

vast numbers of poor and useless fish on their downward passage, numbers of large trout and young salmon, which about this time ascend the river, are frequently taken in them.

Below Boiestown the facilities for net fishing are greater than they are above, and consequently nets are more numerous; in most cases they are illegally set, and no attention is paid to the weekly *close time* which the law requires. At Price's Island, about six miles below Boiestown, stakes were set entirely across the stream, and although the net was not on when I passed, there is no doubt that it had been extended from shore to shore, while the regulations for this part of the river provide that no net shall extend across more than one-third part of the channel. At this place there are a number of islands dividing the river into narrow channels, and there were evidences that nets had been set completely across these, in direct violation of the law. In most cases the nets had been taken up, and there were no means of identifying the offenders. From some of these islands stakes were set on both sides, so that the nets must have completely barred the ascent of fish. Whether the nets were up in consequence of the owners having heard of my object in visiting the river, I am unable to say; but, as the time for legal fishing had not expired by some days, I am inclined to think this was the cause, as in all cases where nets were legally set I found them extended on the stakes.

There are two other points where the facilities for illegal fishing are very great; one at Arbo's, near the mouth of Cain's River, the other at Astle's not far from the head of the tide. At both these places nets are stretched entirely across the stream at every favorable opportunity, and I was informed that sometimes the fish were driven into them by men in canoes.

There is another practice pursued to a considerable extent on the river below Boiestown, which is very destructive and should be entirely prohibited. I allude to the use of gaspereau nets for making salmon ponds, by which means large numbers of grilse and trout are taken. All nets of less than five inches in the mesh should be prohibited after the 25th June.

From Price's Island to the mouth of Bartholomew's River, the same indications of illegal netting were observed. There being but one Warden between Boiestown and Indiantown, there is every facility for pursuing this with impunity. This part of the river is comparatively free from spearing, the character of the water not favoring this destructive pursuit.

From Bartholomew's River to Indiantown, I observed large quantities of slabs, edgings, sawdust and other mill rubbish, in some places forming bars and islands in the river, and accumulating at every turn of the stream. These came from a mill owned by Mr. McLaggan, and were in direct violation of sec. 17 of the law. There is no fish-way in the dam on this river, and fish are unable to ascend it. I was informed that salmon formerly frequented it in large numbers.

At the mouth of Renous River, drift nets are in general use, and spearing is pursued to a considerable extent; while further up that stream spearing is a common practice. This river, and the Dunganven, which empties into it about six miles from the mouth, are both resorted to by large numbers of salmon for the purpose of spawning. Spearing is not practised on the Dunganven, but numbers of breeding fish are every season swept out of the pools by nets. At the time of my visit the water was too low to admit the passage of a canoe, consequently I had to rely principally upon information gathered from parties who had lumbered on them. From this information I am of opinion that these streams are admirable nurseries for fish, and their protection is so much to be desired, that I think it would be advisable to prohibit fishing entirely on these waters, and preserve them as nurseries, for but few fish can reach the spawning grounds on the main river, and of these still fewer get a chance to deposit their spawn.

At Indiantown I had an interview with Christopher Parker, Esq., Fishery Warden for the district, a very intelligent gentleman, fully alive to the importance of protecting the river, aware of the evils that exist, and most anxious for their removal. In the course of conversation with him, I learned that a former Warden had allowed ten days' additional fishing, after the 31st August, that this had become a custom on the upper part of the river, and that he had not, in consequence, been able to enforce the law. The Magistrates were reluctant to act with the requisite vigor, and although he had often given information of illegal fishing, and had done all in his power to obtain convictions, he could not recall