

Pike and Bass.....	30 barrels.
Pickereel .....	79 „
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>358</b>

Value ..... \$1,936

No violation of the fishery laws are reported.

DETROIT RIVER AND WESTERN LAKE ERIE DIVISION.

EDWARD BOISMIER, *Overseer.*

This officer was appointed by Order in Council of 20th June, 1872, on the demise of Mr. P. Marentette, the former Overseer. Fishermen seem to have had great success during the past season, as the following figures show. There were caught :—

	1871.	1872.
White Fish, barrels .....	1,498	2,993
Herring, „ .....	.....	658
Pike and Bass „ .....	.....	93
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>3,744</b>
<b>Value.....</b>	<b>\$14,438</b>	<b>\$42,333</b>

This Overseer reports:—That he considers pound nets an obstruction to the propagation, as well as the cause of the destruction of great numbers of white fish annually. They are usually raised once a day, and sometimes not for three or four days and often longer, on account of heavy winds. He regrets to say that white fish which are highly esteemed as an article of food, are being so persistently sought after, that at the present extravagant rate of fishing, both on the American and Canadian shores, they will be exterminated in ten years. Some understanding should be had with the American Government relative to the assimilation of regulations for the preservation of white fish. Pens which are built to keep fish for the winter market, should be so constructed as to have a small enclosure in them for the keeping of the first run of fish, separating them from those previously caught. Ponds should be cleaned out twice a year, say in April and September. The dead fishes in pens are the cause of many complaints on the part of people using the water of the river, who say with good reason that the water must be affected from this decayed animal matter. The enclosures of these pens should be kept open in two places when there are no fish in them, so as to allow a free current through the pen until the fishing season commences.

The owner of Fighting Island also bears evidence to the rapid deminution of white fish, which he attributes to extensive pound netting which, if not curtailed, must, according to his opinion, soon destroy the species in Lake Erie and the Detroit. On the American side these pound nets are set out as far as four and five miles from the shore. It has been ascertained that on the American side of the Detroit River some \$8,000,000 of capital are invested in the white fish trade. Fishing with such a destructive engine as the pound net is fast destroying all kinds of fish, and undersized white fish are being caught in them in large numbers. Perch is also being destroyed very rapidly by pound nets, the mesh being too small to allow the young fish to escape. Undersized white fish are moreover worth very little, hence the greater injury to their propagation. It is stated that some few years since when large numbers of white fish were allowed to die in these pounds, the white fish of Lake Huron died in immense quantities; some disease having apparently spread among this finny tribe, on account of so much decaying matter being let loose from the pounds in the Detroit River.