

Q. A Canadian could get a licence if he wanted to put a trap out in a district?
—A. The only limit is the distance between traps in the particular area. Traps were not being laid in any other area.

Mr. NEILL: These are the only profitable sites.

The CHAIRMAN: When Mr. Neill spoke in the house on January 25 he said that in 1934 the Americans abandoned 219 traps.

Mr. NEILL: That was the average.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: That was the average in the American waters.

The WITNESS: That is the idea I had in mind. I am not sure yet. If you examine some past years you won't find that many. That is my memory, and it may be right or wrong. But coming to 1935 the catch of salmon in 1936 on the Fraser river area, or the state of Washington area—I am speaking of sock-eyes—was over 80 per cent. Peculiarly enough these traps—I think I am safe in saying this—did not make as good a catch on the average in 1936.

Mr. WHITMORE (Department of Fisheries): They were lower.

The WITNESS: Let me give you the catch of sockeyes for these traps in the last few years. In 1933 the Sooke traps, the traps on our west coast area, took 121,458 sockeyes.

By Mr. Reid:

Q. That is for the four traps?—A. That is for all the Canadian traps that operated in that year 1933 we got 29·44 per cent of the fish as a whole. In 1934 these traps took 68,748 sockeyes when we got 28·31 per cent of the total catch on the two sides.

Q. Sockeyes?—A. I am speaking of sockeyes alone. Let that be clearly understood. In 1935 these traps took 73,103 fish when we got 53·43 per cent; in 1936 these traps took only 44,336 when we got 86 per cent. That is one of the reasons that is given in support of the contention that for some unknown reason this year a large majority of salmon in the Fraser to some extent—the great majority of them no doubt come in this way (indicating) and to some extent every year some go around by the north down through Johnstone strait and down this way (indicating). Last year it was generally accepted—

Mr. NEILL: No, no.

The WITNESS: I state that as my opinion. I think it is the general view of the fishermen.

Mr. NEILL: Major Motherwell did not state it as his opinion.

The WITNESS: Well, I give it as mine after contact with fishermen pretty well over the place, that the majority of the fishermen hold that view—I know that some of them do not—that this year the great majority of the fish—that a very much larger proportion of the fish, rather, than usual came around by the north and down through here (indicating), one argument given in support of that contention being that while we got this year over 80 per cent of the catch as against years previous to 1935, 28 to 30 per cent, the traps that were fishing in each of those years took much fewer fish in 1936 than they did in those previous years.

Mr. GREEN: You have to live in Vancouver city to see it, because there are hundreds of fishing boats around Vancouver harbour that were never there before.

Mr. TAYLOR: I heard the same thing several times.

The WITNESS: I do not think there is any doubt about that being commonly held. I give it as my opinion, and I leave it at that.

The other point that will possibly be of interest and value to the committee in considering this matter so far as these particular traps are concerned, and we are speaking of these particular traps—