

then turn and sail back with the wind to change direction again into the wind for searching for fish. There was not really too much systematic searching as fish were so plentiful that a gull could make its catch without searching or hunting. Fish were captured by either picking them out of the water while flying just above the surface of the water (actually uncommon method) to gently diving, into water with submergence of body ^{part of tail} and head only. Depending on depth, the gulls would submerge from head and $\frac{1}{2}$ body to entire body up to first joint ($\frac{1}{2}$ way) of wing. At no time did I see gulls submerge beyond the first joint such as, for example, total submergence. These antics were relegated to the herring gulls. In some cases a gull would repeatedly dive deeper & deeper if the fish had a tendency to sink during the capture operation. Where the ice was thin enough, gulls on the ice would peek thru ice and capture fish. These fish were generally those with curved profiles.

Some other observations of behaviour are:

Other ring-bills can be seen flying in area of the NW end of orban as if similar activity on fish predation was going on there.

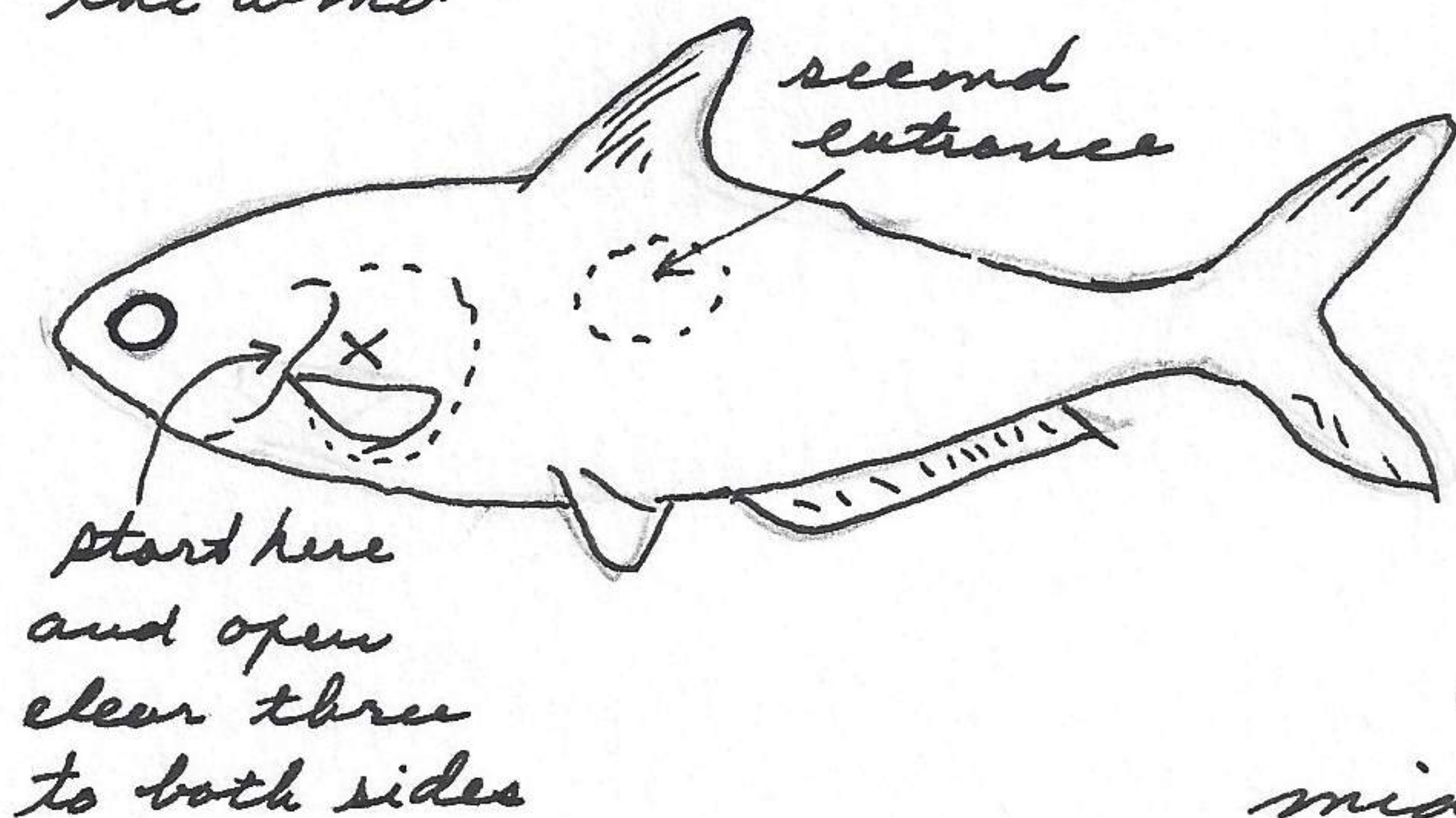
Redtail hawk flew over gulls (100' high) causing all of them to leave the ice or water but they returned immediately without leaving the vicinity of the fishing area.

One ring-bill with black blotch on left side of head (rear) on otherwise white head. One gull with band of ~~left~~ ^{right} leg.

10% of ringbill are first year or between first year & adults (sometimes 200'). Gulls ride floating ice masses (with wind) until mass runs other ice masses and then on contact they all leave together and move up wind to find other resting places on ^{other} ice masses. Weight of gulls will depress ice sheet up to height of leg.

The larger and more mature the gull the better and more distinct the black band on the bill.

Some gulls have defecated standing on ice and feeding against the wind.



If the shad cannot be swallowed all at once (always head first), the areas above and back of pectoral fins are excavated completely thru body with head just hanging onto body, and then secondarily in middle of fish. and even though the head

looks like it would fall off the body, the gull will gather it together and with the rest of the body swallows it head first. Fish swallowed to tip of tail can be easily rejected at will.