

Treaty, he believed that American fishermen had the same rights as our own, and any rules which might be made by the Fishery Department must apply to them also. The use of trawls was very much condemned by practical men, and from petitions now in the hands of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, it would be seen that in many places the quantity of fish had been diminished by one-half, from this cause alone. This was a matter which seriously affected our fisheries—a field from which we reaped where we had not sown. Trawling, he might say was a mode of catching fish which was practised to a considerable extent. A line was sunk to the bottom of the sea and attached to it were a number of short baited lines. Fish, therefore, which came to our coasts in search of food or for the purpose of spawning were caught in this way, a mode which was objectionable in this respect, that the mother or seed fish, which generally kept some distance from the surface were destroyed before spawning. There trawls, too, when set near the shore, prevented fish to a very great extent from coming into our bays; and sometimes, when, for some reason the lines could not be got at for several days, the fish previously caught became decayed and drove away other fish seeking the coast. It was true, that any immediate interference with our own fishermen as well as Americans in this respect, might be rather a serious matter for a time, but when fishermen themselves were actually clamouring for some protection, he thought the Department of Marine and Fisheries ought to give its attention to the matter. He would suggest that there should be a close season during the months of May, June and July, when no trawling should be allowed on our coasts. Of course, we have no power to prevent trawling outside the three miles limit, and our fishermen would be much more advantageously situated than the American fishermen who had to come long distances from home. Whilst on this subject, he might state that in the county of Victoria, as he had been informed, farmers and others were in the habit of killing salmon in the Fall of the year. Indeed, he was credibly informed that it was no uncommon oc-

currence for a single individual to kill as many as 58 salmon in one day. Now, if this went on for some years our magnificent fisheries would come to be in the same state as those of the United States waters.

MR. KILLAM said he desired to remark that the question of trawls was not a new one. He believed that, since the human race began to catch fish, there had been a difference of opinion between those engaged in the business as to the propriety of adopting particular modes of fishing. He should like to know, from the hon. member from Cape Breton, some clear explanation as to the kind of fish caught by trawls, and the season of the year at which this was done, because, if a close season was adopted, it would be necessary for the House to obtain this information. He might say that nearly one-half of the fish taken in Nova Scotia were caught by trawls, and it would be a serious matter if that important fishery was injured. The practice of trawling for fish within and without the three miles limit, had been carried on for many years with great advantage. To do away with the practice would, he thought, reduce the number of fish caught by 25 per cent. Fishing by means of trawls had been carried on for years in the North Sea, near the coasts of Great Britain, for many years, and the number of fish there was as great, seemingly, as when the earlier descendants of Adam first fished in those waters. He admitted that the indiscriminate use of trawls in estuaries might be prejudicial at a certain season, but, on the whole, he thought the complaints urged regarding trawling were more imaginary than real.

MR. DAVIES said Professor Baird, the great American authority on matters connected with fishing, had expressed the opinion that the use of trawls was not very destructive of fish, for this reason, that fish coming into shallow waters to spawn were generally in a sickly condition, and did not readily take the hook. Now, with regard to the Gulf fisheries, he was aware that a general feeling prevailed among fishermen that the trawl-fishing was destructive to the