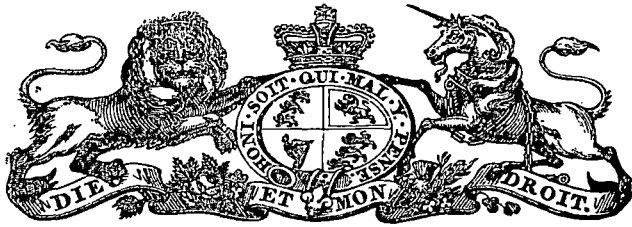


(No. 111.)



1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

F I S H E R I E S B O A R D :

S E C O N D G E N E R A L R E P O R T .

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



Hobart, 14th September, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present to you the Second General Report of the Fisheries Board.

Fishery Statistics.

In Appendix A. will be found a summary of Returns showing fish sold in the Hobart market during 12 months. The Returns published in the first report of the Board were from March to May 1888, inclusive: those now published embrace a period of 12 months; viz., from June 1888, to May 1889, inclusive; they show the following results:—

Period.	Fish.			Crayfish.		
	Dozen.	£	s. d.	Score.	£	s. d.
June, 1888	3966	=	327 12 10	271	=	67 15 0
July, 1888	3055	=	388 2 5	860	=	215 0 0
August, 1888	3488½	=	259 4 4	662	=	165 0 0
September, 1888.....	3619½	=	366 6 9	185	=	46 5 0
October, 1888	2591	=	326 17 5	160	=	40 0 0
November, 1888	1977½	=	379 5 1	180	=	45 0 0
December, 1888.....	1808½	=	350 10 9	128	=	32 0 0
January, 1889	1928½	=	390 14 4	82	=	20 10 0
February, 1889	1758½	=	365 18 3	185	=	37 0 0
March, 1889	1985½	=	449 12 6	75	=	15 0 0
April, 1889.....	2945	=	487 5 6	97	=	24 5 0
May, 1889.....	3479	=	425 10 9	82	=	20 10 0
TOTALS	32,601½	=	4517 0 11	2967	=	728 5 0

The Returns will be of great value to show the growth or decline of the fishing industry, and it is to be regretted that similar information as to the production of fish in other parts of the Colony cannot also be supplied. A recent movement to establish a Fish Company in Launceston for the supply of that city and the development of the fishery in the vicinity of Tamar Heads may yet lead to the establishment of a fish market in Launceston, when a more complete record of the extent and value of the fishing industry can be supplied.

River Netting.

In the last Report reference was made to a proposal to extend the limits of the protected area in the River Derwent. After much consideration it was finally agreed that a new line should be adopted from the Semaphore at Battery Point to the First Bluff at Bellerive. Netting is entirely prohibited above this line, and we have reason to believe that most satisfactory results have followed.

S. Salar.

The young salmon resulting from the shipment of ova brought to Tasmania by Sir Thomas F. Brady are still in the ponds and rills at the hatchery, River Plenty, where they are thriving most satisfactorily. It is proposed to permit them to pass out of the ponds when they assume the smolt form. A small lot of 100 produced from some fish kept at the ponds were sent last year to Mr. James Smith, of Westwood, River Forth, who, with characteristic zeal, successfully conveyed them to the Bischoff district, where he liberated them in about equal numbers in the River Hellyer and in the Coldstream, a tributary of the Pieman.

S. Trutta, S. fario, S. fontinalis.

5000 ova of salmon trout were sent to Victoria, and 1000 ova of brown trout to New South Wales, and the distribution of fry of the various species in our own streams will be found in Appendix B. The number is not so large as usual, owing to the appliances at the ponds being required for the salmon ova which Dr. Agnew so generously introduced from Ireland.

S. levensis.

3500 ova of Loch Leven trout have been procured from New Zealand, which have hatched and are progressing favourably at the ponds, River Plenty. The variety is in great favour in New Zealand, and will, it is believed, be a valuable addition to the streams of the Colony, and very suitable for the stocking of some of the lakes.

Cucumber Mullet.

A large quantity of ova from the River Forth was successfully hatched and passed through the ponds into the River Plenty. There will be no difficulty in annually supplying this river until it becomes stocked.

Legislation.

It is a matter of regret that the Fisheries Bill introduced to Parliament last Session lapsed through the closing of the Session; but as it is at present before the Legislative Council it is to be hoped that it will soon pass into law: until this takes place it is utterly impossible to deal with many matters of interest and importance to the Fisheries of this Colony.

Sir Thomas Brady's Recommendations.

Owing to the absence of any fund available for the purpose, it has been found to be impossible to undertake the works recommended by Sir Thomas Brady for the establishment of a weir in the Derwent, which, while useful in obtaining necessary knowledge in relation to the *salmonidæ*, could also be utilised for the establishment of an eel fishery.

Cormorants.

These enemies to fish have increased to an alarming extent. Complaints from all parts of the Colony have been made of the destruction of fish by these pests, and it has been determined to apply for a special vote of money by means of which some scheme may be formulated to lessen to some extent the evil complained of.

Oyster Fishery.

Since the termination of the engagement of the late Inspector of Fisheries the care of this fishery has been undertaken by the Board. Little work has been done, as it was deemed desirable that the whole question of the future management of the Government reserves should first be determined. A Committee of the Board was accordingly appointed, and their Report has been recently laid before Parliament. Steps are now being taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in relation to fishery matters has recently been the subject of much criticism; and, in order that the matter may be placed beyond question, a Return (Appendix C.) has been prepared embracing a period of 13 years, which discloses that the mean cost of the Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment, including the conservancy of the Derwent, has been, during the period in question, £116 per annum, and that, if the value of the fish distributed—430,000—be taken into account, it is more than self-supporting.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MATTHEW SEAL,

Chairman Fisheries Board.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN of Sale of Fish in the Fish Market, Hobart, for Twelve Months, from June, 1888, to May, 1889, inclusive.

	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	Total 12 months.
Barracouta (<i>Thyrsites atun</i>)	260 dozen at 9s.	33 dozen at 8s.	½ dozen at 16s.	7½ dozen at 10s.	8 at 10d. each	77 dozen at 8s. 6d.	374 dozen at 8s.	312 dozen at 8s.	165 dozen at 7s. 6d.	144 dozen at 9s.	61 dozen at 10s.	504 dozen at 9s.	1938½ doz.
Bream (<i>Chrysophrys Australis</i>) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	½ dozen at 18s.	...	...	½ ditto
Crayfish (<i>Palinurus Edwardsii</i>)	271 score at 5s.	860 score at 5s.	662 score at 5s.	185 score at 5s.	160 score at 5s.	180 score at 5s.	128 score at 5s.	82 score at 5s.	185 score at 4s.	75 score at 4s.	97 score at 5s.	82 score at 5s.	2967 score
Carp (<i>Chilodactylus Allporti</i>)	4 dozen at 4s.	5 dozen at 4s.	9 dozen at 4s.	2 dozen at 3s. 6d.	3 dozen at 3s. 6d.	9 dozen at 3s.	7½ dozen at 3s.	9 dozen at 3s.	2½ dozen at 3s.	2 dozen at 3s.	8 dozen at 3s. 6d.	37 dozen at 3s. 6d.	98½ dozen
Eels (<i>Anquilla Australis</i>)	1½ dozen at 12s.	2 dozen at 12s.	1 dozen at 12s.	4½ dozen at 12s.	1½ dozen at 12s.	1 dozen at 12s.	4½ dozen at 12s.	15 dozen at 12s.	29 dozen at 10s.	5½ dozen at 10s.	2 dozen at 12s.	6 dozen at 12s.	73½ "
Flathead (<i>Platycephalus bassensis</i>)	110 dozen at 1s.	63 dozen at 1s.	80 dozen at 1s.	309 dozen at 1s.	305 dozen at 1s.	276 dozen at 1s.	231 dozen at 1s.	161 dozen at 1s.	242 dozen at 1s.	257 dozen at 1s.	252 dozen at 1s.	356 dozen at 1s.	2642 "
Flounders (<i>Rhombsolea monopus</i>)	22 dozen at 5s.	20 dozen at 6s. 6d.	23 dozen at 6s.	26 dozen at 6s.	105 dozen at 6s.	86 dozen at 6s.	86 dozen at 6s.	155 dozen at 5s. 6d.	127 dozen at 6s.	148 dozen at 5s.	167 dozen at 6s.	147 dozen at 5s. 6d.	1112 "
Garfish (<i>Hemirhamphus intermedius</i>) ..	2436 dozen at 6d.	940 dozen at 5d.	1854 dozen at 9d.	1757 dozen at 9d.	590 dozen at 8d.	7 dozen at 10d.	...	96 dozen at 9d.	16 dozen at 9d.	22 dozen at 9d.	932 dozen at 4d.	1116 dozen at 4d.	9766 "
Gurnet (<i>Sebastes percoides</i>)	15 dozen at 3s. 6d.	7 dozen at 3s. 9d.	6 dozen at 3s. 6d.	23 dozen at 3s.	15 dozen at 3s.	7 dozen at 2s. 9d.	5 dozen at 3s.	2½ dozen at 3s. 3d.	8½ dozen at 3s.	5½ dozen at 3s.	8 dozen at 3s. 6d.	21 dozen at 3s. 6d.	123 "
Kingfish (<i>Thyrsites Solandri</i>) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>)	1 dozen at 24s.	...	6 dozen at 18s.	1 dozen at 15s.	...	½ dozen at 2s.	...	½ dozen at 18s.	½ dozen at 42s.	...	1 dozen at 14s.	2 dozen at 16s.	12½ "
Mullet (<i>Agonostoma Forsteri</i>)	358 dozen at 6d.	875 dozen at 6d.	1015 dozen at 4d.	396 dozen at 6d.	49 dozen at 9d.	43 dozen at 1s.	36 dozen at 1s. 6d.	69 dozen at 1s. 6d.	34 dozen at 1s. 9d.	59 dozen at 1s. 6d.	20 dozen at 2s.	50 dozen at 1s. 6d.	3004 "
Mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) .....	...	2 dozen at 1s.	15 dozen at 2s.	...	8 dozen at 1s.	...	...	...	26 dozen at 1s.	6 dozen at 1s.	46 dozen at 1s. 6d.	66 dozen at 1s. 6d.	169 "
Perch (<i>Chilodactylus macropterus</i>)	250 dozen at 4s.	373 dozen at 4s.	137 dozen at 5s.	388 dozen at 4s. 6d.	323 dozen at 4s.	585 dozen at 4s.	309 dozen at 3s. 6d.	171 dozen at 3s. 9d.	189 dozen at 4s.	346 dozen at 3s. 6d.	518 dozen at 4s. 3d.	359 dozen at 4s. 3d.	3948 "
Ditto, Red .....	...	3 dozen at 4s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
Rock Cod (<i>Pseudophysis barbatus</i>)	132 dozen at 2s.	123 dozen at 2s.	141 dozen at 2s.	337 dozen at 2s.	284 dozen at 2s.	250 dozen at 2s.	198 dozen at 2s.	169 dozen at 2s.	149 dozen at 2s.	222 dozen at 1s. 6d.	236 dozen at 2s.	281 dozen at 2s.	2522 "
Salmon	190 dozen at 4d.	430 dozen at 4d.	25 dozen at 1s.	115 dozen at 1s.	565 dozen at 8d.	127 dozen at 1s.	198 dozen at 1s.	435 dozen at 1s.	273 dozen at 9d.	112 dozen at 9d.	90 dozen at 1s.	156 dozen at 1s.	2716 "
Trumpeter, Real (<i>Latris hecateia</i>)	17 dozen at 24s.	37 dozen at 100s.	16 dozen at 70s.	24 dozen at 60s.	46 dozen at 30s.	51 dozen at 20s.	26 dozen at 20s.	65 dozen at 20s.	61 dozen at 20s.	107 dozen at 25s.	75 dozen at 25s.	57 dozen at 20s.	582 "
Ditto, Bastard (<i>Latris Forsteri</i>)	162 dozen at 4s.	136 dozen at 5s. 6d.	155 dozen at 5s. 6d.	227 dozen at 5s.	282 dozen at 5s.	447 dozen at 4s. 6d.	325 dozen at 4s.	261 dozen at 4s. 6d.	433 dozen at 5s.	549 dozen at 4s.	523 dozen at 5s.	314 dozen at 5s.	3814 "
Ditto, Silver (<i>Latris Forsteri</i>)	1½ dozen at 48s.	2 dozen at 30s.	3 dozen at 36s. 8d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6½ "
Trevally (<i>Neptonemus brama</i>)	6 dozen at 5s.	4 dozen at 8d.	2 dozen at 2s.	1 dozen at 4s.	13 dozen at 4s.	4 dozen at 4s.	7½ dozen at 4s.	...	3 dozen at 3s.	...	6 dozen at 3s.	7 dozen at at 2s. 6d.	53½ "
Whiting	1½ dozen at 8s.	½ dozen at 8s.	7 dozen at 1s.	...	7 dozen at 1s. 6d.	15½ "

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APPENDIX B.

RETURN of Expenses of the Fisheries Boards for 1888.

	£	s.	d.
Officers' Salaries	135	0	0
Other expenses, including conservancy of Derwent	302	2	6
	<hr/>		
	£437	2	6
	<hr/>		
<i>Revenue.</i>			
Sale of Ova	30	0	0
Fishing Licences, season 1888-9	228	2	6
	<hr/>		
	£258	2	6
	<hr/>		

DISTRIBUTION OF OVA AND FRY.

Ova.

New South Wales—Brown Trout.....	1000
Victoria—Salmon Trout.....	5000
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	6000
	<hr/>

Fry (Salmon).

Rivers Hellyer and Coldstream.....	100
	<hr/>

Salmon Trout.

River Derwent.....	2000
Northern Rivers	1500
South Esk	1500
	<hr/>
	5000
	<hr/>

Brown Trout.

Mr. Shoobridge	1500
Anderson's Creek	500
River Liffey.....	500
Waratah River, Sulphur Creek, and Bischoff Dam	400
	<hr/>
	2900
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Californian Trout.

River Jordan and Lake Crescent	250
Esperance River and Dover Rivulet.....	250
Prosser's River	250
Ringarooma River	250
	<hr/>
	1000
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APPENDIX C.

RETURN showing Expenditure upon and Receipts in relation to Fisheries, and the Number of Ova and Fry sent from the Plenty Ponds, from 1876 to 1888, both inclusive. Compiled from Official Statistics.

Year.	Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment.		Department of late Inspector of Fisheries Expenditure.	Ova and Fry sent from Salmon Ponds.	
	Expenditure.	Receipts.		Salmon.	Salmon Trout and other species Salmonidæ.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1876...	201 3 3	71 15 0	...	...	5400
1877...	290 11 10	203 15 0	...	...	13,570
1878...	301 12 6	215 0 0	...	...	18,350
1879...	306 8 9	246 0 0	...	...	20,900
1880...	292 9 6	296 0 0	...	...	25,350
1881...	314 5 4	391 10 0	...	...	52,650
1882...	377 5 0	296 10 0	...	...	30,950
1883...	319 9 2	266 0 0	...	...	23,600
1884...	815 2 10	215 10 0	372 13 8	...	10,650
1885...	464 10 3	253 0 0	990 8 4	28,129	10,600
1886...	340 15 2	263 0 0	1027 9 7	...	129,200
1887...	295 19 8	268 10 0	1368 10 9	250	45,630
1888...	437 2 6	258 2 6	677 7 5	100	14,900
	4756 15 9	3244 12 6	4436 9 9	28,479	401,750

	£ s. d.
Total Expenditure Salmon Establishment, as above.....	4756 15 9
Total Receipts, ditto	3244 12 6
	13 1512 3 3
Mean Expenditure for 13 years.....	<u>£116 0 0</u>