

Ontario Fishery Commission.

From the end of August until April black bass are in good condition for food, and are in demand, being a favourite table fish with consumers. They bring at the proper season the highest price of any lake or river fish in the market.

A close season during May and June should be established to protect this fish.

11.—STURGEON

Spawn in June and July.

It is recommended that all sturgeon caught three feet six inches in length and under be returned uninjured to the water, and that a close season for sturgeon be fixed to include the months of June and July.

12.—SALMON-TROUT, WHITEFISH AND HERRING, THEIR SPAWNING TIME.

The evidence clearly indicates that salmon-trout, whitefish and herring combined spawn from 15th October to the end of December. It may be therefore said that the month of November now established as a close season for these fish, somewhat reasonably protects them; better protection would be felt with a close season from 15th or 20th October to 1st December, thus covering the spawning season of the trout more fully, as shown in the evidence.

13.—POUND-NETS, GILL-NETS, SEINES — AN OPINION AS TO THE DESTRUCTIVE QUALITIES OF THE VARIOUS NETS USED IN FISHING CAN BE FORMED BY A CAREFUL PERUSAL OF THE EVIDENCE.

The restoration of the fisheries depends upon the enforcement of proper close seasons and regulations preventing overfishing and the taking and marketing of young and immature fish. The use of certain kinds of nets in certain waters, with a proper regulation as to size of mesh, is an important factor for upholding the fisheries.

The fisheries of Lake Ontario were largely destroyed by seines; few, if any, gill-nets were used in that lake until about 1853, nor until seine fishing began to be unprofitable along the shores.

It was the same in Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers, and at points on Lake Huron.

Gill-nets are now and have been the most destructive engines in use in Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay and other waters.

Deep water pound-net fishing began about 1865 in Lake Erie, and not until all other plans for commercial fishing had began to fail. The chief objections to pound-nets can be remedied by certain limitations, and by compelling the use in the pots of a larger sized mesh in waters frequented by whitefish and salmon-trout. The loss of fish in pound-nets and seines can always be estimated; the waste in gill-nets can never be known.