

Legislative Papers for Ch. 213 (1823) titled, "An Act in Making Further Provision for the Preservation of Fish in Union River Bay and its Waters." The envelope contains the original text of the bill as engrossed and passed and a single piece of original parchment sent from the Ellsworth Board of Selectmen to the Maine Legislature. It states:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in Legislature Assembled --

The subscribers Selectmen of the Town of Ellsworth for and in behalf and pursuant to a vote of said Town, beg leave to represent, that the laws regulating the fisheries in Union River and Bay and the ponds and streams emptying into the same, are found by experience not to answer the purpose intended. The time prescribed by the laws for the passage of the fish through or by the mill dams, does not coincide with the time dictated by nature or instinct. The mode of taking the fish is not adjusted to the stream. And the public fishery is engrossed by a few, without any benefit to the town or public.

They therefore pray your honorable body on behalf of said Town to alter the laws as they relate to the time of the passage of the fish; the mode of taking them; and the mode of disposing of the right of taking them for the benefit of the town so far as they are (unreadable), as in duty bound will ever pray.

Ellsworth 1 January 1823.

John G. Deane
Benjamin Jordan

Selectmen.