

Another evil from the result of trawl fishing is the practice of cleaning the fish taken wherever the trawls are set. Some of the oldest fishermen in this county tell me that the codfish spawn in these bays and along these shores. If this is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, the sooner that mode of fishing be abolished the better for our country, because it is not the people of our Provinces that derive the most benefit from trawl fishing, but the Americans. Just imagine a fleet of forty vessels, fitted out with five trawls each, and five or six hundred hooks on each trawl; how quick they will sweep the fishing grounds of all kinds, taking the spawn or mother fish with the rest." Mr. Ross speaks favourably of the Wardens of his division. Although they had little to do this year, yet he is satisfied they are determined to perform their duty. There was only one case of violation of the law, but for want of sufficient evidence the guilty party was not convicted. A number of saw mills were built during the year in this district, to which proper boxes have been attached under the supervision and direction of Overseer Ross, for the purpose of preventing sawdust and other rubbish from going on the water. There appears to be another nuisance which the law does not provide against; the chaff and shelling from grist mills being allowed to drift in the streams and rivers.

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SEPCIAL REPORT ON THE WANTS AND STATE OF FISH-WAYS IN THE  
WESTERN COUNTIES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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Early in the month of July last I received instructions from P. S. Hamilton, Esq. Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia to make a tour of the Counties of Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou. Before I had gone over these counties, however, I was instructed to meet the Commissioner of Fisheries in Halifax, from whom I received instructions to inspect Halifax, Lunenburg, Queen's, Shelburne, Annapolis, King's, Hants and Pictou Counties, which I proceeded to do, and beg most respectfully to report as follows:—

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Wallace River, formerly one of the finest salmon and trout streams in this county, has been completely ruined by mill-dams. It had been exempted from the operation of the Fishery Laws by the local authorities, under the Nova Scotia Act; but as this Act was repealed last winter, I compelled the owner of the two lower dams to construct good ladders, and as there are a few stray fish still in the river, I hope they will find their way up stream. With a little assistance from the hatching house at Bedford Basin this stream may again become as productive as it was in former years, especially as the lumbering facilities thereon have been exhausted. It will be necessary to appoint a Warden on this stream. The mill dam at Oxford on the River Philip being entirely constructed of brush and gravel it was found very difficult to construct a proper fish-pass and have it fastened so that the ice will not take it away in the spring. Last year one fish-pass was built under the mill, but the fish for some unaccountable reason will not take to it, and another will have to be constructed next summer on the opposite side of the river. There are fish-passes on the two dams next above Oxford. The fish-way on Brownell's dam on the Shinemicas River was carried away by freshets. I notified the proprietors last summer to put up another, but the matter has not been attended to, and the water being too high when I returned home this fall to have one built, I will see to it in the spring. A Warden is much needed on the Pugwash River in this county. This stream was formerly a good alewife river, and although much reduced by abuse and neglect, sufficient fish still enter it to give hopes of its being enabled to be restocked with proper care.

The ladders in the western part of this county are in good order. One or two of them may require some improvements next summer. I will more fully attend to this matter next spring when the fish are in the river.