

# Ontario Fishery Commission.

## *Close Season for Pickerel.*

Of the thirty-five fishermen who gave testimony in relation to the spawning times of pickerel ("doré") in many of the principal waters of Ontario, the following was the result :

24	gave the spawning time to cover the month of April.		
7	do	do	May.
4	do	do	April and May.
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The present close season for pickerel ("doré"), as established by Order in Council, is between the 15th of April and the 15th of May.

This Order in Council does not take in a sufficiently early period, for pickerel commence their spawning operations, as stated by some of the evidence very correctly, "just as soon as the ice breaks up." In order then to meet this case, the close season should commence for pickerel ("doré") on the 1st April and end on the 15th May.

## *Close Season for Bass.*

The present close season, established May 13th, 1893, for the protection of bass at the spawning times, is between the 10th of May and 30th of June, both days inclusive. This appears to be the proper close time for these fish, and should so remain.

## *Close Season for Mudcats, Bullpouts, Catfish.*

This hitherto somewhat despised fish has of late years come into great demand for the American markets, and the mudcat fisheries have in many localities reached considerable magnitude and commercial importance.

This class of fishes have not hitherto received any consideration or protection during their spawning times. The general opinion given by those fishermen engaged in this description of fishing was, as shown by their evidence, that with the view to a maintenance of the mudcat industry a close season should be established for their protection at their spawning time. The weight of evidence went to show that a close season for mudcats, or mudpouts, or bullheads, commonly called catfish (which are all one and the same fish) should be fixed between the 1st of May and the 31st of August in each year ; as during this period these fish are either nesting, laying their eggs, or guarding their broods of young ; and it was agreed by all fishermen engaged in the mudcat business that these fish at this time were unwholesome and unfit for human food.

It is therefore recommended that the close season for mudcats be established by Order in Council between the 1st May and 31st August, both days inclusive.

## SUMMARY OF ALL EVIDENCE

Given by Witnesses showing the names and pages on which the testimony is given in full, relating to Close Seasons for spawning times of Fishes ; from which the Epitome was drawn, and the Draft regulations for Close Seasons recommended.

NOTE.—*The figures in parentheses denote the pages in Parts I. and II. of the General Report where the full testimony is recorded :*

## SPAWNING SEASONS.

This synopsis of the evidence given by the fishermen and others in relation to the spawning times of fishes is collected from the minutes of proceedings, taken in November and December, 1892, also in October and November, 1893.