

Two hundred and two (202) salmon were captured for supplying ova for the hatchery; 115 were females. They gave 700,000 eggs, averaging about 6,000 to each female. The reports describe these ova as doing remarkably well.

Number of fry turned out from nursery in spring of 1880	805,000
Number of fry turned out from nursery in spring of 1881	770,000
Number of ova laid down in fall of 1881.....	700,000
Grand total of fry turned out of hatchery.....	3,855,000

St. John River Hatchery.

This hatchery stands foremost for its many conveniences and perfect adaptability for artificial fish-breeding purposes. On a visit to it, everything in connection with the building and apparatus was found in good condition. Upon investigation I found it necessary to suspend the officer in charge from further duties. This action was upheld by your Department by dispensing with the services of that officer.

Efforts have thus far proved futile (and it will be useless to continue them) for procuring supplies of salmon ova in the upper parts or branches of the St. John River. If this fish hatchery is to be carried on, it will be absolutely necessary to obtain the ova for it from the estuary and tidal fishing stations, or else import the eggs from distant points. This latter plan appears very objectionable, in the face of the fact of the easy means which are open for procuring an adequate number of salmon from the trap nets which are set in the St. John harbour. From information received from reliable sources, salmon in sufficient numbers to give *two or three millions of eggs* could be purchased annually from the tidal fishermen. My efforts to secure this end having been thwarted, I look forward to the ultimate success of the St. John River Hatchery with much apprehension. Having reported to your Department my views on this subject on several former occasions, it will be unnecessary to repeat them here.

During the season of 1880 it was confidently advanced by some of the officers on the St. John River that a sufficient number of salmon to stock the hatchery with eggs could be procured in the upper parts of the St. John and in the Tobique River. Upon these representations, Overseer McClusky was duly provided with means and appliances of every kind, and instructed to spare no exertions for securing a supply of breeding fish. That officer, after devoting his time and personal attention to the work, signally failed in the undertaking—not an egg was obtained. No doubt the overseer applied himself perseveringly, but it would appear there were no salmon to be had; this would be a necessary consequence, from the use of the “spear and torch” by the settlers on the Tobique, as stated by the overseer. A few thousand Schoodic salmon eggs were laid down in the hatchery that season. They were obtained by the officer in charge from the State of Maine, through the kindness of Commissioner Stillwell, of that State. These young Schoodic salmon were planted in the waters of the Upper St. John.

At the sacrifice of much time, labor and expense another attempt was made to get parent fish in the Tobique during last fall, which resulted in capturing only a very small number, and only 76,000 eggs were collected, notwithstanding the efforts which were put forth by an officer of several years experience who had been specially engaged to perform this work.

Rather than allow the hatchery to remain, comparatively speaking, empty, with this small lot of eggs, 300,000 California salmon ova were obtained from the United States Fishery Commissioner, Professor S. F. Baird. These were dispatched by railway from the Pacific Coast in a refrigerator car along with other consignments to Chicago. From this place they were taken in charge by one of my assistant officers and safely placed in the hatching troughs at Rapide-des-Femmes. The loss throughout the whole trip was so trivial as to barely deserve mention. These California ova were hatched out in October and November, and so soon as the sac is