	3	2	16	209
November	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>223</u>
Section totals	82	96	45	223	223

cc:Area Dir.,Halifax,N.S.
DPO, Truro, N.S.

Deputy Minister
Dr.C.J.Kerswill
Brian Carter

(Sgd.) J.A.Warner
Fishery Officer



MIRAMICHI RIVER

Scale: 1 in. = 10 miles

Watershed Area - 4460 sq. mi. (above Newcastle)

Merganser Kill by Years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
N.W. Miramichi	61	7	3	9	10	20
Sevoque	15	2	1	4	0	0
Little Sevoque	0	1	3	0	0	0
Little SW. Miramichi	92	48	32	36	14	8
Renous	179	13	3	0	1	3
Dungarvon	46	29	7	0	0	0
Bartholomew	22	19	9	0	3	0
Cains	46	58	16	4	1	11
Taxis	27	18	4	4	1	0
Main SW Miramichi				49		
Below Norrad Bridge	429	110	35		5	10
Above Norrad Bridge	111	131	65		20	17
Crocker Lake	-	-	-		-	5
TOTALS	1028	436	178	106	55*	74*

*this total includes 4 hooded mergansers

*this total includes 1 hooded merganser

710-1-44

File No. 731-11-2
Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N. S.
December 3rd. 1959

F.C. Library

St. Mary's River
Nova Scotia

1959 Summary

Mergansers killed by Month....1959

	<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Monthly total</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
June	4 (old)	1 (old) 7 (young)	3 (old) 6 (young)	21	21
July	2 (old) 1 (young)	4 (old) 20 (young)	Nil.	27	48
August	4 (old)	Nil.	Nil.	4	52
September	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	52
October	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	52
November	<u>5 (old)</u>	<u>Nil.</u>	<u>Nil.</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>57</u>
	16	32	9	57	57

c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

J. A. Warner
J. A. Warner
Fishery Officer

2/10/60
C.C. sent to D-17. Dec 7/59

710-1-44

File No. 731-11-2
Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N. S.
Dec. 3rd. 1959

St. Marys River
Nova Scotia

Predator Birds killed Month of November 1959

<u>Mergansers</u>			<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>		
5	Nil.	Nil.	5	57 *
<u>Kingfishers</u>			<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1
<u>Blue Heron</u>			<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>		
NIL.	NIL.	Nil.	Nil.	5

c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

J. A. Warner
J. A. Warner
Fishery Officer

Note:
* 36 Mergansers were sighted during the month. It is quite obvious that these birds flew in from the coast and other streams to feed from the St. Marys. These birds did not stay on this river but were on the move back and forth.
F/O Warner worked with L.E. Demmons two days during the month and Warden McKean also assisted one day.

Done

710-1-49

File. No. 731-11-2
Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N. S.
Nov 3rd. 1959

St. Marys River
Nova Scotia

Predator Birds killed Month of October 1959

<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Mergansers</u> <u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	52
		<u>Kingfishers</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1
		<u>Blue Heron</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5

c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

J. A. Warner
J. A. Warner
Fishery Officer

Note:
2 mergansers were sighted during the month on the West River St. Marys and none on the other branches of the river or lakes. It is quite apparent that to date no birds hve flown in from the coast or other rivers and lakes.
F/O Warner and Warden McKeen three days each during the month, as Warden Sears was on annual leave.
Worked

*copy sent
D.H.*

File No. 731-11-2
Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N. S.
Oct. 2nd. 1959

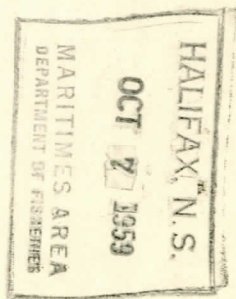
710-710-1-44

St. Marys River
Nova Scotia

Predator Birds killed Month of September 1959

<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
		<u>Mergansers</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	52
		<u>Kingfishers</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1
		<u>Blue Heron</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5

and



c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

J. A. Warner
J. A. Warner
Fishery Officer

copy sent D.H.

Note:
Only 2 mergansers were sighted during the month. This should be a good indication that the number of birds on this river is very limited. From now until freeze up these birds will be flying in from the coast and other streams to feed, so that it is expected more will be sighted during October and November.

File No. 731-11-2
Office of Fishery Officer,
Sherbrooke, N. S.
September 2nd. 1959



St. Marys River
Nova Scotia

Predator Birds killed Month of August 1959

<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
		<u>Mergansers</u>		
4 (old)	Nil.	Nil.	4	52
		<u>Kingfishers</u>		
Nil	1	Nil	1	1
		<u>Blue Heron</u>		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5

c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

J. A. Warner
J. A. Warner
Fishery Officer

Note:
Only 7 mergansers sighted during month, 4 of which destroyed.

F/O J. A. Warner patrolled approximately 10 hours during the month. Warden M. V. McKeen patrolled approximately 25 hours. Warden Sears being on leave during this time.

From reports of the Officers on predator control it would appear that predator birds are at present are at a minium.

710-1-44

Office of Fishery Officer,
 Sherbrooke, N. S.
 August 4th. 1959

HALIFAX, N. S.
 AUG 6 1959
 710-1-44
 MARITIME AREA
 DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

St. Marys River
Nova Scotia

39157

Predator Birds killed Month of July 1959

<u>West River</u>	<u>East River</u>	<u>Silvers to Sonora</u>	<u>Total for Month</u>	<u>Accumulated total</u>
<u>Mergansers</u>				
2 (old) 1 (young)	4 (old) 20 (young)		27	48
<u>Kingfishers</u>				
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<u>Blue Heron</u>				
Nil.	Nil.	3	3	5

CPO 38615
 7/2/59
 7/2/59

[Handwritten signature]
 7/2/59

c.c. Area Director, Halifax, N. S.
 District Protection Officer, Truro, N. S.

[Handwritten signature]
 J. A. Warner
 Fishery Officer

Note:

F/Os. M. S. Sponagle and J. A. Warner, worked approximately a combined total of 3 hours on Predator control during the month and accounted for 3 Blue Heron destroyed.