

**REPORT OF THE FISH AND GAME
COMMISSIONERS OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE TO THE GOVERNOR
AND COUNCIL, DECEMBER, 1896.
VOL. II. PART I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649295630

Report of the Fish and Game Commissioners of New Hampshire to the governor and council,
December, 1896. Vol. II. Part I by Fish and Game Commissioners of New Hampshire

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**REPORT OF THE FISH AND GAME
COMMISSIONERS OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE TO THE GOVERNOR
AND COUNCIL, DECEMBER, 1896.
VOL. II. PART I**

REPORT
OF THE
FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
TO THE
GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,

DECEMBER, 1896.

VOL. II . . . PART I.

CONCORD:
EDWARD N. PEARSON, PUBLIC PRINTER.
1896.

PRINTED BY
REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
CONCORD, N. H.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council :

The commissioners of fish and game herewith submit their biennial report for the two years ending December 1, 1896. We have had under our care during the past two years eleven hatcheries, distributed throughout the state from Keene in the south-west part of the state to New Durham and Conway in the east to Colebrook in the north. In the matter of fish culture, we find a constantly increasing demand from year to year for the various species of fish that we produce, and we believe from the most careful examination that we are able to make and from the evidence of many people throughout the state (particularly from those connected with the various fish and game leagues) that our efforts to restock the waters of the state with valuable food fishes have met with most excellent success.

The reports from fishermen during the past year, especially, in our great Lake Winnepesaukee, have been exceedingly gratifying; and from Sunapee lake, Stinson pond in Grafton county, and the various ponds and streams in the northern part of the state, and Danhole pond in Ossipee and Tuftonborough, the reports are quite as encouraging. This much we do know: No more could possibly have been done for the amount of money expended than has been done by us, It has been the policy of the governor and council to hold the commission down each year to the limit of the amount expended the year before, so that we have been running the commission with eleven (11) hatcheries to look after, for practically the same expense to the state that it cost when we had two or three hatcheries only. Early this year, we purchased from Massachusetts her interests in the hatchery at Livermore Falls near Plymouth, which entailed upon us

an additional expense of one half the cost of running that plant. But as we said in the outset, the demands upon the commission are increasing from year to year, and if the people of the state do not get from the commission pretty nearly what they ask for (and in most instances are entitled to) they charge it up to the commission, and we have to bear the blame whether we deserve it or not. Now then, as the demands upon us for the products of our labors increase, it must of necessity follow that the cost of production will also increase and the policy of the government towards the commission will have to be expanded a trifle from time to time, as occasion requires, or the entire scheme will prove a flat failure. Until this year we have been obliged to fill nearly all our hatcheries early in the season, but during the past summer we built at Bristol a large hatchery, the largest and finest in the state, and as Newfound lake is the source from which we obtain many of our lake trout eggs, from year to year, we are this year enabled to lay down all the lake trout eggs we need at Bristol and Laconia and there bring them forward to the eyed state, and then lay them down in the various hatcheries of the state, to complete the process of hatching and for the purpose of distribution, thus enabling us this year to keep quite a number of our hatcheries closed until late in the season, thereby saving to the state several hundred dollars.

We could not have accomplished as much as we have for the money expended, except for the favors we have received at the hands of various railroads in the way of transportation for ourselves, our agents, and our products. In 1895 we distributed in the various sections of the state according to the needs of each section (as far as was possible to ascertain the same), in round numbers, two million lake trout fry, one million brook trout fry, one hundred and forty-five thousand land-locked salmon, one hundred thousand aureolus or saibling, and in 1896, one million, two hundred and fifty thousand brook trout fry, two million, three hundred thousand lake trout fry, two hundred and fifty thousand

land-locked salmon, and two hundred and twenty-five thousand aureolus.

Much has been written by those who know nothing whatever of the rigid economy which the commission has found it necessary to practise on the subject of keeping the fry until they become fingerlings before putting them into the waters, and the action of other states has been cited as authority as to that course being the proper one to adopt.

Now without entering into any discussion as to the propriety or impropriety of keeping fry a year or so before distribution, we can only say that in our case, with the limited amount that the state is willing to expend in our work, such a course is wholly impracticable. The states which have adopted that method of disposing of the products of their hatcheries have thousands of dollars at their disposal to our hundreds, and indeed it would increase the cost of production manifold to adopt that course, and our most intelligent sportsmen throughout the state realize that fact.

If the people of our state will take proper care of the fry that we plant for them and let them grow until they reach a respectable size before they take them from the waters in which we have placed them, in an almost incredibly short space of time all of our waters would teem with fine fish. As an illustration, much care has been exercised to prevent small trout and salmon from being taken from the tributaries of Sunapee lake during the past three years, and last season those brooks were swarming with tens of thousands of those beautiful fish from four to ten inches in length.

The penalty for fishing in streams that have been closed by the commission, to wit, \$20, is wholly inadequate. While this may deter many people, to whom \$20 seems a large sum, from violating the law, it is mere bagatelle to many, hence the wealthy poacher knowing that the commission has next to nothing in its hands in the way of money to be expended for detective service, boldly violates the law with but little risk of being detected.

The penalty for such violations should be fixed at no

smaller sum than \$50 and the act fixing the penalty should give any justice of the peace, before whom the poacher might be prosecuted, jurisdiction in the case to that amount. The meagre sum of \$250 a year is the sum which the state allows us to expend in the detective service of the commission, a sum wholly inadequate even to employ suitable detective force to sufficiently protect our Massachusetts border against the depredations of her pot hunters, who are fond of reaching over into New Hampshire on the sly and taking off wood-cock, ruffed grouse, etc., just a short time before the commencement of the open season on such game.

Maine has \$10,000 against our \$250. Compare the two sums, ye real sportsmen, who have the welfare of the New Hampshire commission at heart and would like to see it grow to such proportions as it ought to reach if allowed proper encouragement. Notwithstanding the discouraging conditions above set forth, we have had more successful prosecutions for violations of the fish and game laws in the past two years than ever before in the entire history of the commission. This we attribute to a combination of circumstances. In the first place we have been unremitting in our endeavors to enlist into the service of the commission every true sportsman who was willing to serve as special detective without pay (except as he might occasionally get a few dollars as a moiety in a successful prosecution), and many of them have done better work than could be expected under the circumstances. Another quite substantial aid to us, has been the energy and zeal of the officers and members of the various fish and game leagues in the state.

We hail with joy and gladness the organization of such leagues. May their numbers increase manifold, and their zeal and interest in true sportsmanship keep pace with their growth. As a result of the combined efforts above described in the interest of protection of fish and game, we find the quantity of fish in all our lakes, ponds, and streams rapidly increasing, our forests well filled with deer and other large game, while the general verdict of bird hunters through-

out the state is that ruffed grouse and other game birds never were so plenty as this year.

The commissioners are deeply sensible to the fact that, if they had a reasonable sum of money at their disposal from year to year (say \$2,000), so that they might employ a sufficient number of competent detectives to act in conjunction with the fish and game leagues of the state, illicit sportsmanship would soon become a "thing of the past." Another matter that is constantly uppermost in the minds of your commission is the fact that we are powerless to protect the fish planted by us in the lakes and ponds of the state, except by the erection of suitable screens to prevent their escape.

What would be said of the farmer or herdsman who would be so slack as to turn his flocks and herds into the pasture and leave the bars down? Yet that is precisely what the state is compelling us to do, by withholding from us the right to erect such protection as is absolutely necessary to suitably protect the flocks and herds of our lakes and ponds.

We know that a large per cent. of the fish we plant in the unscreened lakes and ponds of the state, especially that king of fish known as land-locked salmon, escape never to return, and are a total loss to the state. Several years ago a suitable screen was erected at the outlet of Lake Sunapee and has since been maintained there, and every intelligent fisherman familiar with those waters (and their name is legion) will bear witness to the great benefits resulting from that action.

Two years ago the legislature granted to the sportsmen of Bristol the right to erect a screen at the outlet of New-found lake if they would do it without expense to the state, and they immediately raised the required amount and put in a perfect screen. Prior to that, reports were numerous of large land-locked salmon and lake trout being seen in the river below the lake, but now it is absolutely impossible for one to escape and we have no doubt that very soon the salutary effects of that screen will be apparent to every sportsman frequenting that beautiful lake. The erection of a few screens, more or less, would cost a comparatively trifling