

8.—RESULT OF DELIBERATIONS AT THE DETROIT CONFERENCE.

The special committee submitted the following to the Fisheries Conference:—

DETROIT, December 21st, 1892.

Your committee to whom was referred the question, "Whether or not there should be a close season for whitefish, lake or salmon-trout, and herring," also what means should be taken for their protection, would report:

1st. All small fish and those unfit for food of all kinds when taken in nets should be replaced in the water when taken alive, and that fishermen should not be allowed to take such fish on shore, nor expose them for sale.

2nd. That no string of pound-nets used in the lakes shall extend more than four miles from the shore.

3rd. That one-half of all channels between islands or elsewhere where fish migrate to spawn, shall be kept free from nets of all kinds at all seasons.

4th. That all whitefish taken of less than sixteen inches in length and all salmon-trout less than two pounds in weight, shall be immediately returned to the waters where taken, and shall not be exposed for sale. That all herring less than eight inches in length, and all wall-eyed pike, pickerel or doré less than twelve inches in length, shall be returned to the waters where taken, and shall not be exposed for sale.

5th. That the month of November in each year be made a close season in all the great lakes for whitefish, herring, and salmon or lake trout.

Your committee would further recommend that all penalties fixed for violations of any laws that shall be enacted shall be made to apply not only to those who take fish, but also to all persons who buy, sell, transport, or have the same in possession.

9.—SPECKLED TROUT.

Speckled trout breed in Canada, as a rule, in September and October. A close season from 15th September until 1st April is proper for Canada. In the older settlements of the province of Ontario this fish is practically extinct, except where artificially reproduced, and its reproduction has now become a matter of private and commercial enterprise.

To be universally popular, fish culture and fish preservation should be based on food considerations, and not on those of sport.

In some of the provinces and states legislation has been influenced to preserve game for sportsmen and their friends, and not for that numerous class who desire to purchase it for food.

Speckled trout (and in this connection black bass may be included), are claimed as a luxury for the sportsmen the same as game, but they, like all edible fish, are in universal demand, and among all classes.

All fish should be preserved and regulations made with a view to bring them within reach of every consumer.

Speckled trout should only be caught by angling with rod and line.

10.—BLACK BASS

Spawn in May and June.

The nesting habits and manner in which these fish protect their young are well known.