

“In the River Kennebecasis especially these lumbering operations seriously disturb the spawning beds, and no doubt destroy large quantities of ova, while the jams which form on the rapids prevent the fish ascending until the autumn rains raise the river and clear it from these obstructions. It is a matter of great regret that the time of setting apart the streams in this County for natural propagation was not prolonged, as urged in my last report, for although there is a visible improvement in all of them, the stock of fish is not yet sufficiently large to stand the drain of general fishing, and unless this measure is continued, I fear that no great improvement will be secured.”

*St. John County.*—The returns from this county show a considerable increase over those for 1871. Overseer Godard reports.—“In the early part of the season I visited the fishing stations on the St. John, between Indiantown and Bellisle Bay, and regulated the setting of nets to the limits prescribed by law. I found here, as in other localities, that land owners claim exclusive right not only to set nets in front of their property, but to set them in any manner they please, and they consider any interference as an infringement on their rights. I have kept under notice the mills in my district, on the St. John River, in the parishes of Portland and Lancaster, and have found ample means provided to dispose of sawdust and rubbish, without injury to the fisheries. The returns show a falling off in the yield of salmon and shad, but the increase in other kinds of fish, and the better price obtained for gaspereaux, make the aggregate value of the season’s catch exceed that of last year. The value of boats and material would appear to be large in comparison to the value of the yield; but it must be remembered that these are not renewed annually. Schooners last for ten or twelve years, boats from five to eight, while the loss on nets is from 50 to 75 per cent. In the Eastern part of the County the law respecting sawdust is still evaded, and the appointment of an officer residing in St. Martins is much needed, as urged in my last report. The distance from St. John is too great to allow me to give this part of the County the needed supervision without a resident warden.”

*Charlotte County.*—The reports from this County, especially from the St. Croix district continue to be most satisfactory. Overseer Curran writes as follows:—“It gives me great pleasure to be able to state that the increase of fish in this district is far beyond the most sanguine expectations of the people on the St. Croix. Many who predicted that we never could have the fish in our rivers as they were in former years, are now convinced that with proper care for a few years more they can be restocked to any extent. The water was so high all summer that salmon could get up without any hindrance, and several were seen above the upper mills, but the Messrs Shaw Brothers at St. Croix Village, built a bark mill over the fishway there which prevents the fish getting into the lakes. I have notified the American Commissioners, who will have this obstruction removed. The increase of alewives in the Denis Stream far surpasses that of any former year. As the close time expired last May, I allowed people to fish two days in the week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. This stream runs through a densely settled part of the county, and if fishing were allowed at all times, the stock would soon be so reduced, that all the advantage gained by the three years close time would soon be lost. Owing to the strict watch kept on them, no violation of the regulations has been committed, as the settlers got all the fish they wanted for their own use. It is impossible to ascertain the quantity caught, as there were over a hundred persons fishing on the open days. In the tideway on the river there has been a decided improvement in the quantity of fish caught in the weirs. There were more herring, haddock and small codfish caught in the St. Croix this year than for a number of years previously. Lobsters in large quantities were taken in the river and in Oak Bay which are preserved in the establishment at St. Andrews. Some close time should be provided for the protection of this shell fish. I would also recommend that a fish-pass be provided at Salmon Falls, as the place is almost impassible for alewives which congregate at the foot in large numbers, but owing to the freshet being always high in the spring, they cannot get over the fall. The mill-owners on the New Brunswick side of the river, have generally observed the law re-