

By Mr. Reid:

Q. Are fish ever caught in the six inch mesh of the leader?—A. In some places they use wire while in others they use net meshing. Some fish might be caught in the six inch mesh.

Q. I was just wondering if you have any records of fish actually being caught in the lead trying to get through?—A. I would say this, that you could make no specific statement that it occurred to any important extent. There might be the odd one.

Q. So that when they come up against that lead they really turn out along it?—A. That is true pretty near everywhere the fish can see. You know gill nets are set to be used under conditions where they will not be as visible—or to put it the other way, where they will be as invisible as possible to the fish.

Well then, to come to the story of these traps. These traps, as I say, arose after gill net fishing had been going on on the Canadian side. They were started on the United States side because some method had to be adopted there other than gill net fishing if the people of the State of Washington were to share in the fishing. You can look at these islands (indicating) and you can see at once how advantageous these channels are for placing traps amongst. That method of fishing achieved success almost immediately. Its growth was very rapid limited possibly, and I think this is a fair statement, again by demand. It grew until it reached a maximum of what the fishery itself would stand and regulations had to be adopted to control the situation. Then we had this situation; these fish coming in here (indicating), are known to be coming along this side of the line, and then for some reason they passed over to the United States side of the line after they had passed the south western point of Vancouver Island, not to emerge therefrom again until they got up around Boundry Bay here, or up along the 49th parallel; so that all that time on their way to the Fraser River they were in American waters and were more and more a prey to United States traps. The volume of fish caught became greater on the United States side of the line, and that went on to the point where we were getting—as will be well known to the British Columbia members of the committee—from 28 to 30 per cent of the catch of sockeyes and the other varieties of salmon, the other 70 per cent to 68 per cent being taken on the United States side of the line. In the nature of things agitation was arising on the Canadian side. These traps operated up to Boundry Bay. You see the location of the boundry, and how that bay makes up northerly into Canadian territory. The boundry goes right up across Point Roberts. These traps were placed in the shallow water there (indicating) all along the course of the boundry. In the nature of things there developed an agitation from the Canadian side to be allowed to use these traps. In 1904 a special commission was appointed to investigate conditions, and the requirements of the British Columbia fisheries. That commission after going into the whole matter recommended the traps be allowed in this area (indicating), from Beechey Head to Sheringham Point, which was regarded as a competitive area with these traps on the United States' side. The regulations were amended in that year so as to allow traps there, and also to allow the use of traps up in the Boundry Bay area on the Canadian side. The traps at this latter point were used for a number of years but they did not prove very effective and finally—and here again I speak subject to correction—possibly due in part to objections on behalf of gill net fishermen on the Canadian side, and possibly due in part to the fact that traps were not very valuable there anyway, they were not continued.

Q. Might I ask a question there? You say that this commission of 1904 recommended traps being placed in that area?—A. Yes.

Q. You would probably have to answer this question subject to correction, but from your knowledge could you tell us whether or not the catch on the