

Ontario Fishery Commission.

REVIEW OF THE REPORT  
OF THE  
DOMINION FISHERY COMMISSION  
ON THE  
FISHERIES OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.  
1893-94.

---

As directed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the following review is submitted on the work of the Dominion Fisheries Commission, appointed to inquire into and report upon the fisheries in the Great Lakes and other waters in the province of Ontario:—

The investigations of the Commission were made during certain periods in the years 1892 and 1893, as will be seen by a reference to the General Report, comprising Parts I. and II., in one volume. See Report.

The more particular scope of the Commission was to obtain information and testimony direct from the practical fishermen and others interested in the fisheries of Ontario, more especially regarding the spawning periods of the more important kinds of fishes which inhabited the waters of the Great Lakes, and to obtain information in relation to gill-nets and other modes of fishing, together with such other matters connected with the fisheries generally, as might be offered during the investigation.

Upon the completion of the work of the Commission, draft regulations were to be drawn up embodying the conclusions and recommendations come to by the Commission.

This has been done by submitting to the department a full report, with a series of regulations relating to "close seasons" for the more important commercial fishes of the lakes. These regulations will be found on page xxx., Part II. of the General Report.

These draft regulations for "close seasons" were framed and recommended by the Commission, after a minute summation and full consideration of the sworn testimony of many practical fishermen, and from information also given by other persons who had been close observers of the habits of fish and fish life in the principal fishing areas in many of the districts of Ontario, comprising Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Superior, St. Clair and Simcoe; including also some of the larger bays and rivers, such as Georgian Bay, Long Point Bay, Bay of Quinté and the Toronto and Hamilton Bays, and Detroit River.

An epitome of the testimony taken regarding the spawning seasons of fishes, is numerically given, from which the Commission founded its recommendations for these close seasons. This abstract will be found in detail on pages vi. vii., and viii., in the General Report, Part II., Division 2. In addition a synopsis of the evidence in detail is given, relating to the spawning times of fishes, from which the epitome was framed, giving the testimony of upwards of one hundred witnesses, with references to their names, and pages in the General Report, all of which will be found on pages xviii. to xxv., Division 4, Part II. of Report.

The "Epitome" and "Synopsis" referred to herewith having been eliminated from the General Report, to give more ready comprehensions of the subjects in their review—than with the necessarily more lengthened perusal of the whole report.