

Killarney, Sault Ste. Marie ; and of the Bay of Quinté, at Belleville, Napanee and Hay Bay,

93	gave the spawning time to cover the month of November.		
7	do	do	parts of October and November.
3	do	do	do November and December.
1	do	do	to take place in October only.

104

The close season as at present established by Order in Council, for protecting whitefish at the spawning time, is from the 1st to the 30th November, both days inclusive.

It will therefore appear from the mass of evidence given, and from former recommendations, that the month of November has been properly chosen for the close season for whitefish, and should be continued ; with the further recommendation that the month of November should be set aside to include whitefish, herring and ciscoes.

Close Season for Salmon-Trout.

There were sixty-five persons who gave evidence as to the spawning times of salmon-trout, they were fishermen and dealers in fish hailing from the following fishing centres on Lakes Huron, Superior, Ontario, Simcoe and the Georgian Bay, namely : At Sarnia, Goderich, Southampton, Owen Sound, Meaford, Collingwood, Midland, Barrie, Hamilton, Toronto, Belleville, Napanee, Port Arthur, Thessalon, Gore Bay, Killarney, and Sault Ste. Marie. Of these sixty-five witnesses, the evidence was that

31	gave the spawning time between 15th and 31st October.		
26	do	do	15th October and 10th November.
7	do	do	for the month of November.
1	do	do	for the month of September.

65

The Order in Council of 29th September, 1891, which was suspended for the time, established the close season for salmon-trout between the 15th October and 30th November, both days inclusive.

The close season at present in force for salmon-trout under Consolidated Orders in Council for Ontario of 18th July, 1889, is between the 1st and 30th November, both days inclusive.

This Order in Council is evidently incorrect and useless for the protection of salmon-trout at their spawning time, as is clearly shown by the evidence of the fishermen themselves and by previous recommendations, that the actual spawning time of salmon-trout is almost wholly from the 15th to the 31st of October, and in some cases running on till the 10th of November.

From this it will appear that for many years past, and prior to the Order in Council of 18th July, 1894, there has been no proper close season whatever to cover the spawning time of the salmon-trout, which stands second to none other of the commercial fishes of the great lakes of Ontario ; and the fishermen have been killing this valuable fish indiscriminately at the very time when they were most busily engaged in laying their eggs ; and from this cause may be reasonably attributed the great falling off in the general catch of salmon-trout in localities where they were formerly very numerous.

From the evidence as shown and the views above enunciated, it would appear to be wise to have the Order in Council of 29th September, 1891, now under suspension, re-established, making the close season for salmon-trout between the 15th October and 30th November, both days inclusive, in order that this highly esteemed fish shall receive proper protection during the spawning time.