

CONCLUSION BY COMMISSIONERS.

While various explanations are given from various sources to account for the depletion of the fisheries, your Commissioners can arrive at no other conclusion than that the prime causes for it are (1) Fishing in the spawning seasons, and while fish are congregating for that purpose, going to and returning from the shores, bars, bays, reefs and rivers which are their breeding haunts; (2) The great destruction of immature fish in pound and gill-nets and seines; (3) The waste of great quantities of fish in the use of unlimited lengths of gill-nets; (4) The use of too small meshes in all nets; (5) The great deposits of refuse matter from saw-mills, and from the towage of immense rafts of saw-logs across the fishing grounds into the United States. These causes, each or combined, are in direct violation of nature's laws in not giving to all fish full freedom to replenish the waters at their spawning times, and killing them before reaching maturity for reproductive purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman of the Commission.