

once on this side of the bay, but they do not come any more. The trout come here to spawn in the end of October and in November.

It is a hard matter to make a living now, the fish are getting so scarce. Thinks it would be better for the fishermen if all took out their nets and stopped fishing by 1st November.

Norman Sanders, Collingwood, fisherman (page 202) says:—Left Gilluses Island on the American side of Lake Ontario many years ago, because the fishing was played out. Now fishes from Squaw Island, Cabbage Head, to Christian Islands, down to Collingwood. This is a whitefish bay naturally, but the whitefish have been getting scarcer for about eight years, caused by double the amount of fishing being done. November used to be the best month for whitefish. Law-breakers—men who do not observe the law—used a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh for shore fishing on the shoals in the fall of the year when spawning. The regular fishermen also use this large mesh. Do not think any seine should be used to catch whitefish or salmon-trout unless mesh one-fourth larger than the gill-net mesh, except in Lake Erie.

William A. Clarke, fisherman, Collingwood (page 207) says:—I consider the reduction of the gill-net mesh from 5 inches to $4\frac{1}{2}$ a mistake on the part of the Fishery Department, because it takes the fish before they are matured. Cart loads of young immature fish are now taken at Thessalon Point and Dollar Bay. There is a current there which they frequent for food and it is protected. Has noticed this for two years. In a whole cart load you would not get one over $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Took particular notice of them passing in transit. These immature whitefish as a rule pass on to the American markets. This irregular fishing goes on outside the line across from Spanish River, separating Lake Huron from Georgian Bay. These fish come from the pound-nets around Duck Island and the North Channel. The meshes are so small that they catch a small herring. The 1-inch bar used in the pot of the pound-nets is the cause of the trouble. These pound-nets referred to are put where the young whitefish frequent. Was for two years at Whitefish Point on Lake Superior, one of the largest and best fisheries on the chain of lakes; it is 40 miles above the Sault, in the state of Michigan. Has seen 100,000 whitefish destroyed there in a season. They are carried to a dump and thrown away. You can form an idea from the immature fish shipped of the whole waste and destruction of these small whitefish.

The pound-net fishing would have been all right if the mesh in the pot had been right, the mesh should be $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches for catching whitefish $2\frac{3}{4}$ pounds to 3 pounds, and trout about the same. Yellow pike or pickerel are not caught in gill-nets, but are taken in pound-nets easily; they are a voracious fish. There are large quantities caught, and there is a good demand. There is no such fish as a blue pickerel known in these waters. The great quantities of immature whitefish wasted would in a couple of years have become good fish.

Whitefish have fallen off 30 per cent anywhere on the Georgian Bay. Up to 1st June you won't get any whitefish.

Twenty years ago if a man had taken a gang of nets to Squaw Island the same as we use now it would have taken a small schooner to carry the fish away, either summer or fall, but it was in November the whitefish were most abundant. "There ain't any more whitefish on these grounds." The decrease has been caused by over-fishing and fishing in the spawning time. The whitefish are now principally caught from the western islands on the Georgian Bay, along the north shore and up the north passage to Thessalon Point. There are none on the south shore. In the fall they used to be very plentiful. Large quantities of small immature fish are now shipped, principally caught in the North Channel above Little Current. There were never as many caught as the past season, marketed or shipped at Warton and Collingwood. The Dollar Bay and Thessalon fish have to go through the American channel to Detroit. Thinks there should be no difficulty in making a regulation which would prevent the marketing and destruction of small immature fish. All this improper fishing was done openly and the shipment took place in the usual way. A proper sized mesh is the true remedy to prevent this destruction of imma-