

Dear Sir,

I send today under cover a number of my circulars to you & take this opportunity to thank you for your kind offer of assistance in my extensive undertaking. The chief object I have in view being to ascertain the geographical distribution of all our fishes, besides investigating their specific differences & mode of life, I would thank you to request the friends whom you address in this matter to collect from their respective localities every species however common, young & old, large & small, known or new. I would not think it too much to obtain one hundred collections from different localities from the State of New-York alone. Taking care to select such stations as are upon the headwaters & the lower courses of the different riverbasins. I would gladly pay all the expenses you would incur in this investigation for me.

Among the smallest kinds of fish which are best caught with a small head net of gauze, new species may yet come up. I would also be much obliged for a large supply of very young *Lepidosteus* of a variety of intermediate sizes up to full grown specimens; also for a supply of your new species of Catfish. If you can see the advantage a large number of circles, I have plenty. Respectfully yours  
J. H. Van Dine

Cambridge 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1834  
D. D. Trumble B. Hough

Dear Sir,

I am very glad to hear from you and to hear that you are well. I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have not much news to write at present. I am still in the same place and doing the same work. I have not much news to write at present. I am still in the same place and doing the same work.

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J. St. John's  
Feb. 4. 1854.

Yours truly,  
J. St. John's  
Feb. 4. 1854.