

(No. 93.)



1879.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

S A L M O N A C T :

P E T I T I O N F R O M F I S H E R M E N A N D O T H E R S A G A I N S T
O P E N I N G T H E R I V E R D E R W E N T.

Presented by Mr. Brown, and ordered by the House to be printed, January
29, 1880.



To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Fishermen and others.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT a Petition has recently been presented to your Honorable House by Fishermen and others praying your Honorable House to so amend "The Salmon Act" as to either allow the River Derwent to be thrown open to Fishermen altogether, or as far as Cornelian Bay in the said river, or only to close it for certain months in the year when Salmon are migratory; and which Petition alleges that fish for the market have been limited on account of the river being closed.

Your Petitioners beg to observe that the river is now open to Fishermen with graball nets as far as Cornelian Bay during the day-time, and that any nets may be used in the river below Garth's Point on the one side and Droughty Point on the other.

Your Petitioners assert that the closing of the river has had a most beneficial effect in producing a plentiful supply of fish, which through the former use of nets had become almost exhausted.

That the use of seine nets is calculated to destroy the future of any fishery, as in this practice vast numbers of young fish, unsuitable for food, are helplessly suffocated by sand and *debris*.

Having in view the large expenditure incurred by the Colony in introducing Salmon, your Petitioners would humbly beg your Honorable House to pause ere sanctioning any alteration of the existing Law which would grant the prayer of the Petition referred to, and which alteration would have the effect, in all probability, of destroying the work of years, by the capture of immense numbers of Salmon to the serious loss of the whole Colony.

Your Petitioners would also observe, that the opinions of gentlemen of undoubted standing in the United Kingdom have been obtained on the subject of netting, and they all agree that such a practice should be avoided as much as possible.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will not amend "The Salmon Act" as proposed in the Petition recently presented to you.

Thos. Whitesides.
James Barnard.
William R. Lucas.
M. R. Harvey.
John Perkins.
John Neall.
Alfred Winter.
T. T. Watt.
William Geo. Weaver.
Jno. Rothwell.
F. Ventry.
Fred. J. Foot.
R. O'May.
J. H. Joseph.
Charles Harbottle.

J. Harbottle.
Thos. Magrath.
W. Pretymann.
W. P. Green.
Jas. E. Salier.
J. A. Schott.
Geo. Salier.
Jno. T. Morriss.
George C. Meredith.
T. E. Hewitt.
Wm. Ferguson.
T. W. Grueber.
Arthur J. Chapman.
Saml. T. Peck.