

suggestion to recommend to the Department that the canneries shall only use 73 in. mesh nets during the latter part of August to the 15th September; it would not only give the clean fish a chance to reach their spawning grounds, but would prevent fishermen catching the poor ones that are struggling to the salt water after spawning as they are unfit for food and are only thrown overboard, thus destroying them to no purpose. I am still of opinion that there are too many boats allowed to fish in the lower river, and I am sure that a reduction would be a decided benefit to the cannery proprietors. I have spoken to several owners on this subject, and they state they would be satisfied with 30 boats provided they were all to take the same number. I would also suggest that the lower river be officially divided into drifts and a regulation made compelling each fisherman after taking up his net at the bottom to return to the head before again throwing out his net and to take his proper turn with the other boats fishing, as I have many complaints about cooking (fishing within the 250 yards limit) during the season, which cases are very hard to decide owing to their being no official head to any drift on the river, and it also leads to quarrels between the men employed by the several canneries. I am glad to be able to state that since my last report two Frenchmen have started a salmon oil factory near Ladner's Landing, and have been able to use all the offal from three or four canneries. They informed me that they have no difficulty in disposing of their oil at a fair price, the quality being considered very good. It is principally used for lubricating purposes. They also propose to dry the refuse and sell that as fish guano. I am sorry to state that, there is still a large quantity of offal, especially in a good season, still thrown into the river which cannot but be detrimental to the salmon. I think it would be to the interest of everybody connected with the industry, if the Department would take some steps to have it stopped.

According to the new regulations, by Order in Council of 26th November last, I see it is proposed to alter the close time till 6 a.m. Monday morning. I would respectfully suggest that the time be left at 6 p.m. Sunday for this reason: that it will be impossible for any one man in a row boat to watch the fishermen, as numbers of them, especially contractors, are sure to take advantage of Sunday night after dark to fish, and it will be impossible to stop them, as after the net is in the water you cannot hear them and in the dark you cannot see them; as it is at present it is very hard work, as I can only go to one part of the river each Sunday, leaving the other two parts without any supervision at all. Nearly all the illegal fishing is done between 5 and 6 p.m. on the Sunday, all parties trying to take advantage of the first drift. I suggested in my last report that a small steamboat should be provided for the use of the guardians on the river. I would again draw your attention to the necessity of having at least one, and if the new regulations are to be strictly enforced, it would be necessary to have one for this district alone, as it would be more than any one man could do to pull against the freshet all night and get about to any advantage. Sometimes now I see boats fishing during the close time, but before I can row to them it is 6 o'clock, and they get so mixed with other boats that I am unable to swear to them, and I am well aware that as soon as I go down the river the boats behind me commence fishing, knowing full well I cannot get back to catch them. I can also corroborate the statement made about the close time by the Salmon Packers Association, being myself so much amongst the Indians. I continually see them drunk and gambling on Saturdays and Sundays, and I know the trouble the cannery men have in getting them out to work on the Sunday evenings in consequence.

I notice in the new regulations one clause touching on the length of nets to be used. I would suggest that the nets be limited to 150 fathoms on the line as I consider that length would always meet the requirements of the law in any part of the lower river where most of the fishing is done. I notice now that contractors sometimes fasten two nets together when fish are scarce, and by so doing take up more than their share of the channels and those above them have a very poor chance when such long nets are used. Such a restriction would, of course, prevent this from being done by making it penal to use more net. The size of the mesh should, I think, be fixed at $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, as in a good season the sawquai and cohoes both run very small