

man fishes anywhere and has no encouragement to improve a bed which may next year be occupied by someone else.

I make these remarks because I consider it a mistake to make laws for the protection of salmon only, and to leave other fish in which the general public are as much or even more interested, unprotected, and because I see these great sources of food being rapidly destroyed by parties who have little interest in the country and pay little or nothing to the revenue.

During the past season trout have been very scarce in the Cowichan River, whether owing to netting in the bay or to the changes of the river channel it is impossible to say; formerly the river teemed with them, but now there are so few that sportsmen have deserted the stream.

The salmon in the bay were in about as large numbers as last year, and between thirty and forty thousand were taken and sent by steamers to the canneries on the Fraser River.

Many of the saw-quais appeared here for the first time, doubtless the return of the fry placed in this river from the hatchery, for the Indians say they had never seen these fish here before.

During the past season, quite an industry has sprung up in halibut fishing in and near Plumper's Pass; large quantities are caught, most of which are shipped to Vancouver for the east, some going to Victoria. When I was last at the Pass one man, after a few hours fishing, brought in nearly 300 lbs. of halibut, which sells there at 5 cents per lb. Large quantities of cod and a few dogfish are also caught in this locality, but chiefly by the natives.

At Portier's Pass, which is only a few miles north, no halibut are caught, but dogfish abound at present. Ten sets of lines (of 800 hooks each) are constantly worked; they are baited with herring, or if this bait fail, with pieces of (quar-lo) dog-salmon, and the business seems to be remunerative. Several of the fishermen from this neighborhood follow the herring further north to take more dogfish, taking their boilers with them.

The run of quar lo or dog-salmon was in quantity much as usual, but as all the rivers rose rapidly this season the native take was not large.