

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2140

Press
Mis.

194

Dated

11 — 5 — 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 194.

Dated 11th September 1867, No. 2,140.

Miscellaneous.

1. It has been brought to the notice of Government, that at certain times of the year large fish ascending in shoals from the sea are stopped by the anicuts across the Godavery and Kistna rivers, and there captured as in a "cul de sac," in enormous numbers, by every class of person residing in the neighbourhood, to the great risk of destroying the supply altogether, or at least materially diminishing it should the fish when so captured be endeavouring to reach their spawning beds, as is supposed to be the case.

2. The Government understand that the fish in question is that known as the Sable fish, of which large numbers used to be taken in the Cavery river, and they desire that the Collectors of the Godavery, Kistna, and Tanjore Districts, after communication with the Executive Engineers in charge of the several anicuts, will report on the following points relating to this fishery:—

(1.) Does the capture and sale of this fish form a branch of trade of any importance.

(2.) Are the fish taken in the spawning season when the roe is in them.

(3.) Are they taken mainly for the sake of the roe, and is the roe used and sold or exported apart from the fish.

(4.) Do the fish come up at regular seasons, and are those seasons coincident with the low water or with the freshes in the rivers.

(5.) Would it be possible to contrive any means of passage by which the fish could ascend above the anicuts in the low water season.

(6.) Would it be desirable to forbid fishing at the anicuts altogether during the spawning season, and would it be possible to enforce the prohibition.

(7.) Is the taking of these fish on this large scale an old practice in the Godavery and Kistna rivers, or has it sprung up since the construction of the anicuts, and has the abundance of the fish perceptibly decreased in consequence.

3. The Collectors will bring to notice any other points of interest connected with the fishery which may come to their knowledge, other than those above specified.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Godavery.

„ the do. of Kistna.

„ the do. of Tanjore.

To the Board of Revenue.

a. W. R. S. P.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

12 St. Stephen's Road
Rammersmithy
July 2^d 1864.

My Lord, Since I last had the honor
of addressing your Excellency on the subject
of the Fisheries of India I have ascertained
that there is, and has been, an immense
periodical destruction of fish at the Uni-
cuts across the Godavary, and again at
those across the Krishna, where from the
fish being prevented from proceeding
up river at the spawning season by
the works of Irrigation &c they congregate
at these obstructions to their progress in
immense shoals and then, when full
of roe, become an easy prey to the sur-
rounding population who destroy
them indiscriminately by the millions
principally for their oil, in which for

as is supposed to be the

time a large trade was carried on which though lucrative was only of short duration, as it vanished nearly as suddenly as it sprang up, from the decrease of fish. Great havoc is likewise made amongst them by dogs, jackals, birds &c. The consequence of carrying on and allowing this wholesale annihilation can only result not only in the destruction, in fact entire extermination eventually, not only of the fish in these large and extended rivers but in all the streams tributary to them.

I am speaking lately on this subject to an Engineer who had been employed on these works, he seemed to look upon the destruction

of fish as the necessary consequence of Works of Irrigation and did not appear to realize the necessity for adopting, conjointly with Irrigation, the means for the preservation of Fisheries, though he fully admitted their vast importance, and said that it was a pity that such destruction of them should take place, saying "I have witnessed their capture by Jans, and their number could only be compared to the miraculous draught of fish." The enclosed Paper (in continuation) on the Fisheries of India, will show that I am endeavouring all in my power to ventilate this most important subject, but from the absence of any Work of authority, records, &c. my progress must necessarily be slow. At such a distance from the scenes which I wish to describe.

Trusting to be excused the liberty I have again taken
I remain

My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most Obedt. Humble Servt.
Lt Col. M. J. Colonel
Madras Army
as is supposed to be the case

Ranchoroy 4)

Aug 20/87.

My dear Mr. Thomas Dyar
I have received the enclosed letter
from Daniel Daly respecting the
destruction of fish at the Anicut
of the godavery and the listna.
I have found it so that the
statement is exaggerated, that the
fish were not specifically killed for
their roes and that the species
is by no means exterminated for
they are still catching in great
the Hon. Sir J. Dyar K.C.S.I.

1867-1868

Thomas

Island of C.

Spaldy. India

Waring

Oct 24. 1887.

1887

runners. Indeed I heard that such
was the case when I was at Bezwarrick.
Chas. Ott, however, admits that the
fish were caught in great quantities
at the season when the roe was
in them when the water was low.
When the fresher came down they
of course got on the weir with
perfect facility.

I think that the letter might
be referred to the Collector in the
District referred to with instructions

to inform you of the following points and
in any other that you or Mr. Phillips
may think of.

1. What is the kind of fish referred

2. Does the capture and sale of
this kind of fish form a branch of
trade of any importance.

3. Are the fish taken in the spawning
season when the roe is in them.

4. Are they taken for the sake of the
roe and is the roe used &
reported as such.

5. Do the fish come at a regular
season and are there seasons

concordant, with the low water & with
the fishes.

6. Would the people be content with
kind of aperture in the ancient
by which the fish entered
during low water.

7. Would it be desirable to prohibit
fishing altogether during the
showing season & would it be
possible to enforce the prohibition.

8. Is the taking of these fish an old
practice or has it sprung up since
the construction of the ancient & has
the abundance of fish greatly decreased
in consequence.

Believe me very truly yours
J. P. S.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 11th September 1867.

It has been brought to
the notice of Government that
at certain times of the year
large fish ascending in shoals
from the sea are stopped by
the Anients across the Godavari
and Pichur rivers and there
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captured be endeavouring to
reach their spawning beds
as is supposed to be the case

The Government are now
 near the fish in question is
 that known by the name
 of ^{able fish} of which large
 numbers used to be taken
 in the Godavari river, and
 they desire that the Collo
 of the Godavari, Kistna
 and Tanjore Districts will
 report on the following
 points relating to the fishing

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 sale of this fish form a
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 the roe is in them.
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The Government are
 trying to notice any other
 points of interest connected
 with the fishery which
 may come to their know-
 ledge, other than those
 above specified.

[Signature]

1 Copy to the Color of Godavery Sept 12th
 1 " " of Fishery Sept 12th
 1 " " of Tanjore Sept 12th
 14 " " to the Board of Revenue Sept 12th
 6 " " to the Board of Revenue Sept 19th

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from England

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