

usual; but as the spring advanced they became very scarce. Shad were not so plentiful as last year; but bass more numerous. Mr. Belyea says:—"At Oak Point a large sturgeon fishery has been started, which gave employment and fair wages to a considerable number of our people. As this fishery will probably be followed on a larger scale next season, I would suggest that some suitable regulations be made to prevent its exhaustion. The young fish should not be killed, and spawning fish should be protected by a close season."

OVERSEER GOSLINE, of Kennebecasis and its tributaries, reports but little improvement in these rivers. Alewives, shad, bass, eels and hake continue to be taken in limited quantities, and a considerable number of salmon still frequent both the main and Hammond River. The facilities for poaching are so great in both streams when the water is low, that but few of them are allowed to spawn. Unless the people residing on the banks of these rivers awake to the importance of protecting the small stock of fish yet resorting to them, but little hope of restoring their fisheries remains.

## ST. JOHN COUNTY.

OVERSEER O'BRIEN reports a decrease in the catch of nearly all kinds of fish in his division. This is more marked in the catch of salmon, which is fully thirty per cent less than that of last year. Gaspereaux gave about the same catch as last year; but the herring fishery yielded less. Lobsters were plentiful; but the catch was confined to supplying the local demand. Overseer O'Brien again calls attention to the great destruction of young gaspereaux by the weirs. He says:—"One of the greatest evils that mark our harbor fisheries is the destruction of young alewives. In point of numbers, as many of young fish are destroyed as of grown fish taken, and the continuance of the species is simply impossible if this wasteful mode of fishing is continued." I have so often called attention to this monstrous evil, that nothing further I can say will add force to what I have already put on record.

OVERSEER SKILLEN, of St. Martin district, reports a large increase in the catch of herring, but a falling off in line fish. He complains of great difficulty in enforcing the weekly close time, especially during the spawning season of herring, when the largest catches are made. Mr. Skillen is of opinion that no nets should be allowed to be set in the immediate neighborhood of the spawning ground in his district from the 10th of July to the 20th August. In this opinion I entirely agree, and would urge that all spawning places of herring be protected, by prohibiting netting within their limits during the spawning season.

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

OVERSEER TODD, of St. Croix district, reports an increase in the catch of mackerel and alewives, but a decrease in salmon. The practice of drifting for salmon near the fishways had become so prevalent that I authorized Mr. Todd to employ a night watchman, whose vigilance put an end to this illegal work. The fishways have been kept open and in good repair. During the low stage of water in the river, that at Baring was improved and made effective. This Mr. Todd did at his own expense. He found it necessary to employ an assistant for a short time, to prevent poachers from netting the spawning beds of the land-locked salmon in Palfrey Brook and Skiff Lake. A warden or special guardian would be of great service in protecting this valuable fish. The stream and lake is too far distant from Mr. Todd's residence to admit of more than an occasional visit.

OVERSEER CUNNINGHAM, of St. Andrews Bay district, reports a large catch of herrings, of good quality, which found a ready sale. Large quantities of small herrings were taken for the sardine factories at Eastport, and the demand is increasing. Mackerel came into the bay earlier than usual, and a large catch was made; but the quality was not so good as could be desired. Less attention is paid to coast fishing, and the catch of cod, haddock, hake and pollock was less than last year. The catch of lobsters was smaller than usual, fewer men being engaged in this fishery. Overseer Cunningham strongly urges the suppression of all brush weirs left dry at low tide, as they destroy large quantities of young fish which are in great demand by the