

PROCEEDINGS
OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

APPOINTED, ON WEDNESDAY, THE 15th JANUARY 1823,

ON THE

Bill for the better Regulation of the Fisheries in
the inferior District of Gaspé ;

WITH AN INSTRUCTION

To consider whether it be not expedient to extend the dispositions of the said Bill to the Counties of Cornwallis and Northumberland.

COMMITTEE ROOM,

TUESDAY, 21st January 1823.

PRESENT—Messrs. *Taschereau, Quirouet, Davidson, Bourdages, E. C. Lagueux, M'Callum and Taché.*

Mr. TASCHEREAU called to the Chair.

Mr. Joseph Barth, Mariner, appeared before your Committee, and made answer, as follows, to the questions put to him :—

Q. Do you know the River Ristigouche—what kind of Fishery is carried on there ?

A. I do know it—the Salmon fishery is carried on there.

Q. Has the Salmon fishery in that river decreased or encreased of late years ?

A. It has decreased more than one half.

Q. What do you know to be the causes of that decrease ?

A. The obstruction of the Channels, sometimes with nets, at other times with lines having branches attached to them, which being agitated by the current drive the fish into the nets, so that the upper part of the river is deprived of them, and the fish cannot go thither to spawn and reproduce, which is one of the chief causes of the decay of the fish.

Q. Do you know of other causes ?

A. Yes, the Indians going to fish in the upper parts of the river too early, destroy the fish before they have spawned.

Q. At what time ought the Indians to be allowed to fish for Salmon, so as not to prevent their spawning ?

A. They ought not to commence earlier than the fifteenth of September, after that time I am not aware of any inconvenience from carrying on the fishery.