1815

Massachusetts Laws, 1815, Ch. 129, enacted Feb. 27, 1815. Chap. CXXIX. *An Act for*

*the preservation of Fish, in Union river and bay, and in the waters emptying into the same*.

“Sect. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court

assembled, and by the authority of the same, that if any person shall make or continue

any dams, or other obstruction in or across Union river in the county of Hancock, or any

stream or pond emptying into the same or into any part of Union river bay, northerly of

the southern extremes of Newbury-neck and Oak point, through or into which Salmon,

Shador Alewives, have ever been accustomed to pass, for the purpose of casting their

spawn, without providing and keeping constantly open and clear, a sufficient passage or

sluice way, for such salmon, shad and alewives to pass and repass, from the tenth day of

May to the last day of June annually, every such person shall forfeit and pay a fine not

exceeding two hundred dollars, nor less than fifty dollars…”

Minutes of Ellsworth Selectmen, Mass. Archives, Boston, MA., May 8:

“At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Ellsworth qualified by law to vote in

town affairs holden at said Ellsworth on the eighth day of May 1815. Voted that the

Selectmen Petition the General Court in behalf of said Town for an alteration of the law

for the Preservation of Salmon, Shad, Alewives in Union River & Bay and streams and

Ponds entering into the same, that said Fish may be taken on two days each week.

Whereas by the law passed for the Preservation of Salmon, Shad and Alewives in Union

River & Bay and the streams and Ponds emptying into the same, the taking of said fish is

prohibited for the term of three years, and whereas said Fish have increased so much that

they may be taken at the stated times without any material detriment to their increase, the

undersigned therefore in obedience to the vote aforesaid request your Honorable Body so

far as the law aforesaid as to permit the taking of the fish aforesaid in the waters aforesaid

two days in each week during the residue of the three years aforesaid.”