

Sea and River Fishing.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHING SEASONS.

Cap. 108.—Consolidated Statutes.

SEC. 1.—No person shall at any time catch, kill or take any kind of trout or other non-migratory fresh-water fish in any inland lake, river or stream within this Colony, by the use of any net, baltow, weir, fishing otter, lime, or other deleterious compound.

2.—No person shall catch, kill or take any kind of trout, char, whitefish, landlocked salmon, or any fresh-water or migratory fish in any lake, river or stream of this Colony between the 15th day of September and the 1st day of December in any year.

Cap. 102.—Consolidated Statutes.

5.—No person shall by spearing, or sweeping with nets or seines, take, or attempt to take, any salmon, grise, par or trout in any bay, river, stream, cove or water course, above where the tide usually rises and falls, or in any pond or lake.

6.—No stake, seine, weir or other contrivance for taking salmon shall be set, except nets placed so as not to extend more than one-third across such river, stream or water course.

7.—No person shall construct any mill dam, weir, rack, frame, train gate or other erection or barrier in or across any river, stream, etc., so as to obstruct the free passage of salmon, grise, par, trout or other fish resorting thereto, for the purpose of spawning.

No person shall permit any sawdust or mill rubbish to be cast into any such river, stream, cove, lake or water course.

MAINE TROUT NOTES.

I CANNOT learn that a heavy run of blueback trout was observed this fall in the Mill Brook and other brooks running into Richardson Lake, Maine. It will be remembered that a great run of these fish was observed in the fall of 1887, especially in Mill Brook, by guides and others, and soon afterward mentioned in the FOREST AND STREAM. The bed of the stream was literally covered with these fish, and hosts of them could be taken out of the water with almost any sort of a net. It was also curious to note that they were working up the same stream over the bed of which hundreds of brook trout had gone only a few days before, and evidently for the same purpose, that of spawning. So far as the man who saw the bluebacks observed, there were at that time no brook trout in sight, and it was also a matter of some comment as to where the brook trout had gone in so short a time. It is, however, highly probable that the same run of trout took place this fall, though it failed of being observed for the good reason that careful observers were not there at the time. Indeed, a run of these peculiar fish has for several years been observed at the Upper Dam, where the trout come up from the same lake as in the case of the Mill Brook run. Neither have I any doubt but what a run might also be observed as well in Beaver Brook, and in fact in any of the brooks which run into Richardson Lake, were careful observers on the grounds at the time.

Blueback trout are to be found in Richardson Lake as well as Mooselucmagantic. Some authors rely greatly upon color and teeth at the root of the tongue as a matter of distinction of species; but they admit that specimens of the brook trout are occasionally found with these teeth at the root of the tongue. Well, if they had fished the streams and ponds of Maine a little more thoroughly than they evidently have done, and fished with an eye to the peculiarities of the trout they were taking, they would have observed that teeth at the root of the tongue are really very common in this species of trout. Any one who will take the trouble may become convinced that coloring in the brook trout, or shades of coloring, beyond the red spots, are very uncertain. There is a pond in Somerset county, Maine, where the trout are so black as to often be mistaken for chub or some other fish, till close examination shows that they are really trout. At the same time one of the inlets of this pond has a clear stony bottom, and a trout taken from this brook is noted for the lightness of its coloring. Again, this inlet to the pond happens to run out of another and a smaller pond. The upper pond has remarkably clear water with a stony bottom. In this pond the trout are remarkably light colored, and yet, in the spawning season, the larger trout of the lower pond, which, by the way, has a very black and muddy bottom, run up the inlet to spawn, and often into the upper pond, across it and up its inlets, there to spawn. At least the very black trout of the lower pond have been found in the inlets of the upper pond. Now, what conclusion do we come to from these facts? Simply that these trout are one and the same species, regardless of the pond in which they are found, and that the bottom of the home of the trout has very much to do with its coloring.

My wife has for a long time been interested in trout painting, and the peculiar colorings of individuals of the brook trout have been a special study with her. I have been aware from my boyhood that in a particular stream in Oxford county, in Maine, the trout are particularly beautiful as to coloring. Not only are they mottled in a very distinct and beautiful manner, but they are also painted with waves of color along their sides to an extent greater than any other trout I have ever seen. In the summer of 1883 I determined to procure one of these trout for my wife to paint, and if possible to get the peculiar coloring for which they are noted. We went to our friends, within some twenty miles of the stream in question, and with a team my brother and I started the next day for the mountain stream. We had procured a tin pail with a cover, and we were determined to bring home specimens of those beautifully-marked trout to be copied in painting. We procured several. By carefully changing the water every few miles, from wells and streams, we got two of them over the drive of twenty miles alive. We put them into a well that night in an improvised car for the inspection of my wife the next day. In the morning one of them was dead. The other was lively enough, but alas for his beautiful coloring of the day before! It was all gone. It was about as pale and colorless a specimen of a trout as I ever saw.

There is a lady living a few miles from Rumford Point, Maine, who has a tame trout. That is, she has a trout that the family has kept for several years in an aqueduct tank in the house. The water runs from a mountain spring into the tank at all times. The trout has become very tame. It readily comes up to the top of the water at call; suffers its back to be rubbed, in fact seems to like this sort of treatment. It takes food from the hand readily; often jumping out of water for earthworms or grasshopper, of which it is especially fond. But as to coloring, what has this trout? Simply nothing, except almost an entire absence of the wavy brightness that

characterizes the trout from the same brook from which this specimen came a few years ago.

Many brook trout of 10 and 10½ lbs. have been recorded by careful and truthful anglers. One of 11½ lbs. was taken in Mooselucmagantic Lake a year ago last June. In the fall of 1880, Sept. 29, a brook trout was taken at the Upper Dam which weighed 11½ lbs. This trout was at once forwarded to Prof. Baird, who had the skin mounted, and it is, or should be, in the Smithsonian Institution to-day. If that specimen has been destroyed, another specimen can probably be obtained next season, that will weigh 10 lbs. at least. Indeed, if the Government will furnish the jar and the alcohol, and have it at the Upper Dam next summer, there is no doubt that one or two specimens of these great trout would be contributed to the Smithsonian by sportsmen who happen to be so fortunate as to take them.

Even the lovers of the rod and reel are sometimes the recipients of Christmas remembrances. In one case Mr. Geo. B. Appleton, for several years a fellow salesman with the lamented and much beloved Prouty, was made happy on that happiest day of all the year. He received, much to his surprise, the very gold watch that Prouty used to carry. Mrs. Prouty accompanied the gift with an explanation, stating that she had for some time contemplated the gift, well knowing that it would be the wish of her husband, could he speak from the land where gifts are not needed. Inside the watch is inscribed, "My companion, and my own familiar friend."

Even "Special" himself was not forgotten on that day, and a gold trout now ornaments his watch chain, a gift from Geo. T. Freeman, the Court street jeweler. It is all the more a welcome trout from the fact that George and "Special" have camped together and fished together many a time, taking trout other than golden, but bright and shining all the same. SPECIAL.

NOTES ON SALMON, TROUT AND EELS.

THE following notes from the returns of 1887 of the Board of Conservators of the Dart Fishery District, England, are of interest to us because we have the fishes mentioned, and know very little of their habits and movements:

Young of salmon twelve months old are termed spawn; they go to sea at this age at various periods from March to June; they vary in length from 6 to 8 in.; maximum weight, 2oz. On their first return from the sea in July and August of the same year they are termed peel [The Inspector thinks the observer has confused migratory trout (*Salmo trutta*) with salmon, yet he has known a grise of 1lb. weight, and Yarrell records one of 15oz.], and weigh from ½ lb to 1½ lbs. The following summer they come up the river again, about July and August, weighing from 4 to 6 lbs., and are then termed harvest fish, being about two and a half years old. The following summer, about three and a half years old, they run about 8 to 12 lbs. each. Besides these there is a small fish throughout the year in the fresh water termed a hepper. I consider this is the young of peel [*Salmo trutta*]. I have seen these latter spawning under ½ lb. in weight.

I notice that whenever there is a good freshet in the river, salmon will ascend to the fresh water, and they quickly drop back again to the tidal water. They certainly do not come up then for spawning, and, I believe, only for a change, a taste of fresh water.

Sea lice are the only parasites I have seen on salmon, and I have not seen these above Totnes Weir (the highest point the tide flows), about twelve miles from the sea. Possibly they may at times carry them to the fresh water, but it is generally believed they die and drop off within twenty-four hours of the time the fish enters the river.

Formerly, while the fish were obstructed at Totnes Weir, very few salmon were seen in the river before May. For some years they were netted early in September and put over the weir. These fish spawned in October, returned early to sea and came back in March as fresh run fish, and always the largest caught during the season, 15 to 20 lbs. each. This continues, though the fish-pass at Totnes Weir renders netting now unnecessary.

Since salmon have been able to get over Totnes Weir they get to the highest water on Dartmoor, and spawn about the middle of October; this has continued for many years, but this last season was an exception; the dry weather continued late and very few salmon got up the river till the end of October. There is an old saying among the fishermen on Dartmoor that very few salmon are ever seen there after Christmas, and that unless fish can spawn there early they are afraid of being left by failing waters. This theory is fully confirmed this last season; very large numbers of fish have spawned in November in the lower parts of the river; they could then have got to the moor, but not one was seen in the East Dart and very few in the West Dart above the junction at Dartmeet.

Most of the salmon spawn from the middle of October to middle of December, and a few down as late as April. Brown trout spawn early in October and November.

The Dart is a very swift flowing river, and most kinds of crustacea get washed away. The trout in winter are short of food, dependent a great deal on worms, not a fattening diet, but they get rapidly into condition when the natural flies appear. The better the food the earlier the fish spawn. A remarkable instance of this occurs in this district. A small brook empties into the Slaston Lea, a sheet of fresh water close to the sea coast between Dartmouth and the Start Point. The trout in this brook are in first-rate condition as early as January; the owner will not allow any fishing after June 30, and the fish spawn in July. I consider this is caused by abundance of food in the winter at the spot where it enters the Lea, where thousands of young perch and roach abound.

The trout in the fresh water of the Dart are all white flesh except when they drop down to the tidal water below Totnes Weir, and all of them get pink flesh from the difference in food—shrimps, etc.

Salmon run mostly on spring tides and freshets, and with a northwest wind blowing off-shore, causing smooth water at the rocky entrance of the river at Dartmouth.

Eels are very abundant both in the fresh and tidal portion of the river. They are taken occasionally by "clotting" (a bunch of worms strung on worsted, which they hold fast on), as many as 30 to 40 dozen at a time.

ONEONTA, N. Y.—The Fish and Game Protective Association members propose to put out some quail in this vicinity.—X.

BLACK BASS IN PONDS.

TAUNTON, Mass.—Editor *Forest and Stream*: We have near here a large pond that has been stocked with small-mouth black bass for seventeen years, and yet it is the exception and not the rule to catch one out. When one is caught it is always a large one. I have fished it for ten years and never saw a small one. The pond has an outlet into the river by way of numerous mill dams, etc. What is the reason they are so scarce? Can it be they have run the dams to the river? Perhaps the pond is not well adapted to them. There is another pond near by of spring water but small outlet, some sand, a good deal of mud, and some small boulders for bottom. Is there anywhere I can get bass fry or spawn to stock this pond? Would not the large-mouth be more likely to succeed than his brother the small-mouth? There is very good feed in it for bass, as it is alive with shiners and small perch, etc. I would willingly go to a little expense and trouble to see this pond stocked. I think that it would make good sport without going too far for it. I have tried the other pond with all the lures that I know, including the fly, which is the most successful, but I have very indifferent success. In the Fall River ponds the bass are very plentiful and I have good success. They have not been stocked any longer than our ponds here. I would be more than pleased to hear of anything that would catch them. G. E. W.

[It is difficult to tell why small bass are not caught in the Taunton pond. Perhaps they may be present, but remain in seclusion and refuse to bite. If they have access to the river they will go into it, and the dams, unless provided with fishways, will prevent their return to the pond. Possibly there is not enough food for the bass and the big ones have eaten the small ones. If there is an abundance of minnows there should be plenty of bass. The other pond described should certainly grow good bass of both kinds. The two species thrive equally well in Massachusetts. Waban pond, at Wellesley, Mass., has the same peculiarity with regard to its bass. It has been stocked twenty years. There are plenty of large small-mouthed bass, but it is a rare thing to catch a small one. A resident of Wellesley, who has fished in this pond both before and after it was stocked, informs us that he has seen as many as a hundred large bass at a time on the bottom, but they would not bite. In his long experience of nearly a quarter of a century he has caught only one half-pound bass on a hook, but he has captured many large fish. The fry are common in shoal water near the shore. Shiners are very abundant. He has caught minnows on one side of his boat and used them in a little deeper water on the other side to catch bass. This pond empties by a brook into Charles River. Bass of all sizes are found in the river. The biting of the bass in Waban pond is extremely capricious and disappointing. Our informant has been most successful trolling with a frog, having his line sunk a little below the surface. Farm pond, in Sherborn, has plenty of bass of both kinds, and a good catch can be made almost any day. A permit is necessary for non-residents. This pond has no shiners in it; there is no inlet and only a small outlet. Barker's pond, Wellesley, Mass., is artificial, and has neither inlet nor outlet. It contains no minnows, but has plenty of small bullheads or catfish. This pond has many small bass, but no large ones apparently. In the spring one can take all the small bass of ½ to 1 lb. he wants with worms. In these ponds bass take the hook best where there are no minnows. Besides frogs we know that small catfish are very tempting to bass. In the Susquehanna River they are used sometimes in preference to all other baits. Small bass can be had from Mr. R. Winsford Denton, Wellesley, Mass., at a reasonable price in the spring.]

LAKE TROUT.

Editor *Forest and Stream*:

I have always been mixed up in the matter of lake trout, and since reading Mr. Cheney's letter I am more so. "Forester" records three distinct lake trout—the lake trout (*Salmo confinis*); the siskawitz or northern lake trout (*Salmo siskawitz*), and the greatest lake trout (*namaycush*). Mr. Cheney tells us a great deal about his lake trout being known by so many different names in different places; but he fails to make the most important matter clear by not dwelling upon the three kinds of lake trout. "Forester's" "lake trout," "greatest lake trout" and "siskawitz" are all different. Are there three lake trout? Does "Forester" enumerate them correctly? You will see by the outlines I send you that his lake trout and greatest lake trout, according to his drawings, are as different as any two fishes that swim. I am not the only one who is puzzled in this direction, and I think a short but clear item from you on the subject would prove an appropriate, interesting and instructive feature. Which of these three fishes is commonly called "Mackinaw trout," "Mackinaw salmon," "lunge," "longe," "togue," "forked-tailed trout," "tuladi," "red trout," "gray trout," "lake salmon," "salmon trout," if these are vulgar names? KAHKAHLIN.

[Only one lake trout is recognized at present by students of the salmon family—the *namaycush* of Walbaum. The siscowet or siskawitz is regarded simply as a local race of the *namaycush* differing only in being shorter and fatter. "Forester" took his ichthyology principally from De Kay and some of his figures of lake trout are poor copies of illustrations in "The Natural History of New York." This was considered an excellent work several decades ago and is now one of the classics, but it is not accepted as a guide to the present state of knowledge concerning fishes. The names given in the closing paragraph, with the exception of red trout, refer to the common form of the lake trout with its color variations. Tuladi is the New Brunswick name; togue is heard in Maine, and some togue are nearly black; longe is attributed to Vermont; namaycush is the Indian name in the far North; trout is the appellation in Winnipisogee; Mackinaw trout appears on lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior; lake salmon, lake trout, and salmon trout are names used in northern New York; peet is the most curious name of all and its locality for the moment is forgotten.

If we were to describe the variations of color and form observed in the lake trout through its wonderfully wide range from both sides of Arctic America southward to Idaho, the Great Lakes, and New York, we might be charged with romancing, but in this case "truth is stranger than fiction."]