

“Your petitioners believe that the re-stocking of these beds can be successfully accomplished, and that under restrictive regulations the productiveness of the oyster fishery may within a few years be restored.

“Your petitioners would further state that in the event of any of the oyster areas in their respective localities being selected for the operations of the department, they would approve of all oyster fishing in such localities being prohibited for a term of years.

“Your petitioners would further desire that upon the expiry of the term of years for which, under the provisions of the Fisheries Act, beds may be set apart for the purposes of culture, that the raking or fishing of the product of these beds should be permitted only under judicious and restrictive regulations necessary for their enforcement and preservation.

“Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the locality of _____ may be surveyed and set apart with the above object in view.”

ANSWERS.

In response to this appeal, petitions were received praying for the setting apart, survey, and re-stocking of the following waters ---

Shediac harbour, Baie Verte and Tidnish, in the Province of New Brunswick.

Eastern harbour, Cheticamp ; Fader's Pond, on the south side of St. Ann's Bay ; Sydney River, Lingan Bay, Mira Bay, Catalone Bay, East Bay, and Big Glace Bay, in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Summerside harbour, Orwell Bay, Enmore West, and Winter Rivers, in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

ACTION.

An appropriation of \$5,000 having been voted by Parliament during the past session for the survey of oyster beds, and for the purpose of assisting in the planting and formation of new ones, Mr. Robert Simpson, C.E., was instructed to survey Shediac harbour, which was formely held in high repute for the excellent quality of its oysters, but whose beds, owing to excessive and improvident raking, had become practically extinct. A Minute of Council based upon such survey was adopted on the 1st September, 1891, setting apart about 270 acres of water area in the above named locality, for the purpose of carrying on natural and artificial re-production of oysters, and authorizing the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to incur the necessary expenditure in connection with such operations.

It was fully expected that these operations could have been inaugurated during the same fall ; but so much difficulty has been experienced in securing the services of a reliable expert that the experiments had to be postponed until the spring of 1892. This unavoidable delay may, after all, prove beneficial. While several authorities—especially European—contend that the fall is the proper time for planting, many others—and especially Americans—favour the spring months, as allowing time for the young oysters to grow large enough to be able to protect themselves and withstand our rigorous winter climate. Enquiries are being made through the High Commissioner for Canada in London, and Mr. Fabre, in Paris, for the purpose of securing the services of an expert with the view of his taking charge of operations next spring. When the services of a proper person have been secured, the department will be prepared to carry on operations in a systematic and, it is hoped, successful manner.

A report on the Tidnish and Baie Verte oyster beds shows that the grounds are very much exhausted, and that very little fishing is carried on there at present. This