

effectual remedy that I can suggest is an occasional visit from Commander Lavoie, as already recommended.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

The reports and returns from the Overseers of this county show a very large falling off from the catch of the previous season. While there is no doubt that the catch of salmon has been much smaller than last year, I am satisfied it was very much larger than shown by the returns. In this county, more than in any other, the Overseers have been unable to get correct returns; the great majority of fishermen positively refusing either to make a statement of their catch, or to pay the merely nominal license fee fixed by law. The herring fishery in the Bay gave less than an average return, owing to a late spring and unfavourable weather. The lobster fishery was good early in the season, but unfavourable winds rendered late fishing impracticable. Overseer Hogan reports that the bass fishery has been and still continues to be very good. Overseer Freeze, of the Doaktown district, reports a good run of salmon in September and October, and the high state of the water enabled them to ascend to their spawning grounds. Overseer Cameron, of the upper district of the south-west, reports a fine run of fish in the same months, and states that there has been much less poaching in his district than in former seasons.

The practice of seining alewives in the months of May and June is very destructive to breeding bass, large numbers of which are thus taken during the close season along with the alewives. As the latter fish can be just as well taken in set nets, (as indeed they are in all other rivers in the Province), I would strongly urge that seining for them be prohibited. But three or four individuals follow this destructive mode of fishing, and it is the opinion of the local officers, with which I quite agree, that were it not for the bass thus taken, the practice would be voluntarily abandoned. As the time for alewife fishing has been extended from the 15th to the 30th of June, this extension will be more than an equivalent for the prohibition of seining, so far as the catch of fish is affected.

From careful enquiries made during the summer, I am of opinion that bass fishing might be permitted in Napan Bay and River from opening of navigation until the 25th of May without serious injury to the fishery. At the breaking up of the ice in spring, bass enter this bay and river in pursuit of food, and remain until the middle or end of May. It would be a very great boon to the inhabitants of Napan, Black River and Chatham to be able to obtain this fine fish for home consumption, after a long winter, and at a time when fresh fish are not otherwise to be obtained. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend, that from the opening of navigation until the 25th May, bass fishing be allowed in Napan Bay and the river running into it, such fishing to be pursued only by set nets.

Autumn bass fishing should not commence until 1st October. Under pretence of fishing for bass after the 15th August, many salmon are taken in the lower part of the river, and the close time for the latter fish is thus evaded.

KENT COUNTY.

The returns from this county show a falling off from the catch of last year, the deficiency being in salmon, lobsters and alewives. Overseer Sutherland, of the upper district, says:—"The catch of salmon and alewives has been small owing to the scarcity of fish, which did not pass along shore as usual. The lobster fishery, though fairly successful, falls short of last year's yield. Cod, mackerel and herrings gave an average return." Overseer Cormier, of the lower district, reports about an average catch of cod and mackerel, but a large increase in that of herrings.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

The only fisheries pursued to any extent in this county are for lobsters on the coast, and for shad in Dorchester Bay. Herring and mackerel are taken in Shediac Bay