

One million five hundred and ninety-seven thousand (1,597,000) salmon fry were reared in this hatchery during the spring of 1879, and turned into the following rivers of the Gaspé District, namely:—Dartmouth, York, St. John, Mal Bay, Grand River, North Pabos and West Pabos.

These young fry were transported with unusual safety by the use of an improved description of can with perforated beds, which I instructed Mr. Vibert to procure.

The total number of salmon fry distributed from this nursery in the spring of 1879 was.....	1,597,000
Total number of ova laid down, fall 1879.....	850,000
Total number of fry turned out since erection of hatchery	3,558,000

RESTIGOUCHE FISH-BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT.

In visiting this hatchery the building was found to be in a very dilapidated state, and I feel called upon here to draw the attention of your Department to the great necessity that exists for carrying on the work of artificial salmon-breeding at the Restigouche River, on a much better and more extensive scale than hitherto, in order that the numbers of young fry that might be so easily hatched out in this way could be made somewhat commensurate with the great natural facilities this large river possesses for their after development; and thereby also giving increased revenues to the very extensive tidal fisheries at its estuary and in the Bay des Chaleur.

Doubts are entertained by the officer in charge as to the safe occupancy of the present structure for another year. The rude and cheap construction of this primary establishment for that section of the country, originating as it did largely as a trial work, has done unusually good service, and the log building has succumbed to its projected usefulness counted upon at the time of its erection in 1872.

An expenditure of a few thousand dollars during next season, would erect a first-class establishment on the Restigouche, with a capacity of turning out annually from three to five millions of young salmon. As some expenditure has already been made for this contemplated hatchery, it would be great wisdom for your Department to complete the arrangements as speedily as possible in order to enhance the commercial transactions in the salmon fisheries of the Restigouche, especially as the celebrity of these fish has now become so famous, not only in this country, but also in the United States and in England.

Mr. Mowat, the officer in charge of this nursery, reports the distribution of one million four hundred and seventy thousand salmon fry in the rivers of the main Restigouche and its feeders; and also in other rivers emptying into the Bay des Chaleur. The rivers are here given, namely:—Big Cascapédia, Little Cascapédia, Bonaventure, Upsalquitch, Little River, Matepédia and Main Restigouche.

The gross number of breeding-salmon netted for the use of this hatchery was two hundred and seventy, one hundred and sixty-five females, the balance males; one hundred and fifty of these were captured late in the season in the upper waters of the Restigouche and Kedgwick Rivers, and the others were caught near the hatchery at Dee Side.

One and a-half million of eggs were obtained from these fish and laid down in the hatching-troughs, filling all available space in the nursery, almost to over-repletion. At last date the ova were reported to be in very fine condition, with the embryos quite visible.

Mr. Mowat's report relating to the unsuitable state of the building and other matters of importance, will be found annexed.

Total number of fry turned out from Restigouche Hatchery during the spring of 1879, was.....	1,470,000
Total number of eggs laid down, fall 1879.....	1,500,000
Grand total of fry distributed since erection of hatchery	4,085,000