

Marine and Fisheries—Fisheries Branch.

6. TADOUSSAC HATCHERY, QUEBEC.

TADOUSSAC, 18th November, 1898.

TO PROF. E. E. PRINCE,
 Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries,
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report upon the operations of the Tadoussac hatchery for the year 1898. As stated in my last annual report, there were 2,413,000 salmon eggs placed in the hatchery in the fall of 1897. Of that number, 2,200,000 salmon fry have been distributed in the following rivers and lakes:—

Roberval Hatchery, H. J. Beemer, Esq.	100,000
Jacques Cartier River, J. M. McIntyre, Esq.	100,000
Murray River, Chas. Angers, Esq., M.P.	50,000
River à Mars, Ha ; Ha ! Bay.	200,000
St. John River, County Saguenay.	200,000
Little Saguenay River, County Saguenay.	100,000
Ste. Marguerite River, County Saguenay.	500,000
Baude River, County Saguenay.	300,000
Chisholm River, County Saguenay.	200,000
Mowat's Lakes, County Saguenay.	400,000
Hatchery Lake, County Saguenay.	50,000
	2,200,000

The distribution in the Upper Saguenay was made with the assistance of the steam-yacht "Forrest," and the fry were planted in the different rivers in a very healthy condition. The first lot of 100,000 salmon fry were delivered at the Roberval hatchery to be planted later on in the rivers of the Lake St. John. The Roberval hatchery is principally carried out for the breeding of speckled trout and Winnonish ; this hatchery is the property of H. J. Beemer, Esq.

The capture of the parent salmon was carried out as usual by means of two departmental nets. There were at the salmon pond, at the spawning time, 235 females and 160 males. The females gave 2,367,000 eggs, now on the trays and looking well. In the last days of the spawning time, Mr. Richard E. Follett, the manager of the Roberval hatchery, came down to Tadoussac with a few male Winnonish, transported alive in a large tin tank. The eggs of three female salmon were impregnated with the milt of the male Winnonish. At the request of Mr. Follett, for H. J. Beemer, Esq., I am taking charge of those eggs until next spring, when they will be transported to Roberval. Just now, those eggs are looking as well as the pure salmon eggs. The spawning time commenced on the 20th October, was over by the 12th November, and all the parent salmon were liberated from their confinement of five months and a half. There was not a single loss of fish during that period, the greatest care is always taken to place in the pond only fine healthy salmon. I am happy to mention that the salmon fry planted in the Mowat's Lake are doing well ; large numbers could be taken, measuring from 18 to 24 inches, fine looking fish. As the fact is well known, all over, that those lakes are well stocked with young salmon, it will be necessary in future to keep a guardian from May to November until the ice will be well formed on the lakes. I would recommend, as a necessity, to have those lakes well stocked with smelt as a food for the young salmon, smelt being recognized as the best kind of food for salmon. I would not be surprised if those lakes were well stocked with smelt, to see our young salmon growing to large size before going to sea. It would be easy in the fall to procure a large quantity of smelt to be transported into those lakes in our large cans used for the distribution of salmon fry. They will spawn in those lakes, and in a few years the young salmon will find a splendid food on them. During the summer we had the visit of the Hon. Minister of Public Works. The honourable gentleman seems to take a great interest in the breeding of salmon. A good result of his kind visit was an order given to one of his engineers, Mr. Blais, to have the old hatchery pulled down and replaced by a fine platform over the salmon pond. As reported before, the damages to the floor of the hatchery by the break-