

## Ontario Fishery Commission.

Mary on Cloche Island ; thence following the north shore of Cloche Island to its extreme north-western points ; thence in a straight line to the south-eastern extremity of Aird's Island ; thence following the north shores of Aird's Island and John's Island to the most westerly point of John's Island ; thence in a straight line to Bassett Island ; thence to Sandford Island ; thence to the east end and along the north shore of Hennepin Island to its western point ; thence in a line to the extreme end of Thessalon Point. All the waters, bays, inlets and islands east and north of the above described lines and limits, and reaching to the main land, are hereby recommended to be reserved from any description of fishing whatever, except for angling purposes only with rod and line, or trolling, provided that such means of fishing by angling only, shall not be allowed during the periods which are now or may be hereafter set aside as close seasons for the protection of all or any of the kinds of fish frequenting the waters within these limits proposed to be reserved.

A reservation for Lake Huron to commence at the south end of French Bay below Sable River, on the east shore of Lake Huron thence north in a straight line up the line to Greenough Point, taking in all the waters and Islands between the said line and the mainland.

On this subject very little information could be obtained from the witnesses examined. Suggestions were however given by Captain Dunn and others from which by examining the map or chart of the east and north shores of the Georgian Bay and North Channel thereof, it will be found that the whole of this coast is studded with innumerable islands which form immense numbers of bays, inlets, channels and intricate passages ; all of these are the resort of various kinds of fishes for breeding purposes ; and the feeding grounds also of the young of many of the more important commercial species. These latter kinds when matured roam throughout the water of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron for feeding purposes when away from their spawning grounds.

The reservation of the limits which have been described will cover a very large area of the breeding grounds of the fish which inhabit the Georgian Bay and North Channel thereof. Within this limit it has been suggested that net fishing of every description, as well as the use of spears or any other fishing gear, except angling with rod and line, shall be wholly prohibited. Within this limit angling shall only be allowed under licenses to be first obtained from the Department of Marine and Fisheries on the payment of a fee for each rod or troll, with a discrimination in the amount of the fee as between the British subject and the foreigner.

### INJURY TO THE FISHERIES FROM THE EXPORTATION OF SAW-LOGS.

The Commissioners in making their investigations learned that much damage resulted to the fisheries and fishermen from the towing of saw-logs. Evidence was therefore taken, and a summary of it is here given.

#### SYNOPSIS OF EVIDENCE GIVEN THEREON.

*James B. Dobie*, of Thessalon, said : There is a serious obstacle to the fisheries here from the rafting of saw-logs across the bay ; another injury is the loading of vessels along the shore with pulp wood for the United States ; they dump the refuse stuff in the water, which pollutes the bottom and drives away the fish and destroys the fishing nets. This is done by American vessels coming here for cargoes of pulp wood ; this is extensively done all along the shores at the mouths of rivers ; this is a general complaint of fishermen as seriously affecting their nets ; the pulp wood is mostly spruce in the rough state. It is shipped to Detroit ; it is also rafted in some cases. (p. 79, pt. II.)

*David Bellerose*, of Thessalon, said : When I fished gill-nets, I lost out of seventy-five nets thirty-nine from bark and fibre which clung to them in such a manner that I had to throw them away. This bark and fibre comes from the pine logs which are towed across the bay ; they are towed in large rafts or booms, and when rolling about in these booms by the action of the water, the bark and fibre is rubbed off and settles upon the nets and ruins them. This stuff also spoils the breeding and feeding grounds of the fish. It