

the supply of parent fish from the summer runs of salmon, instead of procuring them from the August and September runs. This matter has been thoroughly discussed and reported upon at previous times, and there is very little to add to what has already been written. Many claim that there is no difference in the several runs of salmon that enter our rivers, while others again are strongly of the opinion that there is a decided difference. However, it is a plain fact that all salmon, no matter what time they may enter the rivers from the sea, are all alike, in general appearance at least, at spawning time.

In view of the opinions and arguments advanced by a considerable number of the fishermen and others who are anxious for a trial of the summer fishing to be made, probably it would be advisable for the department to take the matter into their consideration. It may be feasible to fit out and operate a stand of nets on one of the licensed fishing grounds near the hatchery, or at the head of the tide, for the purpose of obtaining parent salmon during the coming season. And then, if there was any deficiency in the number required to stock the hatchery, a further supply could be obtained in the same manner as this year. It would be better to operate only one set of nets for the first season, until we became thoroughly acquainted with the work of taking live salmon from the deep-water nets. The main object to be considered before the project can be properly and safely entered upon, would be the selection and fitting out of a suitable place for keeping the fish from time of capture until spawning time. It may be mentioned here that, in my opinion, many of the fish now obtained enter the rivers early in the summer and remain in the pools until they are taken by the seine operated for the purpose of procuring parent salmon, that is, if it is a season with no summer freshet to allow the fish to get away beyond our reach. But it is cited by some of the fishermen that the August, September and October runs of salmon are getting more plentiful every year, while the June and July runs have not increased any in late seasons, and perhaps these opinions are worthy of consideration. The fish bred from the Restigouche ova, which are of a larger variety than our native salmon, are showing a marked increase in these rivers.

*Collection of Ova.*

The fish inclosed in the pond, when spawning time commenced were found to be in a splendid condition. The first fish were stripped on October 22nd, and the work was completed on November 8th. The total number of ova obtained was 1,730,000, showing the average to each fish to be slightly over 7,000. If there are any of the other hatcheries not fully stocked, there can be three or four hundred thousand transferred from this hatchery, and the remainder will be a sufficient supply to carry at time of hatching, as very probably the number will be augmented by the usual transfer from Restigouche.

In accordance with instructions received from the department, I assisted the provincial commissioner of fisheries to procure a small supply of trout ova again this season. The Commissioner obtained the parent trout in the Bartiboque River. He procured 22 females and 15 males. From these we gathered 28,000 ova. These, as well as the large stock of salmon ova now in the hatchery are in splendid condition, and there is every reason to believe that this season's work will also be successfully carried out.

Submitting all for your consideration.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ISAAC SHEASGREEN.  
*Officer in Charge.*