

(No. 65.)



1869.

T A S M A N I A .

F I S H E R M E N .

PETITION FOR OPENING THE DERWENT FOR NET-FISHING.

Presented by Mr. Barrett, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 2,
1869.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Fishermen and others their Employés of and belonging to the Port of Hobart Town.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT many of your humble Petitioners have been engaged in Fishing occupations out of the port of Hobart Town, in many instances from boyhood, and in others a long series of years, and are consequently entirely dependent for their livelihood from such sources.

That your Petitioners, since the passing of "The Salmon Act," and during the restrictions made thereunder, have many of them been reduced to poverty, as well as their families, by the closing of the River Derwent for net fishing,—this being deemed by the Commissioners necessary for the protection of Salmon.

That years have elapsed, and no Salmon have been actually proven to have returned from the sea: your Petitioners humbly submit to your Honorable House the great hardships and privations they have, and still continue to endure, under the restrictions aforesaid.

That your Petitioners further humbly submit that, under "The Salmon Act," they are amenable to very stringent penalties for taking the Salmon without a licence, and therefore it cannot be presumed their efforts would be directed against the law.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that, as Parliament in its last Session resolved, unless Salmon were actually proved to have been taken in the waters of the Derwent, not to pass a further vote of expenditure for the conservation of the River, your Honorable House will be pleased in your wisdom to enact a remedial measure in their case, having the effect of opening the Derwent for net fishing as far as the northern boundary line of Glenorchy, and permitting your Petitioners' vocation thence southerly.

And your humble Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Hobart Town, August, 1869.

[*Here follow 44 Signatures.*]