

## 16.—THE SALMON FISHERIES OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.

BY MARSHALL McDONALD, United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries.

## U. S. COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES, Washington, D. C., May 31, 1894.

### Hon. ADLAI E. STEVENSON,

### President of the Senate:

SIR: In compliance with instructions conveyed in the provisions of the Sundry Civil Bill, which became a law August 5, 1892, I have the honor to submit a report of investigations in the Columbia River Basin.

The first of the provisions above referred to authorized the expenditure from the appropriation for inquiry respecting food-fishes of \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, "In examining the Clarke's Fork of the Columbia River, with the view to ascertain the obstructions which prevent the ascent of salmon up said river to the Flathead Lake and adjacent waters."

The second provision directed an investigation and report respecting the advisability of establishing a fish hatching station at some suitable point in the State of Washington, and appropriated for the same "\$1,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary."

It was not known whether the failure of the salmon to enter the Clarke Fork of the Columbia was due to natural obstructions preventing their ascent, or was to be attributed to the extensive fishing operations prosecuted in the Lower Columbia, or possibly to other causes to be disclosed by the proposed investigation. Again, the location of the hatchery proposed for the State of Washington would be necessarily determined by our ability to secure an adequate supply of spawning salmon within convenient distance of the hatchery.

It appearing probable that the methods of the large fisheries pursued in the Lower Columbia, if permitted to continue, would effectually intercept the run of salmon to the headwaters, and thus defeat the object for which the hatchery is proposed, it was thought proper and expedient to institute a general investigation covering the entire Columbia River Basin, and if conditions were disclosed threatening disaster to these valuable and productive fisheries, to bring the matter to the attention of Congress and the States interested in their prosperity.

The direction of the field investigation was intrusted to Prof. B. W. Evermann, assistant in the Division of Inquiry Respecting Food-Fishes, whose report is appended to and constitutes an integral part of the report of the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Nore.—This paper was first issued August 27, 1894, as Senate Miscellaneous Document No. 200, Fifty-third Congress, second session.

A very complete statistical investigation into the history, methods, apparatus, present conditions, product, and annual value of the salmon fisheries of the Columbia has also been made by Mr. W. A. Wilcox, under the direction of Dr. H. M. Smith, assistant in charge of the Division of Statistics and Methods of the Fisheries, the results of which are embodied and discussed in the report which is herewith respectfully submitted.

## CONDITIONS DETERMINING THE SALMON PRODUCTION OF A RIVER BASIN.

There are fundamental conditions determining the salmon production of a river basin and the nature and extent of the fisheries which may be maintained without overtaxing the productive capacity of the river. All the species of salmon which are the object of the fisheries are alike under the constraint of a natural law, which compels them to enter the fresh waters for the purpose of spawning. Some species ascend to a relatively short distance above tide water. Others, like the chinook, push their migrations to the remotest sources of the rivers and tributary streams, when not prevented by natural or artificial obstructions. Where the area of distribution is contracted by the erection of barriers, dams, or other obstructions which the salmon can not surmount, the production of the river is diminished pro tanto, for the reason that the young salmon remain for some months in the waters in which they are hatchedthey must here find their food—and consequently the extent of the feeding grounds open to them will be the measure of nature's ability to repair the waste occasioned by natural casualties and the fishing operations. If there be no contraction of the breeding area by artificial obstructions, but, on the other hand, the times, methods, and apparatus of the fisheries are such as to intercept or in a large measure prevent the run of salmon into and up the rivers, then a serious decline in the fisheries is inevitable.

It is possible by fish-cultural operations pursued on an adequate scale, by hatching and planting the fry in the head waters of the Columbia and its tributary streams, to realize the full productive capacity of the river, so long as eggs can be obtained in sufficient numbers to furnish a basis for the extensive operations required. This would not be possible, however, if the fishing operations in the lower river practically excluded the salmon from the streams to which it would be necessary to have recourse to obtain a supply of eggs. It is evident, therefore, that fish-cultural operations can not be relied upon exclusively or chiefly to maintain the salmon supply in the Columbia. The regulation of the times, methods, and apparatus of the fisheries should be such as to assure the largest opportunity practicable for reproduction under natural conditions. Artificial propagation should be invoked as an aid and not as a substitute for reproduction under natural conditions.

#### THE LIMITS OF MIGRATION OF SALMON.

The limits of migration of salmon in the Columbia River basin, as determined by impassable falls in the larger tributaries of the Columbia and their affluents, is shown in the accompanying chart, there being no serious obstructions existing in the main river within the limits of the United States.

The area of distribution is approximately 90,000 square miles. This immense tract is drained by innumerable streams of clear cold water, into which the salmon enter for the purpose of spawning and up which they ascend till their progress is stopped

by falls or other obstructions which they cannot surmount. These waters furnish the feeding-grounds of the young salmon during their early life, which is spent in the fresh waters. Their migration seaward does not begin until they are at least a year old and have attained a length of from 8 to 10 inches. These streams are the nurseries of the great salmon fisheries of the lower Columbia. From each goes out every year a colony, more or less numerous, to swell the aggregate of young salmon necessary to repair the waste by natural casualty and by capture.

The area of natural distribution has not as yet been very materially abridged. Certain streams, such as the Bruneau and the Boise, have been obstructed by dams near their mouths, but the vast extent of waters still accessible to salmon and affording suitable breeding and feeding grounds, indicates that we must look to other causes to explain any ascertained deterioration in the salmon fisheries of the Columbia.

#### DECREASE OF SALMON IN THE HEAD WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

The investigations made by Prof. Evermann and the parties under his direction establish conclusively the fact that there has been a very great reduction in the number of salmon frequenting the head waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries. This decrease is more notable in the main river. In the early history of the fishery salmon were found in the head waters in marvelous abundance. According to the information obtained by Prof. Evermann:

They were abundant in the Columbia River at Kettle Falls as late as 1878. Since then there has been a great decrease. They have been scarce since 1882. Since 1890 there have been scarcely any at Kettle Falls. The Meyers Brothers say that they have been almost unable to buy any salmon for their own table from the Indians for three years. Certain Indians with whom we talked at Kettle Falls said salmon were once very abundant there, but that very few are seen now. Other persons testified to the same effect. Essentially the same information was obtained regarding the decrease of salmon in other parts of the upper tributaries of the Columbia, viz: at Spokane, in both the Big and Little Spokane rivers, and in the Snake River and its various tributaries.

## Dr. O. P. Jenkins, an assistant of Prof. Evermann, makes the following report in reference to the Yakima River, Washington:

The Yakima is the main stream of the valley. It receives many tributaries, the main ones being Manistash and Wilson creeks. The river near the city (Ellensburg) is 160 feet wide, by an average of 10 feet deep, and flows with a velocity of 1 foot per second. Temperature at 9:15 a. m., August 24, 1893, 60° F.; water clear. Those acquainted with the facts state that formerly, up to about 1885, salmon of three or four kinds, including the quinnat, ran up the stream to this valley and spawned in the river in great numbers; at present very few make their appearance.

There is no reason to doubt—indeed, the fact is beyond question—that the number of salmon now reaching the head waters of streams in the Columbia River basin is insignificant in comparison with the number which some years ago annually visited and spawned in these waters. It is further apparent that this decrease is not to be attributed either to the contraction of the area accessible to them or to changed conditions in the waters which would deter the salmon from entering them. We must look to the great commercial fisheries prosecuted in the lower river for an explanation of this decrease, which portends inevitable disaster to these fisheries if the conditions which have brought it about are permitted to continue.

The relations of the decreased number of salmon in the head waters to the development of the commercial fisheries is brought out in a very instructive way by an analysis of the following table: Summary of the salmon-canning industry of the Columbia River from its origin to the present time.

Year.	Gross weight of salmon utilized.	Number of cases packed.	Value.	Average value per case.	Year.	Gross weight of salmon utilized.	Number of cases packed.	Value.	Average value per case.
1866   1867   1868   1869   1871   1872   1873   1874   1875   1876   1877   1878   1877   1878   1879   1870   1871   1872   1874   1876   1877   1878   1879	$\begin{array}{c} 1, 170, 000\\ 1, 820, 000\\ 6, 500, 000\\ 9, 750, 000\\ 13, 000, 000\\ 16, 250, 000\\ 16, 250, 000\\ 22, 750, 000\\ 24, 375, 000\\ 29, 250, 600\\ 24, 375, 000\\ 29, 900, 000\\ 20, 900, 000\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4,000\\ 18,000\\ 28,000\\ 100,000\\ 150,000\\ 250,000\\ 250,000\\ 350,000\\ 375,000\\ 375,000\\ 380,000\\ 460,000\\ 480,000\\ 530,000\\ \end{array}$	\$64,000 288,000 392,000 1,350,000 2,100,000 2,325,000 2,250,000 2,625,000 2,475,000 2,475,000 2,052,000 2,052,000 2,300,000 2,640,000 2,650,000	$\begin{array}{c} \$16, 00\\ 16, 00\\ 14, 00\\ 13, 50\\ 12, 00\\ 10, 50\\ 9, 30\\ 9, 00\\ 9, 00\\ 9, 00\\ 7, 50\\ 6, 00\\ 5, 50\\ 5, 50\\ 5, 50\\ 5, 50\\ 5, 00\\ \end{array}$	1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 Total.	Pounds. 35, 750, 000 35, 184, 500 40, 911, 000 40, 300, 000 35, 997, 000 23, 140, 000 24, 152, 000 23, 140, 000 24, 211, 005 20, 685, 495 28, 781, 385 26, 450, 635 32, 185, 995 24, 050, 000 658, 424, 515	550,000 541,300 029,400 553,800 356,000 372,477 309,885 435,774 398,953 487,338 370,000	\$2. 475, 000 2 600. 000 3, 147, 000 2, 915, 000 2, 135, 000 2, 135, 000 2, 135, 000 2, 135, 000 2, 135, 000 2, 124, 000 2, 327, 981 1, 809, 820 2, 407, 456 2, 240, 964 2, 679, 069 2, 107, 500 59, 029, 790	$\begin{array}{r} \$4.50\\ 4.80\\ 5.00\\ 4.70\\ 4.70\\ 4.51\\ 4.76\\ 5.97\\ 6.25\\ 5.84\\ 5.52\\ 5.02\\ 5.50\\ 5.70\\ \hline\end{array}$

Canning operations on the Columbia River began in 1866, when 4,000 cases were packed and sold at an average of \$16 per case. As early as 1872 the total pack reached 250,000 cases, the price per case having declined to \$9. Each succeeding year operations were extended and reached their culmination in 1883 and 1884, when upwards of 600,000 cases were packed each season. From this time on the catch declined, having reached its lowest point in 1889, the number of cases packed that season being 309,885, or less than half the number of cases packed in 1883 and 1884.

Up to 1888, practically the entire pack consisted of the king or chinook salmon, and the fishing season did not extend beyond the first of August. In 1889 the packers began canning bluebacks and steelheads to make up the deficiency in the supply, and extended their operations to the first of September.

DETAILED STATISTICS OF THE SALMON INDUSTRY OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER, 1889-92.

The following series of tables shows, in some detail, the extent of the salmon fishery and canning industry of the Columbia River during the years 1889 to 1892, inclusive, as determined by the inquiries conducted by this Commission.

The number of fishermen and shore employés connected with the salmon industry in each of the years named is indicated in Table A :

How engaged.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Oregon : Fishermen Shoresmen and cannery employes	1,606 870	1, 648 1, 028	1, 929 1, 057	2,064 1,100
Total	2,476	2, 712	2, 986	3, 164
Washington : Fishermen Shoresmen and cannory employes	1, 535 594	1, 510 602	1, 575 654	1,677 704
Total	2, 129	2,112	2, 229	2, 381
Total for river: Fishermen Shoresmen and cannery employes	·3, 141 1, 464	3, 194 1, 630	3, 504 1, 711	3, 741 1, 804
Total	4, 605	4, 824	5, 215	5, 545

A. – Table showing the number of persons employed in the salmon industry of the Columbia River from 1889 to 1892.

The number and value of boats and apparatus and the value of shore property and capital employed in the salmon fisheries of the Columbia River in 1889, 1890, 1891 and 1892 is given in Table B.

BNumber and value of boats and apparatus, and the value of shore property, and cash capital employed in
the salmon industry of the Columbia River in 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892.

		1889.		1890. ,		1891.	:	1892.
Apparatus and capital.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	·No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Oregon:								
Boats	751	\$99, 850	776	\$104,400	876	\$120, 815	998	\$131, 550
Pile drivers and scows	21	5,900	23	6, 300	30	8, 300	29	7,400
Pound nots	102	72, 300	98	76, 500	140	98, 900	247	173, 400
Trap nets	2	1,600			2	1,600	2	1,600
Seines	7	4,800	6	2,700	19	11,150	12	5, 650
' Gill nets	757	152, 000	760	159, 450	790	181, 265	861	190, 100
Wheels	31	120,052	29	107, 552	30	108, 152	40	132,852
Dip nets and squaw nets	95	475	85	425	60	300	50	25
Shore property		502, 955	• • • • • • • • •	486, 355		455, 205		507, 80
Cash capital		395,000		581,000	•••••	520,000		614,000
Total		1, 354, 932		1, 524, 682		1, 505, 687		1,764,607
Washington:								
Boats	475	60, 340	468	59,780	534	67, 280	538	64, 89
Pile-drivers and scows	39	9,050	37	9, 950	42	10,750	45	13, 55
Pound nets	62	48, 200	70	55, 200	98	77,000	131	103.40
Trap nets	2	1,400	2	1,400	2	1,400	1	70
Seines	83	18, 700	29	16, 400	30	16, 900	26	10.00
Gill nets	436	88, 775	432	89, 480	472	101, 780	453	98, 13
Wheels	9	25,000	12	48, 500	14	45,000	17	49,10
Dip nets and squaw nets	15	75	18	90	23	115	25	12
Shore property		245.950		247.280		321,050		282, 80
Cash capital	•••••	304,000		331,000		332,000		830, 00
Total		801, 490		859, 080		973, 275		952, 70
Fotal for river:								
Boats	1, 226	160, 190	1,244	164, 180	1.410	188,095	1,536	196.44
Pile drivers and scows	60	14,950	60	16, 250	72	19,050	74	20, 95
Pound nets	164	120, 500	168	131,700	238	175, 900	378	276, 80
Trap nets	4	3,000	2	1,400	4	3,000	3	2, 80
Seines	40	23, 500	85	19,100	49	28,050	38	15,65
Gill nets.	1,193	240, 775	1,192	248, 930	1,262	283, 045	1, 814	288, 23
Wheels	40	145,052	41	156,052	44	153, 152	57	181, 95
Dip nets and squaw nets	110	550	103	515	83	415	75	37
Shore property		748, 905		733, 635		.776, 255		790, 60
Cash câpital	•••••	699, 000	•••••	912, 000	•••••	852,000	• • • • • • • • •	944, 00
Total		2, 156, 422		2, 383, 762		2, 478, 962		2, 717, 30

Comparing 1892 with 1889, we find increases or decreases in the number of the different sorts of apparatus as follows:

Apparatus.	1889.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease
Pound nets	40 1, 193 40	378 38 1, 314 57 75		2

The following tables, C, D, E, and F, show by apparatus the number, weight, and value of each species of salmon taken in the Columbia River in 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892:

C.—Table showing	by	apparatus	the	number,	weight,	and	value	of	each	species	of	salmon	taken	in	the
				Colum	bia Rive	r in	1889.								

		Oregon.			Washington	•		Total.	
Apparatus and species.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.
Pound nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	86, 777 33, 372 37, 958	2, 169, 425 166, 860 379, 545	\$108, 469 8, 342 11, 386	40, 323 24, 199 22, 460	$1,008,075 \\120,995 \\224,600$	\$50, 353 5, 904 6, 737	127, 100 57, 571 60, 418	3, 177, 500 287, 855 604, 145	$$158,822 \\ 14,246 \\ 18,123$
Total	158, 107	2, 715, 830	128, 197	86, 982	1, 353, 670	62, 994	245, 089	4, 069, 500	191, 191
Trap nets: Chinook Steelhead	710 440	17, 750 4, 400	887 132	2, 275 803	56, 875 8, 030	2, 844 241	2, 985 1, 243	74, 625 12, 430	3, 731 373
Total	1,150	22, 150	1, 019	3,078	64, 905	3, 085	4, 228	87, 055	4, 104
Seines: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	24, 752 3, 500 16, 720	618, 800 17, 500 167, 200	30, 940 875 4, 816	63, 782 2, 444 43, 978	1, 594, 550 12, 225 439, 780	79, 727 611 13, 193	88, 534 5, 944 60, 698	2, 213, 350 29, 725 606, 980	110, 667 1, 486 18, 009
Total	44, 972	803, 500	36, 631	110, 204	2, 046, 555	93, 531	155, 176	2, 850, 055	130, 162
Gill nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	252, 044 27, 623 16, 472	6, 301, 325 139, 115 164, 720	312, 563 4, 751 5, 090	226, 053 17, 218 15, 970	5, 759, 050 86, 090 159, 700	281, 470 3, 044 4, 785	478, 097 44, 841 32, 442	$12,060,375\\225,205\\324,420$	594, 033 7, 795 9, 875
Total	296, 139	6,605,160	322, 404	259, 241	6, 004, 840	289, 299	555, 380	12, 610, 000	611, 703
Wheels: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	15, 182 140, 090 6, 329 4, 500	379, 550 700, 450 63, 290 31, 500	$12,867 \\ 23,090 \\ 2,043 \\ 630$	6, 876 51, 064 1, 480 2, 540	171, 900 230, 322 14, 800 16, 780	6, 978 9, 260 484 503	22, 058 191, 154 7, 809 7, 040	551, 450 930, 772 78, 090 48, 280	19, 845 32, 350 2, 527 1, 133
Total	166, 101	1, 174, 790	38, 630	61, 960	433, 802	17, 225	228, 061	1, 608, 592	55, 855
Dip nets and squaw nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	2, 291 16, 910 1, 145 5, 142	57, 283 84, 550 11, 450 35, 994	$1,146\\1,841\\229\\540$	1,3608,1125093,175	$34,000 \\ 40,560 \\ 5,090 \\ 22,225$	510 608 77 333	$egin{array}{c} 3,651\ 25,022\ 1,654\ 8,317 \end{array}$	91, 283 125, 110 16, 540 58, 219	1, 656 2, 449 306 873
Total	25, 488	189, 277	3, 756	13, 156	101, 875	1, 528	38, 644	291, 152	5, 284
All apparatus: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	381, 756 221, 495 79, 064 9, 642	9, 544, 133 1, 108, 475 790, 605 67, 494	466, 872 38, 899 23, 696 1, 170	340, 669 103, 037 85, 200 5, 715	8, 624, 450 490, 192 852, 000 39, 065	421, 882 19, 427 25, 517 836	722, 425 324, 532 164, 264 15, 357	$18, 168, 583 \\1, 598, 667 \\1, 642, 605 \\106, 499$	888, 754 58, 326 49, 213 2, 006
Total	691, 957	11, 510, 707	530, 637	534, 621	10,005,647	467, 662	1, 226, 578	21, 516, 354	998, 299

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## SALMON FISHERIES OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.

Apparatus and species.		Oregon		٦	Washington	•	Total.			
Apparatus and species.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	
Pound nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	104, 099 50, 403 51, 600	$2,602,475\\252,465\\516,000$	\$78, 491 5, 048 5, 160	71, 346 42, 097 41, 412	1, 783, 659 210, 485 414, 120	\$53, 510 4, 209 4, 140	175, 445 92, 590 93, 012	4, 386, 125 462, 950 930, 120	\$132, 001 9, 257 9, 300	
Total	206, 192	3, 370, 940	88, 699	154, 855	2, 408, 255	61, 859	361, 047	5, 779, 195	150, 558	
Trap nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead				3, 629 303 2, 979	90, 725 1, 515 29, 790	2, 721 30 298	3, 629 303 2, 979	90, 725 1, 515 29, 790	2, 721 30 298	
Total				6, 911	122, 030	3, 049	6, 911	122,030	3,049	
Seines: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	10, 750 2, 250 9, 013	268, 750 11, 250 90, 130	8, 0€3 225 901	53, 752 14, 292 36, 701	1, 343, 800 71, 460 367, 010	41, 402 1, 425 3, 669	64, 502 16, 542 45, 714	1, 612, 550 82, 710 457, 140	49, 465 1, 650 4, 570	
Total	22, 013	370, 130	9, 189	104, 743	1, 782, 270	46, 496	126, 758	2, 152, 400	55, 685	
Gill nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	369, 196 81, 909 29, 593	9, 229, 700 409, 545 205, 935	288, 730 8, 440 3, 819	211, 675 25, 718 18, 635	5, 366, 675 138, 590 186, 350	$166, 167 \\ 2, 884 \\ 2, 467$	580, 871 107, 627 48, 228	14, 596, 375 548, 135 482, 285	454, 897 11, 324 6, 286	
Total	480, 698	9, 935, 180	300, 989	256, 028	5, 691, 615	171, 518	736, 726	15, 626, 795	472, 507	
Wheels: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silvor	$\begin{array}{r} 83,202\\ 529,646\\ 71,239\\ 4,660\end{array}$	2, 080, 053 2, 648, 155 712, 390 31, 612	62, 401 79, 444 16, 474 749	27, 972 207, 298 13, 801 1, 500	699, 317 1, 036, 465 138, 010 10, 500	20, 979 30, 431 2, 322 210	111, 174 736, 944 85, 040 6, 160	2, 779, 370 3, 684, 620 850, 400 42, 112	83, 380 109, 875 18, 790 959	
Total	688, 747	5, 472, 210	159,068	250, 571	1, 884, 292	53, 942	939, 318	7, 356, 502	213, 010	
Dip nets and squaw nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	5, 021 32, 748 11, 000 10, 180	$125,534\\103,740\\110,000\\71,260$	1,958 2,450 1,650 1,068	2,242 7,717 1,402 4,500	56, 068 38, 585 14, 025 31, 500	841 579 210 472	7, 263 40, 465 12, 402 14, 680	181, 602 • 202, 325 124, 025 102, 760	2, 799 3, 029 1, 860 1, 540	
Total	58, 949	470, 534	7, 126	15, 861	140, 178	2, 102	74, 810	610, 712	9, 228	
All apparatus : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	572, 268 697, 046 172, 445 14, 840	14, 306, 512 3, 485, 155 1, 724, 455 102, 872	439, 643 95, 607 28, 004 1, 817	370, 616 297, 425 114, 930 6, 000	9, 840, 235 1, 497, 100 1, 149, 305 42, 000	285, 620 39, 558 13, 100 682	942, 884 994, 471 287, 375 20, 840	23, 646, 747 4, 982, 255 2, 873, 760 144, 872	725, 263 135, 165 41, 110 2, 499	
Total	1, 456, 599	19, 618, 994	565, 071	788, 971	12, 028, 640	338, 966	2, 245, 570	31, 647, 634	904, 037	

## D.—Table showing by apparatus the number, weight, and value of each species of salmon taken in the Columbia River in 1890.

		Oregon.			Washington	n.	Total.			
Apparatus and species.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	
Pound nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	108, 983 22, 988 54, 080	2, 724, 575 114, 940 540, 800	\$108, 983 2, 298 7, 029	94, 624 52, 164 44, 448	2, 365, 600 260, 840 444, 464	\$94, 594 5, 336 6, 308	$203, 607 \\75, 152 \\98, 528$	5, 090, 175 375, 780 985, 264	\$203, 577 7, 634 13, 337	
Total	186, 051	3, 380, 315	118, 310	191, 236	3, 070, 904	106, 238	377, 287	6, 451, 219	224, 548	
Trap nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	630 148 786	$15,750 \\ 740 \\ 7,860$	630 15 118	712 501	17, 800	712	1, 342 148 1, 287	33, 550 740 12, 870	1, 342 15 193	
Total	1, 564	24, 350	763	1, 213	22, 810	787	2,777	47, 160	1, 550	
Seines : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	16, 489 2, 252 5, 092 857	412, 225 11, 260 50, 920 5, 999	16, 489 225 919 190	48, 596 8, 325 27, 469	1, 214, 900 41, 625 274, 690	36, 884 1, 221 5, 467	65, 085 10, 577 32, 561 857	$1, 627, 125 \\52, 885 \\325, 610 \\5, 999$	53, 373 1, 446 6, 386 190	
Total	24, 690	480, 404	17, 823	84, 390	1, 531, 215	43 572	109, 080	2, 011, 619	61, 395	
Gill nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	448, 500 25, 679 17, 274 285	11, 212, 500 131, 395 172, 740 1, 995	447, 031 4, 102 3, 541 60	$208, 633 \\15, 268 \\20, 581 \\694$	5, 341, 52576, 340205, 8154, 858	208, 593 2, 589 3, 468 145	657, 133 40, 947 37, 855 979	16, 554, 025 207, 735 378, 555 6, 853	655, 624 6, 691 7, 009 205	
Total	491, 738	11, 518, 630	451, 734	245, 176	5, 628, 538	214, 795	736, 914	17, 147, 168	669, 529	
Wheels: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	23, 645 80, 004 27, 053 4, 920	591, 153 400, 020 270, 530 34, 440	$17,735 \\ 12,000 \\ 6,675 \\ 933$	9, 621 36, 675 11, 536 2, 730	240, 540 183, 375 115, 360 19, 110	7, 216 5, 502 3, 460 573	33, 266 116, 679 38, 589 7, 650	831, 693 583, 395 385, 890 53, 550	24, 951 17, 502 10, 135 1, 506	
Total	135, 622	1, 296, 143	37, 343	60, 562	558, 385	16, 751	196, 184	1, 854, 528	54,094	
Dip nets and squaw nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	2, 943 30, 436 7, 459 10, 370	73, 591 152, 182 74, 590 72, 591	1, 119 2, 388 1, 149 1, 089	403 13, 887 2, 016 4, 260	10, 083 60, 918 20, 164 29, 820	151 914 302 447	3, 346 44, 323 9, 475 14, 630	83, 674 213, 100 94, 754 102, 411	1,2703,3021,4511,536	
Total	51,208	372, 954	5, 745	20, 566	120, 985	1, 814	71, 774	493, 939	7, 559	
All apparatus: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	601, 190 161, 507 111, 744 16, 482	15, 029, 794 810, 537 1, 117, 440 115, 025	591, 987 21, 028 19, 431 2, 272	362, 589 126, 319 106, 551 7, 684	9, 190, 448 623, 098 1, 065, 503 53, 788	348, 150 15, 562 19, 080 1, 165	963, 779 287, 826 218, 205 24, 116	24, 220, 242 1, 433, 635 2, 182, 943 168, 813	940, 137 36, 590 38, 511 .3, 437	
Total	890, 873	11, 072, 796	634, 718	603, 143	10, 932, 837	383, 957	1, 494, 016	28, 005, 633	1, 018, 675	

# E.—Table showing by apparatus the number, weight, and value of each species of salmon taken in the Columbia River in 1891.

## SALMON FISHERIES OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.

<b>.</b> .		Oregon.		-	Washington	• .		Total.	
Apparatus and species.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.	No.	Pounds.	Value.
Pound nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	127, 627 99, 602 112, 661	3, 191, 675 498, 010 1, 126, 610	\$127, 627 10, 010 16, 899	89, 852 191, 222 76, 998	2, 246, 300 956, 110 769, 980	\$89, 852 19, 122 11, 549	217, 479 290, 824 189, 659	5, 537, 975 1, 454, 120 1, 896, 590	\$217, 479 29, 132 28, 448
Total	339, 890	4, 816, 295	154, 536	358, 072	3, 972, 390	120, 523	697, 962	8, 788, 685	275,059
Trap nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead	530 240 879	13, 250 1, 200 8, 790	530 24 132	20 150	500 1,500	20 150	550 240 1,029	13, 750 1, 200 10, 290	550 2- 281
Total	1, 649	23, 240	686	170	2,000	170	1, 819	25, 240	850
Seines : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	27, 707 48, 347 18, 544 1, 428	689, 535 237, 735 185, 352 10, 000	20, 686 7, 132 3, 707 300	27, 582 75, 031 34, 843	689, 550 375, 185 348, 430	20, 687 11, 256 6, 969	55, 289 123, 378 53, 387 1, 428	1, 379, 085 612, 920 533, 782 10, 000	41, 375 18, 388 10, 670 300
Total	96, 026	1, 122, 622	31, 825	137, 456	1, 413, 165	38, 912	233, 482	2, 535, 787	70, 73
Gill nets: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	355, 715 94, 141 37, 043	8, 892, 870 470, 705 370, 430	855, 715 9, 714 5, 866	223, 197 21, 021 33, 428 714	5,715,675110,105334,280 $5,000$	223, 167 3, 303 5, 090 150	578, 912 115, 162 70, 471 714	14, 608, 545 580, 810 704, 710 5, 000	578, 88 13, 01 10, 950 150
Total	486, 899	9, 734, 005	371, 295	278, 360	6,165,060	231, 710	765, 259	15, 899, 065	603, 00
Wheels: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	45, 964 314, 585 95, 654 39, 255	1, 149, 115 1, 572, 923 956, 540 274, 785	34, 474 47, 187 28, 696 8, 234	10,705145,76045,0564,872	417, 630 728, 832 450, 560 34, 104	12, 529 21, 865 13, 517 1, 023	62, 669 460, 351 140, 710 44, 127	1,560,7452,301,7551,407,100 $308,880$	47, 003 69, 055 42, 21: 9, 257
Tota1	495, 458	3, 953, 363	118, 591	212, 399	1, 631, 126	48, 934	707,857	5, 584, 489	167, 52
Dipnets and squawnets : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	1, 356 59, 023 6, 780 12, 386	33, 900 295, 109 67, 802 86, 703	509 4, 427 1, 017 1, 301	578 15, 380 2, 890 4, 850	14, 450 76, 900 28, 900 33, 950	217 1, 154 434 510	1, 934 74, 403 9, 670 17, 236	48, 350 872, 009 96, 702 120, 653	726 5,581 1,451 1,811
Total	79, 545	483, 514	7, 254	23, 698	154, 200	2, 315	103, 243	637, 714	9, 56
All apparatus : Chinook Blueback Stoelhead Silver	558, 899 615, 938 271, 561 53, 069	13, 970, 345 3, 075, 682 2, 715, 524 371, 488	539, 541 78, 494 56, 317 9, 835	357, 934 448, 420 193, 865 10, 436	9, 084, 105 2, 247, 132 1, 933, 650 73, 054	346, 472 56, 700 37, 709 1, 683	916, 833 1, 064, 358 464, 926 63, 505	$\begin{array}{r} 23,054,450\\ 5,322,814\\ 4,649,174\\ 444,542 \end{array}$	886, 01 135, 19 94, 02 11, 51
Total	1, 499, 467	20, 133, 039	684, 187	1, 010, 155	13, 337, 941	442, 564	2, 509, 622	33, 470, 980	1, 126, 75
				1			1	1	1

F.—Table showing by apparatus the number, weight, and value of each species of salmon taken in the Columbia River in 1892.

The number and location of the salmon canneries operated on the Columbia River in the years 1889 to 1892 were as follows:

.....

Location.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Location.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Oregon : Astoria Clifton Maple Dell Warrendale Dalles Celilo Portland* Total	1 1	8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2	8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2	8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4	Washington : Ilwaco . Knappton . Chinook Pillar Rock . Brookdeld . Waterford . Eureka . Cathlamet . Bay View . Eagle Cliff . Total Graud total .	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 21	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 22	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 10 24

\* This cannery, on the Willamette River, received its fish from the Columbia River.

F. C. B. 1894-11

The proportion of each species of salmon in the salmon pack of the Columbia River from 1889 to 1892 is shown in Table G:

Of the second second	1	889.	1	890.	1	891.	1	892.
States and species.	Cases.	Value.	Cases.	Value.	Cases.	Value.	Cases.	Value.
Oregon : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	140, 741 15, 979 11, 692	\$844, 446 90, 628 49, 899	196, 414 53, 351 26, 608	\$1, 138, 787 268, 104 106, 432	222, 963 10, 859 15, 584	\$1, 279, 092 58, 816 62, 236	$214, 631 \\51, 106 \\45, 403 \\4, 176$	\$1, 244, 500 287, 984 181, 612 20, 880
Total	168, 412	984, 973	276, 373	1, 513, 323	249, 406	1, 400, 144	315, 316	1, 734, 976
Washington : Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver.	125, 956 1, 818 13, 699	755, 736 10, 423 58, 688	139, 190 3, 994 16, 217	$807,300 \\ 21,965 \\ 64,868$	130, 944 4, 623 13, 980	759, 474 25, 426 55, 920	129, 636 15, 441 26, 945	751, 888 84, 925 107, 280
Total	141, 473	824, 847	159, 401	894, 133	149, 547	840, 820	172,022	944, 093
Total for river: Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	266, 697 17, 797 25, 391	1, 600, 182 101, 051 108, 587	335, 604 57, 345 42, 825	1, 946, 087 290, 069 171, 300	353, 907 15, 482 29, 564	2, 038, 566 84, 242 118, 156	344, 267 66, 547 72, 348 4, 176	1, 996, 388 372, 909 288, 892 20, 880
Total	309, 885	1, 809, 820	435, 774	2, 407, 456	398, 953	2, 240, 964	487, 338	2, 679, 069

G.-Table showing by species the salmon pack of the Columbia River from 1889 to 1892.

In 1893 the pack of chinook salmon amounted to 290,000 cases.

The extent to which the different species of salmon enter into the pack, and the variations in the proportions during the four years covered by the figures, are shown in the following table. It appears that in 1892 the percentage of chinook salmon canned was less and that of each of the other species greater than in any of the preceding years.

Percentage of each species of salmon in the salmon pack of the Columbia River from 1889 to 1892.

Species.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Chinook Blueback Steelhead Silver	5.74 8.20	77.01 13.16 9.83	88.71 3.88 7.41	$70,64 \\ 13.65 \\ 14.85 \\ .86$
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

In discussing the data furnished by the foregoing tables and others which will follow, I will confine myself to the chinook salmon for the following reasons:

1. It is the most important species considered economically.

2. It is taken equally by all forms of apparatus.

3. Active fishing operations continue practically during the entire period of its sojourn in the river, and it is therefore the species which would be the first to feel the influence of excessive fishing.

These considerations do not apply with equal force to the other species, viz, the steelhead, the blueback, and the silverside, which are taken under similar conditions and at present constitute about one-fourth of the entire pack.

The spawning run of the steelhead takes place before fishing operations have begun on the river.

The spawning run of the silverside takes place after canning operations are concluded for the season, while the small size of the blueback gives it comparative immunity from capture by the gill nets, which take much the larger part of the king salmon.

Referring to Table G we find that the pack of the chinook or king salmon on the Columbia River in the years 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893 was as follows:

1889	266, 697
1890	335, 604
1891	353, 907
1892	344, 267
1893	290,000

Or an average of 318,095 cases per annum.

In the previous five years, beginning with 1884, the pack of salmon, consisting almost entirely of chinook, was as follows:

		No. of cases.
1884		
1886		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Or an average of 470,155 cases per annum.

It will be seen that in the five years beginning in 1884, the average pack per season was 152,060 cases in excess of the average pack of the five-year period beginning in 1889. During the latter period the amount of netting in use had been greatly increased, the fishing season extended, and the movement of the salmon into and up the river more completely intercepted.

Undoubtedly, for the reasons above stated, the proportion of the entire run of salmon caught was larger in the latter than in the former period of five years, which suggests that the decrease of salmon in the latter period compared is probably larger than is indicated by the difference in the average catch. There is no reason to doubt that this decrease is due to and inherent in the conditions under which the salmon fisheries of the river are now prosecuted, and that it will continue progressively so long as these conditions continue.

The lower average of the pack during the five-year period ending with 1893 is due to conditions interfering with and limiting natural reproduction during the period of 1884 to 1888, when access to the head waters was not impeded to the extent it now is by the fishing operations. The influence of the more effective exclusion of the salmon from their breeding-grounds for the last five years is yet to be disclosed. The seed for the harvest of the present year was sown in 1888 or 1889. What the extent of the harvest will be depends upon the opportunity that was afforded in these years for the salmon to reach their spawning grounds.

For the ensuing five years we are powerless to influence conditions. What the production will be has been already determined, so far as we can influence it either by the regulation of the fisheries or by artificial propagation. There is every reason to apprehend that for the five years to come the average production of king salmon will be lower even than the average for the five years just passed. This is the penalty

that must be paid for the improvidence and total disregard of the conditions necessary to maintain supply which has characterized the operations of the salmon fishermen on the Columbia River.

ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION OF SALMON ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

In 1888 the U. S. Fish Commission, by direction of Congress, established a salmonhatching station on the Clackamas River, Oregon. The work done is given in the following table:

Statement showing the number of Quinnat salmon eggs collected and fry distributed from Clackamas Station since its organization by the U. S. Fish Commission to the close of the fiscal year 1893.

Fiscal year	Eggs collected.	Eggs distributed.	Fry distributed.		
1888-89.   1889-90.   1890-91.   1891-92.   1892-93.	4, 500, 000 4, 314, 000 5, 860, 000 2, 036, 000 4, 444, 000	1,000,000 700,000	$\begin{array}{c} 4,500,000\\ 2,766,475\\ 4,902,000\\ 1,332,400\\ 4,100,000 \end{array}$		
Total	21, 154, 000	1,700,000	17, 600, 875		

NOTE.—The fry were all deposited in the Clackamas River. The 1,700,000 eggs were furnished to the Oregon fish commission and the fry produced were deposited in the Clackamas River.

This work was undertaken on the urgent solicitation of those concerned in the salmon fisheries of the Columbia River, who realized that their fisheries were being exhausted, and it was hoped that some compensation for the deficiency in natural reproduction could be made by artificial stocking and breeding. It is certain that this work has exercised some conservative influence upon the catch. It is doubtful, however, whether it has been on a sufficiently extensive scale to compensate for the damage resulting from the interference with natural reproduction by the operation of the fisheries.

#### THE FISHING-GROUNDS.

On the accompanying charts, the locations of the fishing grounds resorted to by the fishermen using different kinds of apparatus are indicated, and the number and position of the fixed appliances operated in 1892 are shown.

The fishing grounds of the Lower Columbia extend from the mouth of the river to Kalama. The apparatus employed consists of gill nets, pound nets, and haul seines.

The greater number of pound nets are located in Baker Bay, on the Washington side of the river and on the outside of Sand Island. They are not, however, confined to this region, but are located at every point of vantage on both sides of the river, from the mouth up to Kalama, a distance of 80 miles.

The haul seines are located either on the shores or flats, wherever a desirable location can be found.

The principal region of gill-net fishing extends from the mouth of the river to Cathlamet Bay, and covers, practically, the entire river outside of the limits of the pound rets. Other important areas of gill-net fishing are in Cordell channel, in the channel and back of the islands opposite Pillar Rock and Brookfield, and in the long reach of river from Puget Island to Eagle Cliff. Minor fishing operations are

conducted between Kalama and the Cascades, both in the river and its tributaries, such as the Willamette, the Cowlitz, etc. The fishing operations on the Upper Columbia, from the Cascades to the mouth of the Deschutes River, are conducted almost exclusively with salmon wheels, which are turned by the force of the current. These, when properly located and operated, constitute most effective engines of capture.

A careful examination of the charts giving the number and location of the different fishing apparatus will show how effectually the salmon are embarrassed or intercepted in their attempts to reach their spawning-grounds. It is not a matter of wonder that, under existing conditions, there has been a serious deterioration in the value of these fisheries. It is, indeed, a matter of surprise that any salmon have been able to elude the labyrinth of nets which bar their course to the Upper Columbia. It is hardly an exaggeration to state that the entire volume of this great river is strained through the meshes of the innumerable nets which occupy and obstruct every passageway to the spawning-grounds. It is certain that the continuation of these fisheries under present conditions will eventually result in rendering them unremunerative. It concerns alike the whole people of the State, as well as those directly interested in the fisheries, that such regulations of the times, methods, and apparatus of these fisheries should be established and enforced as are necessary to maintain supply.

#### THE FISHING SEASON.

It is a wise policy on the part of the State to encourage the largest catch that can be permitted consistent with maintenance of supply; to impose no unnecessary embarrassments or restrictions upon the enterprise of the fishermen, yet at the same time to insist upon such protective regulations and restraints as may be found necessary to prevent the serious impairment of an important industry by the operations of the fishermen. The fishermen themselves, who have such important interests at stake and the security and profit of whose large investments depend upon the maintenance of the salmon supply, should be prompt to propose and vigilant to enforce such regulations as may be necessary to this end. The nature of the protective regulations which can be enforced with the least restraint or embarrassment to the salmon fisheries and the canning industries is indicated by reference to the following table, showing by months the number and weight of each species of salmon taken for canning on the Columbia River.

	Chinook salmon. Blueback salmon. Steelhead salm		ıd salmon.	. Silver salmon.		Total.				
Years and months.	Number of fish.	Gross weight.	Number of fish.	Gross weight.	Number of fish.	Gross weight.	Number of fish.		Number of fish.	Gross weight.
1889—A pril May June July	$156, 117 \\ 168, 959$	Pounds. 2, 231, 650 3, 902, 925 4, 223, 975 7, 535, 350	36, 676 76, 517 82, 453 36, 717	Pounds. 183 380 382, 585 412, 265 183, 585	9, 408 14, 709 62, 695 76, 166	Pounds. 94,080 147,090 626,950 761,660		Pounds.	$135, 350 \\ 247 \ 343 \\ 314, 107 \\ 414, 137$	Pounds. 2, 509, 110 4, 432, 600 5, 203, 190 8, 480, 595
Total	715, 596	17, 893, 900	232, 363	1, 161, 815	162, 978	1, 629, 780			1, 110, 937	20, 685, 495
1890—A pril May June July August	236,776 252,754	818, 175 5, 919, 400 6, 318, 850 8, 932, 575 348, 625		315,900 1,012,900 1,486,170 751,495 110,535	11,005 22,983 87,567 139,596 15,535	110,050229,830875,6701,395,960155,350			106, 912 462, 339 637, 555 647, 078 51, 583	$\begin{array}{r} 1,244,125\\ 7,162,130\\ 8,680,690\\ 11,080,030\\ 614,410 \end{array}$
Total	893, 381	22, 337, 525	735, 400	3, 677, 000	276, 686	2, 766, 860			1, 905, 467	28, 781, 385
1891—A pril May June July August	184,090	2,060,325 4,502,250 5,599,100 9,956,1 <sup>75</sup> 1,466,750	$17, 437 \\ 55, 229 \\ 83, 743 \\ 32, 389 \\ 3, 701$	87, 185 276, 145 418, 715 161, 945 18, 505	5, 178 13, 314 52, 676 97, 900 21, 286	$\begin{array}{r} 51,780\\ 133,140\\ 526,760\\ 979,000\\ 212,860 \end{array}$			$\begin{array}{r} 105,028\\ 252,633\\ 360,383\\ 528,536\\ 83,657 \end{array}$	2, 199, 290 4, 911, 535 6, 544, 575 11, 097, 120 1, 698, 115
Total	947, 384	23, 584, 600	192, 499	962, 495	190, 354	1, 903, 540		••••	1, 330, 237	26, 450, 635
1892—April. MayJune July. August. September October.	187, 492 239, 498 343, 421 84, 124	1, 375, 525 4, 687, 300 5, 987, 450 8, 585, 525 2, 103, 100		432, 245 1, 544, 730 1, 652, 790 640, 215 95, 550		$\begin{array}{r} \hline 105,030\\ 327,950\\ 1,411,940\\ 1,993,330\\ 529,910\\ 112,930\\ 226,290\\ \end{array}$		136, 423 237, 762	$\begin{array}{c} 151,973\\ 529,233\\ 711,250\\ 670,797\\ 156,225\\ 30,782\\ 56,595\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1, 912, 800\\ 6, 550, 980\\ 9, 052, 180\\ 11, 219, 070\\ 2, 728, 560\\ 249, 353\\ 464, 052 \end{array}$
Total	909, 556	22, 738, 900	873, 106	4, 365, 530	470, 738	4, 707, 380	53, 455	374, 185	2, 306, 855	32, 185, 995

Table showing by months the number and weight of each species of salmon utilized for canning purposes on the Columbia River in 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892.

In 1889 the fishing season extended from the 1st of April to the 31st of July. The total catch of chinook salmon amounted to 17,893,900 pounds,  $87\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of this amount being taken in May, June, and July, and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent during the month of April.

In 1890 the fishing extended from April 10 to August 10, inclusive, and yielded a total product of 22,337,525 pounds of chinook salmon. Of this amount,  $94\frac{1}{2}$  per cent was taken in May, June, and July, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent during April and August.

In 1891 the fishing season extended from April 10 to August 10, inclusive, the total product of chinook salmon being 23,584,600 pounds, 85 per cent of which was taken in May, June, and July, and 15 per cent in April and August.

In 1892 the total catch of chinook salmon amounted to 22,738,900 pounds, and the fishing season extended from April 10 to August 10, and during September and October; 85 per cent of the total catch was made in the months of May, June, and July; 15 per cent in April and August; none in September or October.

It will be evident from the percentages given above, and by reference to the table, that the most productive fishing operations for the pound net and gill-net region of the river are during the months of May, June, and July. The number of chinook salmon taken in April and August is relatively small, and under conditions not so profitable, either to the canneries or the fishermen, as those carried on during the months of May, June, and July. The April run of this ralmon, if allowed to pass without interruption to the headwaters of the Columbia and its tributaries, would spawn in those waters, and the present productive capacity of the river would be increased to such an extent as to much more than compensate for the restrictions imposed by the prohibition of the fishery operations during the month of April. The August run of chinook salmon consists of gravid fish near their spawning time. The flesh for this reason has undergone deterioration, and if canned constitutes an inferior product, the sale of which will discredit the reputation which the Columbia River salmon justly hold in public estimation. None of the August run of chinooks probably ascends the Columbia above the Dalles. They spawn in the tributary streams of the Lower Columbia and in the main stream between the Dalles and the mouth of the river.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

Having in view the considerations above presented, there can be no doubt of the necessity of restrictive regulations to maintain the salmon fisheries of the Columbia River. The enactment and enforcement of such regulations as may be necessary to this end is the prerogative of the States occupying the Columbia River basin. There is no precedent for the exercise by the General Government of control over the fisheries of our interior waters, except in so far as the forms of apparatus in use might be regarded as obstructions or impediments to navigation.

Whether the power to regulate the fisheries of interstate and bounding territorial waters is vested in the General Government or in the States is a subject which has provoked, and will continue to provoke, controversy until the respective rights and powers of individual States and the General Government are duly ascertained and defined by the courts of last resort. Having reference, however, to the interests of the fisheries, there is no doubt that these interests would be best subserved by uniform and concurrent regulations covering the entire region in which any special fishery is prosecuted.

In the case of the Columbia, we find that the great market fisheries for the salmon are prosecuted in the lower river, and the immediate evident advantage is to those who are engaged in the capture of the salmon or in canning them for the market. On the other hand, the nurseries for the young salmon, upon the abundance of which depend the productiveness and profit of the fisheries in the lower river, are in the remote tributaries and sources of the river in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Regulations and restrictions of the net fisheries, so as to permit a reasonable number of salmon to reach their spawning-ground in the upper rivers, and protection of the salmon in these waters during their spawning season, in September and October, present the conditions to be fulfilled to keep up supply, so far as this can be accomplished by legal restraints.

To effectively restrain or regulate the net fisheries requires the concurrent action of the States of Washington and Oregon. Effective protection to the salmon on their spawning grounds can be established only by concurrent action on the part of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho establishing a close season during the months of September and October. Here a serious difficulty arises. On the one hand it will be urged by the net fishermen of Washington and Oregon that any restraint on their operations will be burdensome to them without any corresponding advantage, since the fish they permit to escape their nets will be taken in the head waters to which they go before they have had an opportunity to spawn, and so they will be subject to serious losses and inconvenience without any compensating advantage. On the other hand, the citizens of eastern Washington and Oregon and of remote Idaho will be reluctant to impose any restraints on their own people in reference to the taking of salmon, for the reason that any increase in the fishery arising thereby will inure solely to the benefit of the fishermen between the Dalles and the mouth of the river.

The necessity of concurrent action on the part of the States occupying the Columbia River Basin, and of their cordial coöperation in measures necessary to maintain the salmon fishery of the Columbia River and to improve it, is evident from a consideration of the facts presented. The investigations of the U.S. Fish Commission in the Columbia River Basin made under the instructions of Congress clearly indicate that there is a serious deterioration in the product and value of the salmon fisheries of this river; that this deterioration is to be attributed in large part, if not entirely, to the exclusion of the salmon from their spawning grounds by the operations of the net fishermen, and that artificial propagation on an adequate scale to compensate for the waste of the fisheries is no longer possible under existing conditions of the fisheries.

The initial step in attempting the restoration of the salmon fishery is to restrict and regulate the net fishing. The restriction that may be put in force with the least hardship to the fishermen is the shortening of the season of net fishing.

The use of pounds, gill nets, traps, and seines in the lower river, from the Cascades to the mouth, should be limited strictly to the months of May, June, and July. The wheels should not be permitted to take salmon prior to the middle of May, so as to permit the salmon which have entered the river in April the opportunity to pass up to the head waters. A further closed season for wheels should be established from the 1st of August to the 10th of September, so as to provide for the uninterrupted spawning of the August run of salmon. There does not at present appear sufficient reason to prohibit the wheel fishing during the balance of September and during the month of October. Protection for the salmon which have thus been enabled to reach their spawning-grounds should be afforded by a close season during the months of September and October, covering the streams in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to which the salmon resort for breeding.

Should the policy above outlined be adopted by these States and the requisite measures to carry it into effect be enacted and enforced, it will be possible for the U.S. Fish Commission and the State commissions to greatly enlarge their fish-cultural operations, and to prosecute them under much more satisfactory and economical conditions than at the present time. Until the States interested adopt measures to restrain net fishing, so as to permit a portion at least of the salmon entering the river to pass up to their spawning-grounds, it is not deemed wise or expedient to attempt to increase or extend the work of artificial propagation of the salmon.

All efforts will be disappointing, unprofitable, and nugatory so long as the fisheries continue under existing conditions, and I would recommend, therefore, that no further steps be taken at present looking to the establishment of additional salmon-breeding stations in the Columbia River Basin.

> MARSHALL MCDONALD, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries.



PLATE 14.

Bull. U. S. F. C. 1894. Salmon Fisheries of the Columbia River. (To face page 168.)





PLATE 15.