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Title: Letter from Spencer Baird to Horatio Storer

Date: April 9, 1878

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SPENCER F. BAIRD,
Commissioner.

United States Commission, Fish and Fisheries,

Washington, Apr. 9, 1878.

My Dear Dr. Storer:

spec 59936

I am duly
in receipt of your letter of the
6th of April in reference to the
trawls, & beg to say that the one
I use most is about 12 feet
in the beam & about 30 in
length. This, however, requires
pretty powerful apparatus to
work it. You can have them
made any size you please.
They are constructed by the
American Net & Twine Co, 43
Commercial St, Boston. You
need give yourself no trouble
about ordering one of a given
as the Co. understand all about these kind of
beams. A trawl with an 8 ft.

beam could easily be worked
from a yacht of 10 or 15 tons.
Dredges you will best see at
Alex Agassiz's laboratory in
Newport. Our small boat dredges
are about 20 inches long by
6 inches wide, the net about
three feet long. These nets are
also made by the American
Net & Twine Co.

Although by the kind
assistance of Mr Samuel Powell,
we have most of the Newport
fishes yet every year there are
stragglers coming in that have
not been procured before, & any
service in this direction will
be duly appreciated. Mr. Powell
can in all cases advise you

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
Commissioner.

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whether a given species is represented in the specimens he has sent us.

I am much obliged to you for referring to your father's misapprehension in regard to myself & the Institution. Will you most earnestly ^{assure him} that we have never received in Washington, ^{from himself} a single copy of his report made to the American Academy, that the two which I use (one at the Smithsonian, one at my house) I purchased from Little & Brown at a cost of something above ten dollars each, & that the Library of the

Smithsonian Institution as distinct
from that of the Fish Commission,
does not possess the work at all.
I have always had the kindest
feelings towards your father,
& fully recognize the eminent
& extraordinary service rendered
by ^{him to} the science of ichthyology.
I have repeatedly had occasion
to call attention to the extent
of his labors & the thoroughness
of his work at a time when
the modern facilities for
securing rarities, viz; traps,
pounds, gill-nets, etc., were not
available. It is only by diligent
labor for a period of six or
eight years, with all the assistance
just mentioned, that I have

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secured the greater part of the species mentioned by him as belonging to Massachusetts, although there are even yet one or two species which I have not obtained. Will you not kindly communicate, if you think proper, this assurance on my part & say at the same time that I should have sent him my reports long since, but that I heard he had lost his interest in ichthyology in his devotion to his profession. On receiving his address in Boston I will at once forward my report & some ichthyological papers.

Dr. Herbert N. Storer.
Newport R. I.

Yours truly,
Spencer Baird