

Montagnais name for salmon—the salmon of the sea—is not *ouanan* at all but *ouchachonmuc* or *ou-sha-shu muk*, and this name is still often applied by the Indians to particularly dark-coloured and extra large specimens of the ouananiche found in certain northern lakes. To their ordinary fresh water salmon they applied a specific name, calling it “ouanans” or the abbreviated “unans”—each pronounced “wannan” or “whonnan.”

Originally, “ouanans,” oddly enough, signified locality, especially the place where fish are found, according to some authorities. According to others it is a corruption of *ouen-a?* (pronounced “when-na”)—a Montagnais interrogative. Used in the sense of “What is that?” it is not difficult to imagine how *ouen-a?* or *ouan-a?* uttered by Montagnais fishermen as they pointed to large fish seen feeding upon the flies on the scum-covered pools, came in time to be employed for the name of that particular variety which, more than any other in the territory in which it is found, is fond of disporting itself upon the surface of the water. The Rev. Père Arnaud, the missionary to the Montagnais, suggests further to me that the particular locality known as “ouanans” or “unans,” to the Montagnais, is the eddying water in the pools at the foot of rapid currents. In just such water as this the ouananiche are often seen sailing around with their dorsal fins protruding above their native element. It requires no stretch of imagination on the part of those acquainted with the Indians and their manners and the evolutions of their language, to admit the possibility of either *ouanans* or *unans* having been the original root of ouananiche.

Either is much more probable than the suggestion of Mr. Creighton at page 82 of Shield's *American Game Fishes*, that the name of the fish “is probably derived from the Cree root ‘wan,’ to lose or mistake, applied either to the fish having lost itself or being taken for a salmon.”

The diminutive form of the word “ouanans” is now almost universally employed in speaking of the fish, perhaps because the latter offers no exception to the angler's general experiences that the big fish are few and far between. Or can it be that there is an element of truth in the Indian reports of the deterioration in size of their fresh-water salmon, and that in former ages these fish were so much larger, that all their descendants of the present day must be classed as little *ouanans*? French-Canadian fishermen, settlers and guides in the land of the ouananiche call it *le saumon* (the salmon) perhaps oftener than they employ the Indian name, and from their *petit saumon* (little salmon), and the knowledge that the Montagnais affix *iche* is a diminutive, may have originated the fashionable error of jumping to the conclusion that “ouananiche” is an Indian equivalent for “little salmon.” Were it indeed so, the constructors of the word would simply have builded better than they knew.

And now that the original form, after an existence in French-Canadian literature of over two and a half centuries, has obtained such