

RECOMMENDATIONS.—My investigations proved that the best place for capturing shad was the Saint Mary's River between King's Ferry and Brick Yard, and if a vessel properly equipped for the purpose could remove the logs from the river at the places indicated, I think a successful season would be assured.

A hatching station might be located at King's Ferry, where there is a large saw-mill, store for supplies, etc., and plenty of wharf room on which to locate a steam-pump and hatching cones. Fuel is abundant and very cheap, and there is a branch railroad to Hillyard Station.

The hatching station should be supplied with a small boiler and steam-pump, and fifteen cones should be put up. To run this station successfully, I should recommend that ten men be assigned to duty at it. Lumber is very cheap at the mill, should any be needed.

The station should be established about the first of February in order to give plenty of time before the fish begin to run, to clear properly the hauls and reaches on the river of logs, so there should be no impediment to the drifting of the gill-nets.

I should also recommend that two sturgeon nets be supplied—one above and one below the gill-nets and seines in order to protect them from destruction by the sturgeons, which are very plentiful. These nets should be 12-inch mesh, of 42-thread, 40 fathoms long, to fish about 18 feet of water.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 7, 1884.

110.—NOTE ON THE BREEDING OF EELS.

By **EDWARD H. THOMPSON.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I mailed you yesterday a box containing specimens of the *Anguillidæ* (young). Yesterday morning, while working up material on the "*Gelasma* of Buzzard's Bay," I noticed the following facts:

West Falmouth Harbor is an inlet from Buzzard's Bay and terminates in a sandy marsh densely carpeted with marsh-grass. Through this marsh a narrow ditch has been cut to drain a contiguous cranberry bog. The ditch has of late years been completely stopped by a thick plank placed athwart it, thus forming a complete *cul-de-sac*. The plank is above common tide-water, but is generally dripping with water that trickles through from the bog above. The part of the ditch of which I speak is hardly, if ever, free from the water, which comes principally from the cranberry bogs. A thick black mud lies on the bottom. As I passed the plank I noticed upon it a singular appearance. Approaching closer, I found it to consist of a large number of tiny eels massed together in a solid bundle. The mass, I should say, could have been contained in a pint measure.

FOREST HILL, W. FALMOUTH, MASS., May 17, 1884.