

mode and at all times. Salmon have been more numerous in the river this year than for many previous years. Connecting with the Grand Lake are the Maquapit and French Lakes and several smaller ones. In these, as well as in Grand Lake, are numerous low flats, which are great resorts for spawning gaspereau, and on these flats fish are taken in large quantities in the very act of depositing their spawn. The warden has not been able to put a stop to this destructive practice, because these places are neither "Rivers, Bays, nor Harbours," and the 11th section of the General Regulations cannot be enforced. The protection of these spawning places is much to be desired, and the law should be so amended as to be operative in protecting them.

*Washademoak Lake* connects with the Saint John on the east side. At its head the New Canaan River flows into it. As this river is unobstructed it is resorted to by salmon, shad, and gaspereau in large numbers. At the mouth of the river there is a great deal of illegal fishing, and nets are often stretched entirely across. Spearing is not practised to much extent, and if the river were fairly fished there is nothing to prevent an unlimited increase; but the settlers on the upper waters complain that they now get but few fish. Connecting with the Washademoak are the Ocnabog and other small lakes, in which, as well as in the main lake, the flats are favorite spawning grounds of the gaspereau, and the law is here evaded in the same manner as in Grand Lake and those connecting with it. The same remarks as were made respecting Grand Lake are applicable to this.

The *Nerepis*, a considerable stream flowing swiftly over a rocky bed, enters from the westward. There are no mills on this stream, and I am glad to be able to say, for the first time, that there is no spearing practised on it. The only difficulty that this river has to contend against is over-netting near its mouth. For years many salmon have been netted in the neighborhood of Britain's Point, as late as the month of November. Last year a very large number were taken, which, I understand, were shipped to Boston in ice. It is very much to be desired that this illegal and destructive work should cease.

The *Kennebecasis* is a very large river flowing in from the eastward, just above the Narrows. At Darling's Lake, the *Hammond River*, a very considerable stream, flows into it. Salmon ascend the main river, which is unobstructed, as far as the head of Sussex Vale, and also the Hammond river, to the foot of a dam owned by Mr. Titus, by which their further progress is barred. Before this obstruction was built, they ascended many miles up this stream, which is peculiarly adapted to their habits, and offers splendid spawning ground. The state of things existing on these rivers in 1851, is described by the late M. H. Perley, Esq., and has continued to exist up to the present time. I cannot better describe their present condition than by quoting Mr. Perley's words, the only difference being that there are not nearly so many salmon to hunt:—"From Darling's Lake to Titus' Mill-dam, on the Hammond River, and from Hampton Ferry to the head of Sussex Vale, on the main stream, the salmon are hunted and destroyed in every possible way by nets, with torch and spear, in season and out of season. The inhabitants appear to be actuated by an insane desire to destroy every salmon which appears in these waters; and no sooner is it reported that salmon have been seen in any particular pool, than the whole neighborhood is in commotion with preparations for their destruction; the fish are pursued with untiring devotion until all are captured, except a very few, which perhaps escape to some place of shelter and safety." This description is not at all exaggerated, and it is really wonderful that the fish frequenting these rivers have not long since been exterminated. A few, however still ascend both streams, but the number left is now so small that it is rare to see one. I would strongly recommend that all fishing on these rivers be strictly prohibited. Nothing short of this will restore the river, which is so admirably adapted to the habits of salmon, and so well calculated as a nursery for this fish, that it is well worthy of careful preservation.

In Darling's Lake, at Rothsay Station, large numbers of the silver hake (*Mertucius albinus*) are taken in the winter through the ice with hook and bait; this is a salt-water fish, and its presence in this locality in winter would appear to be an exceptional case, not well understood, unless they resort there to feed upon young gaspereau.

The Harbour of St. John.—By a special clause in the Royal Charter incorporating