

# Ontario Fishery Commission.

## *Close Season for Sturgeon.*

Of the eleven witnesses who gave testimony with regard to sturgeon spawning, there were:—

4	gave the period between the 15th June and 15th July.
3	do to be in June alone.
3	do do July do
1	do do May do

The Order in Council of 5th May, 1891, which was suspended for the time, established the close season for sturgeon between the 15th May and 15th July.

If it be considered advisable to re-establish this Order in Council it would be correct for covering the spawning time of sturgeon.

If on the other hand any change be considered necessary, then an Order in Council might be framed for the close season of sturgeon between the 1st of May and 15th of July.

## *Close Season for Herring.*

Of the fifty witnesses who gave testimony with regard to the periods in which herrings spawn, the times are as follows:—

42	gave the period for the month of November only.
4	do November and December.
1	do November and January.
1	do November and February.
1	do October and November.
1	do during winter.

The Order in Council of 22nd September, 1891, which was suspended for the time, established the close season for herrings between the 15th of October and 30th of November. The date of the 15th of October was then fixed to correspond with the close season for salmon-trout and whitefish established by Order in Council of 29th of September, 1891, it being considered advisable that the same period, 15th of October to 30th November, should take in these three descriptions of the salmonoid family, whose characters and habits were very similar; more especially as the one could not be fished for without taking some of the others.

The herring are becoming a very valuable fish for domestic uses and commerce, and are therefore entitled to receive thorough protection at their spawning time, else their final extermination will sooner or later be reached in like manner as experience has shown the same result in other cases.

The protection of the herring family will be found to be more far-reaching in its beneficial results than the mere application of such protection for the maintenance of the herring itself for domestic and commercial uses. The herring is the staple food for the sustenance of many other and larger kinds of fishes, which, if cut off or lessened, will materially affect the growth and condition of the salmon-trout, pickerel and other voracious species which invariably frequent the same waters as the herring.

Under such circumstances it was recommended that the close season for herring should be established to cover its breeding time, which is so conclusively shown to be during the whole month of November by the evidence referred to, as well as by former recommendations from officials in the department.

## *Close Season for Whitefish.*

Of the 104 witnesses who were examined and gave testimony in relation to the spawning times of whitefish, taken in the waters of Lake Erie at Port Dover, St. Thomas, Leamington and Detroit River; and of Lake Huron at Sarnia, Goderich, Southampton; and of the Georgian Bay, at Owen Sound, Meaford, Midland; and of Lake Superior and north channel of Lake Huron, at Port Arthur, Thessalon, Gore Bay,