

Ontario Fishery Commission.

Salmon-trout usually come on the shores and reefs, and begin to spawn about the 5th of October, and keep on for about three weeks. They then go off to deep water again. In fact salmon-trout and whitefish only come on the shores and shallows at the above time for spawning purposes, as they are not found there at other times. In each of the above cases whitefish and salmon-trout may spawn a little earlier or a little later.

Herring are very thick, but we do not fish for them; there is no market. I do not know when they spawn. Fish have generally fallen off quite a lot in my experience. About twenty years ago fish were much more abundant; we could earn better wages and more money with half the amount of nets then, than we use now. This applies particularly to salmon-trout and whitefish. We then fished with $4\frac{1}{2}$ and as high as 5-inch mesh, with only about half the amount of net that we do now, and on an average the fish put on the market then were larger than now. There was not so large a fresh fish market then, a good many were salted.

I assign as the causes of the falling off of the fisheries, that they have been caught too numerously, more than the fish could keep up by natural reproduction. Too much fishing—too many nets and fishing through the whole spawning time. In fact they were not protected to any extent till of late, the consequence is that we now feel the reduced catch very severely. There should be some means instituted to resuscitate these fisheries if possible to do so. To have proper close seasons, for the spawning of fish, thoroughly kept. Illegal fishing of all kinds should be prevented. Proper sized meshes in nets should be enforced. The natural methods of producing should be aided by hatcheries and artificial means. If this was carried out, it is most probable that our fisheries might again be brought into a satisfactory position for the fishermen. An effort should be made to induce the Americans to keep close seasons, and protect the lake fisheries like ourselves.

I use one boat of 30 feet, and employ two men, and fish with about eighteen boxes of nets, making about 10,800 yards, which I keep in the water through the fishing season, except when washing and tanning, which takes about one day in a month.

By Mr. Harris:

The $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh will catch more weight than the 5-inch in an average lift. The difference would be about $\frac{1}{4}$ more. I get the same price for large and small fish. The large sized trout do not sell as well as the smaller ones, particularly those taken late in the fall. Salmon-trout and whitefish come on the shores to spawn, not to feed. We fish for these fish on the shoals sometimes about three miles out or more. These fish are there to spawn. In the summer months, we fish away out in the deep water. If the 5-inch mesh were established, it would so effect us, that we would have to give it up, as we can barely live now by using the $4\frac{1}{2}$. It won't be very long, if the fisheries go on decreasing as it has, before we will have to go somewhere else.

Mr. JAMES GLANVILLE, was duly sworn and examined.

By Mr. Wilmot:

I am a Canadian. I reside at Thessalon. I am a fisherman. I have fished for two years on French Island in the North Channel. I fish at French Island about 85 miles below the Sault. I use pound-nets with mesh of 4 inches in the pot, tunnel 5 inches, and leaders 6 and 7. All No. 15 or 16 twine. The pots are generally 28 to 30 feet square. I catch sturgeon, whitefish, trout, pickerel, a few bass, suckers and mullet, pike now and then. I sell my fish to the firm of Noble Brothers, at Newport. These are the only buyers. But the firm of Davis & Co., of Detroit, also operated here last season. Reeves and his company were associated with the Buffalo Company this season. The usual price for sturgeon is 3 cents per pound dressed,