

Fishing Advice from Dinton

(In a New Zealand Newspaper – 1904)



(In response to Smolt Marking of fish)

As there appears to be some doubt whether a hole punctured in the fin of a fish will close up again, you may think it worth while to insert my experience. In March 1902, I turned 600 two-year-old Salmon into a small river, and, wishing to test their rate of growth, marked them all by punching a hole about three-sixteenths of an inch diameter through their caudal fins. I caught many of them during the summer months, and noticed that the hole had already commenced to close up, and this became more evident towards the autumn. This year I have again caught a considerable number of the marked fish, and in every case the hole had completely disappeared, and the place where the puncture had been made could only be recognised by a faint circular mark, and by the renewed part of the fin being slightly more raised than the surrounding tissue. I have no doubt by next year that every trace of the hole will have vanished, and it therefore appears to be quite useless as a means of marking fish.

- G. Ansdell, Sand Hill Cottage, Dinton, near Salisbury - The Field

(Angling section of Otago Witness (New Zealand) 20th April, 1904 Page 55)