

maine

HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY



Organizing the lobster industry

Vol. 29, No. 1
Summer, 1989

\$2.00

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The *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* is published at 170
Stevens Hall, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine
04469, and is received by 2015 members and 135 libraries.

Manuscripts relating to any aspect of Maine history are invited.
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The articles appearing in the *Quarterly* are abstracted in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*, published by the
American Bibliographic Center.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Loading lobsters into a "smack," fishermen place their catch on a "culling board" to check sizes against official state limits. The romance implied in this 1909 illustration from *Scribners Magazine* obscures the fact that fishermen such as these were victimized by consolidation of fresh-lobster markets at the turn of the century. As Charles Scontras points out in this issue, Vinalhaven lobster fishermen reacted by forming organized labor's first lobster fishermen's union, which in 1907 became an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor.