

MR. E. A. TULIAN, ALPENA, MICHIGAN.

INTERVIEWED BY

WM. WAKEHAM AND RICHARD RATHBUN,

AUGUST 25, 1894.

(In charge of the U.S. Fish Commission hatchery, Alpena, Mich).

I have been here every fall but two since the hatchery has been running, which is 12 years.

When I came here, in certain localities the whitefish were more abundant than they are now, and others I do not know that they were. Take it for instance at Algona, they used to get large catches of whitefish, and they do not get any to speak of now. At one time at Miller's Point and Sturgeon Point they had very good fishing. And for 2 or 3 years previous to that at Miller's Point it was probably as good as when I

Especially

W. f. abundance

(loc)

first came here. As a whole the whitefish have increased considerably I think in that time. (?) There is no question but that there has been a great decrease, but not in my time, as the decrease was before that. Here 4 or 5 years ago they had a big catch, and often when whitefish were plenty in the lake we had years that were almost failures, according to the fishermen; so that now with in the last 4 or 5 years and especially 2 years ago, the fish came on the shoals in pretty good shape, just as they came on when there was big fishing, and more than I ever knew them to catch since I have been here, but they got a terrible gale that blew their nets all out, and they found nets and fish way up here on the shore. It was a number of years ago that the nets were frozen up and the fish rotted on the ground.

The fishermen find more fault with the

*Effects of
refuse
sand/dust*

Effects of
Too many small
fish

overfishing

Cond. of bay,

W. V.
abundant

Spawning ground
off Miller's
Pt.

mill men and the sawdust than they do with catching small fish. I presume here, fishing in the way they did had as much to do with it as anything, although it is a question in my mind even if the whitefish were as plenty as they used to be whether they would come up in this bay. But if they were out in the lake they would come up somewhere. At Miller's Point down this side of Au Sable (there are lots of mills at Au Sable, and the water is very dirty), this spawning ground is a sort of bank that runs out from shore and on each side of it is deep water and I think the current keeps the water pretty clear and they go in there in pretty good shape, and that has always been a good fishing ground.

Thunder Bay
W. V.
decrease

This Bay (Thunder Bay) used to be an excellent whitefish ground, but there are no whitefish here now to speak of. All I know

Thunder Bay
Good bottom

of the bottom here is what the fishermen say, and I have never been out to examine the bottom. Of course in going out with fish a number of times, if the wind was off the lake you could see that it was stirred up for 5 or 6 miles and the water would be full of sawdust, and it would indicate that the bottom must be covered with it. There is no question but what there is a good deal of sawdust out in the bay. I do not think they let any sawdust go out from the river here. They burn the most of it now. They throw in slabs and a lot of that stuff, however. This Turnbull mill used to put in a good deal of stuff, but I do not know how it is now. But last year some of the pound net men claimed that they were throwing in slabs and edgings that bothered their nets a good deal. They did some dredging here last summer in the river and 2 years ago they did

Sawdust

Slabs.

dredging

considerable work in the river, and quite a lot outside the mouth of the river 40 or 50 rods out.

They do not take as many whitefish as they did. They average smaller. I do not know of a fishery but what the fish average smaller than they did formerly. Of course they catch some just as large fish as ever, but would get a larger proportion of small fish. They tell me they get lots of little fish and sell them in the market, but in the fall when we are after spawn they do not catch those small fish and in the summer when they catch them I do not know so much about the fish, except what they tell me.

W.F. abundance size decrease

capture of small fish. All large in fall.

In different localities we get different sizes of whitefish that we take the spawn from. Take it at Miller's Point and Sturgeon Point the fish average quite large, probably 5 or 6 lbs. or a little larger.

Spawning W.F. size loc.

Formerly it would be larger than that.

(9.) That is for the trap net grounds where we used to go for spawn at Alcona and these islands at North Point, but these fish they caught later in November with the gill nets are a very small run of fish and always have been. I do not think they would average over 2 lbs. apiece. I do not think you would find any pound net fish that would spawn under 2 lbs. You might find one once in a while in this small run that would spawn under 2 lbs.

(P) Last winter I took different lots of eggs from the whitefish and measured them and counted up an ounce of each lot. At Put-in-Bay they claim they average about 40,000 to the quart, and I found here they averaged about 35,000. Eggs taken from fish caught in the gill nets in Lake Michigan at Manistique, that is the late run, went

m.v.
no. of eggs.

m.f.

1,115 to the ounce; and eggs taken November 25 from fish caught in pound nets in Lake Huron near Miller's Point, went 1,097 to the ounce; and eggs taken from gill nets on the shoals north of Thunder Bay Island went 1,235 to the ounce. That would be 35,000 to the quart of the 2 first and 39,520 of the last. If the spawn is running freely, you take those fish on Lake Michigan and I have taken fully a quart of eggs from one fish. The fish would probably average that if they were running freely, so that you could get all the eggs. The fish would weigh probably 8 lbs. on the average. Of the little fish we put the spawn of half a dozen in the pans and then probably do not have over 2 quarts of eggs. The eggs are much smaller in the small fish than in the large fish. The smallest number of eggs was from the small fish and the largest

size of eggs

number from the large fish.

In the spawning season the fish go in big bodies, and they school more or less during other seasons. There are certain grounds where they go at certain times during the summer and go in schools. I have seen it always where you get a catch of fish you will find them bunched together, and where you find a bunch of whitefish you will not find a bunch of trout. The ground down in Saginaw Bay where they fish in the summer, they catch the whitefish through the summer and they are in schools. I do not know where the whitefish go in the summer and can find no one who can tell me. That run I spoke of in Saginaw Bay are not there early in the season. They come in along about the last of June or first of July, and they are through about this time, as a captain told me yesterday they were moving their

W. J. habits (Shawnee)

(trout)

movements season

nets out. The whitefish now do not get up Saginaw Bay any further than the Charity Islands. I do not think the gill nets set quite as far up as that, but in the fall there are some pound nets fished off Big Charity Island and some off Little Charity.

The trap net whitefish all along this shore spawn from about the first of November until about the 25th, I think, and then I have known them to begin as early as the 25th of October, but as a rule we figure on getting our men on the grounds about the first of November. The gill netters out here on this north ground do not figure that the fish will commence very much before the 15th of November, but this last year I think they began a little earlier than that. Last year they commenced about November 8. If they commence spawning by the 15th they are usually done by the last of the month, but

*W.F.
Saginaw Bay
district*

*W.F.
Spawning
Season*

as a rule the wind drives them off before they are done spawning. There are no December spawning whitefish here that I know of. On the Fox Island shoals and the shoals in the vicinity of the Manitou Islands the latest they ever got eggs was about December 15. Last year we did not get any as late as that, but there were some eggs brought to me last year on the 15th which were take 2 or 3 days before. The trap net cars are located, one at Miller's Point, and the next place where we get any spawn is at Sturgeon Point. They fish at Oscoda in 20 to 30 feet right on the spawning ground. There used to be mills there that run every thing in the lake and the fishermen claim that has run the fish out of there. In the pound nets I should judge 25 feet would be the average depth in which the whitefish spawn, and for the gill nets I do not think

W.F. Spawning

(loc)

Oscoda

saw mills,

W.F. Spawning depth

W. J.
Spawning

it would average much over 15 feet. I know of whitefish that come up into 4 or 5 feet of water to spawn, and that is one reason that a blow knocks them off this spawning ground out here, as the fish have to leave the ground. We get some spawn at North Point here, inside the point. They are fishing nets there now about a mile from the point, which is the furthest this way, and Alpern has some at Scarecrow Island from which he expects to get some spawning fish. Scarecrow Island used to be one of the best spawning grounds around here, and also North Point. We got a few eggs at Nine-Mile Point last fall, and we got a few eggs in gill nets at Middle Island last year. I think there are spawning grounds in depths of 25 feet where the pound nets are. The bottom is rocky there.

Loc.

W. J.
Spawning

The shallow trout that come up in Septem-

ber to spawn, come up in shallow water, sometimes not over 5 or 6 feet, and they do not fish in deeper than 15 or 20 feet for them. Out on the big reef the water runs from shallow water to a good depth. North of Thunder Cape, between there and Little Island, I think they catch more whitefish than they do trout. But south of there in the direction of Can bouy they catch those shallow trout during the spawning season.

Ordinarily the whitefish eggs in the hatchery commence to hatch about April 10 or 20. Formerly when we had those hard winters here and the bay stayed frozen until late, it has been sometimes the first of May before they would begin to hatch. We commence putting them out as soon as we have enough in the tanks to make a shipment

I think the whitefish are in deeper water when they are small. They show that in

Trout
skinning

(ref.)

W. f. eggs
incubation

young W. f.
depth

Lake Erie. I used to fish in Lake Erie in the west end and fish would come up there to spawn in the fall the latter part of October, but you would never catch any small fish there, while at the east end where the water is deep they catch tons and tons of those small fish. You never see the small fish go up in the shallow water in the west end of the lake, as somebody would catch them if they did. They certainly do not stay around the rocks on the spawning ground.

If you catch small fish you catch them on the mud bottoms and in the deeper water.

In some localities they claim that the trout are on the increase. I know here 4 or 5 years ago on this big reef they were played out so that the tugs left, and then they came back here and had pretty near as good fishing as they did before. Nobody here seems to know when the trout do spawn.

Trout abundance

Spawning

There are trout right out in this bay full of spawn, but they do not get spawning fish and my idea is that they spawn after they are through fishing, later in the winter.

If you took a trout as soon as he was out of the shell, the whitefish would stand more than the trout; but if you take the trout after he has gotten rid of his food sack and he will stand the most.

I think out on this big reef they are catching smaller fish than they used to catch, but that is the only place I know of where there is any difference. In Lake Michigan I think they are catching trout about the same size.

The shallow trout begin to spawn about September 25, between then and the last of the month. They are all through spawning by October 15. The deep water trout spawn later. Last year we got spawn from fish

*Trout
my
relative's
business B
fy.*

*Trout
size*

*Trout
spawning
season*

caught on the shoals here in September, and along probably up to October 10, and then we got fish with spawn out around Spectacle Reef, that commenced about October 10, and they are probably pretty well done by the 20th. Then we moved those same men over to Detour, and they fished down toward Little Current and in that vicinity, and there the fish commenced about October 20 and were done about the first of November. Then we moved right over on to Lake Michigan, at Charlevoix, Manistique and those grounds, and at Beaver Island, the trout did not commence to spawn until about the first of November. They run their spawn longer than these runs that spawn early. They spawn nearly all through November. I do not know of any place where the trout spawn up into December, but I think there are places where they do because they catch fish that are

Trout
Spawning

Loc.

Trout

full of spawn, and they have not got through spawning when they quit fishing here in the lake. You will always notice if the fall is mild the fish will not spawn as early, both trout and whitefish.

Young

Size

Smallest Spawner

I never knew of any very small trout being caught. Would see them weighing probably one lb. These shallow trout would probably average 6 lbs. I do not think I have ever seen spawn in any trout that would weigh less than 3 or 4 lbs. Those Lake Michigan trout will average probably 12 or 15 lbs.

M. J. trout

Taking smallest

most destructive

Smallest market size

Trout in P.

Var. of trout

The greatest destruction is in catching the small fish. I do not think they ought to take anything much less than 2 lbs. for whitefish, and trout probably a little larger, say 3 lbs. They do not catch many trout in pound nets around this vicinity. The "big skin" trout is what the fishermen

call the small run of trout they get off the bay here. As far as catching those small trout is concerned, if you regulate your mesh for catching 2 lb. whitefish they would catch smaller than 3 lb. trout. Of course making them fish those large mesh nets would necessitate the loss of the herring, and that class of fish. They do not make so much out of the herring here, but still in some places the herring catch is considerable. The herring run with the whitefish in the fall. Last fall those fisheries I spoke of having a small catch they claim that had it not been for the herring they would have had pretty slim picking.

I certainly would limit the size of the fish and not the size of the mesh, if it can be done successfully. They can throw out the young fish, but whether they will or not is a question. You would certainly

P.
 mesh
 w. w.
 trout
 herring

Herring
 importance

Herring w. w.
 association

Limit size fish
 not mesh.

Throwing out
 small fish

have to have a penalty connected with it and have to have somebody to look after it.

Close season
Stop destructive small fish

I do not believe a close season is necessary. I think if you would let the fish hatcheries go ahead and collect all the eggs they can get hold of, and stop the wholesale destruction of small fish, that fish will be all right and you will increase the number.

Herring

The herring here are a smaller fish than the Lake Erie herring. They fish very little here for herring, although I think their mesh is all pretty small and most any of them would take herring. I think herring are more abundant than when I came here, although I can give you no reason for it.

Trout abundance

I think that the trout are pretty near as abundant as ever on Lake Huron. Of course on the big reef they have fished the grounds pretty well out, but if they let them alone

for a year or two the fish would be as abundant there as ever. I do not think there is much necessity for protecting the herring as they seem to be doing all right anyhow.

I have always contended that they ought to make districts of certain localities. That is, for instance, make it where they do not catch any herring along the lake, it would not hurt their herring fishing or any other fishing much to make them fish large mesh nets all the way down to Saginaw Bay. There are a few herring caught along the shore here, but nothing to amount to anything. Down at Tawas there are quite a few and at Au Sable last year they caught quite a few. Tawas Point is the line of Saginaw Bay.

In Saginaw Bay the principal fish are the herring and pickerel in the spring and the herring in the fall. They do not get many

Herring need no protection

Make districts in which only certain fishing permitted.

Herring not imp'd. N. of Saginaw Bay.

Saginaw Bay. Principal fish herring walleye seasons

Saginaw Bay
waste fish

Walleye
movements

When bay opens
spawning
season

pickerel in the fall, but get a few. They get all that trash a good deal as they get in Lake Erie, but their principal catch in the spring is the pickerel, as they go up in the bay to spawn then. They go up around the north shore of the bay and go out the other way so the fishermen claim. The bay opens up sometimes early in April. It depends upon the season when the pickerel spawn. They are spawning as soon as they can get up in the bay, and that would be sometimes in the fore part of April. I think they are all through spawning by the first of May. In the bay they do considerable fishing before the first of May, and they get in there just as early as they possibly can.

State does not
protect spawning
fish

The State does not protect anything in the lake as far as spawning is concerned.

Walleye
abundance

Some old fishermen claim there are just

Walleye ✓
more apparatus

as many pickerel as ever caught and others claim they are decreasing. Of course there is no where near as many caught in the same amount of nets, but there is so much more apparatus that there are probably just as many pounds caught. I think the pounds are just about the same number in Saginaw Bay. You could not increase them very much because now they are only about half a mile apart. In Ohio they claim that a man can go and set anywhere as long as he does not take his leader ashore and tie it, without permission of the owner of the land. A good many pounds on Lake Erie the leaders run right upon shore and are tied to trees or something on the shore. All the pounds that I know anything about here the leaders do not commence on the shore.

P.
Lake Erie
Ohio
Shore rights

P.
Saginaw Bay
navigation

There is considerable complaint about the apparatus interfering with navigation in

Saginaw Bay, but not here. There are places in Saginaw Bay where the twine runs out so far they have to make an opening for the boats.

Down along the north shore of the river and down in the bay (Saginaw) they take most of the pickerel in April. The fishing is not the same all through the bay and a close season in April would interfere with some fishing and not with others. These fish that have just spawned seem to be in fairly good condition, and probably in as good condition as a fish would be just before it has spawned. Of course they look a little lean after they have spawned, but I think the meat is just as good.

Wallage ✓
Season ✓

close season ✓

cond. of
spawned
fish ✓

bass.

fykes

They do not take many black bass down there (Saginaw Bay), but they catch a few. They have little fyke nets that they use and catch quite a number of black bass around

the bay at Bayport and anywhere from Sebew-
ing down the bay. They also get perch and
suckers in the fyke nets. There are quite
a lot of the fyke nets around the bay. A
good many of them are set right in the mouth
of the rivers, and then there are others set
right in the bay. Some places in the bay
are quite marshy. They get the grass pike
in such places. I do not think they get
very many pickerel in the fyke nets. Of
course they catch a few of all kinds of fish,
but they claim the principal catch is her-
ring, suckers, perch and that sort. In
some places where they set them on purpose
to get the black bass they get quite a
number of them. I do not think black bass
are as common as they are in Lake Erie, and
there are not many places around this lake
where they catch any. There are only two
places around this bay (Thunder Bay) where

*Perch
Suckers.*

Fykes.

Eels

Pickereel

*Principal catch
herring
Perch
Suckers
bass*

Sport

there are many black bass, and there does not seem to be many there any more. Those people around Bayport fish considerably for sport, but not around here. The sportsmen are catching the bass out quite lively. I have known one man to catch 150 in a day. You take 4 or 5 of those small boats around North Bass Island (Lake Erie) and I think during the season they will catch more than all the pound nets do. I never saw a very great lot caught in the pound nets. If they get 50 or 100 lbs. in 6 pound nets, they think they are doing very well. I do not think it would injure the pound net fishing much to let the bass go, although they are worth as much as whitefish or pickerel to the fishermen. With black bass you can fish along the leaders and find schools of them, but they do not seem to go into the trap, and when they do get in I think they

P.

Reading

will get out again.

In the Detroit River I do not think they catch many sturgeon by seining, but they catch them with hooks. They set the hooks naked and do not bait them. I was down near the mouth of the Detroit River trying to hatch out some sturgeon and there is a little Island called Fox Island where the fishermen used to fish and they would string their hooks back and forth over the channel when the sturgeon spawn and snag them with their hooks, and on the Canada side the Indians caught them the same way. I have seen sturgeon caught that had great big sores on them as though they had been hooked and broken away. I was fishing at the mouth of the river and they commence about the 15th of May, and they are done probably about the 5th or 10 of June. Then up at Algonae they do not commence until the

*Sturgeon
Detroit R.
Seine
naked hooks,*

run is all through below probably about June 15 and are done by July 15. These men used to set their nets down both sides of Negro Island and other fellows set on the other side near Wyandotte. I do not know of any sturgeon fishing in Lake St. Clair. They seem to run into a different channel. They must work up the river above Lake St. Clair, but I do not think they catch them in Lake St. Clair. After they get through spawning there they claim it is about the same run that works up the river and spawns in the Little Basso Channel and Snake hardie.

I do not think they get many whitefish in Lake St. Clair. I never heard any body speak about the whitefish being very plenty there. They get them in the Detroit River, however. That used to be a great spawning ground, and is yet. I think where the Michigan Fish Commission got the most of

*W. J.
Lake St. Clair*

Detroit R.

N. J.
Detroit R.

their fish is right down opposite the fort. I forget how many thousand fish they caught and opened there last fall. There used to be a fishery at Belle Isle and one at Rocky Island and one at Grass Island and Grassy Island. The great fishery in Detroit River for whitefish is with the seines. It would be hard to fish anything else there as you could not fish pound nets or gill nets on account of the current. The Michigan Fish Commission seine at Belle Isle, but they do not get near as many fish there as at the Fort. The State Fish Commission control the best fisheries along the river. I hardly think they got more eggs than they could handle last year, however, because they had men out on Lake Michigan gathering eggs during the late run. I think they used all the eggs they got. I do not think they use fish for fertil-

Seines.

Taking eggs.

fertilizes

izers up here, but I have seen it done in Ohio. They simply used the sheephead and refuse fish, however, and had no fishery for fertilizing purposes. At Sandusky they used to have 3 or 4 scows to run the fish down and dump them in the bay. They dumped it around the mouth of the bay or around Cedar Point. I think that the dumping of offal will knock the whitefish and trout grounds out entirely, but for pickerel and perch I do not know that it hurts at all. I think probably the offal will attract pike, pickerel, perch and that class of fish, but it will ruin whitefish and trout grounds. Just the fact of the fish having been driven away from this north ground where the fish and nets rotted on the ground ought to prove it. The second fall I have seen it for 6 or 7 miles out that ground would not find any clear water. There is a great deal of rubbish going out of the river they fished on this late spawning ground in Lake Michigan, and having 3 or 4 gangs of

offal

nets to each tug and losing the nets and fish there, I think simply drove the fish off the ground for 2 or 3 years, as they did not catch them off in such a short time. It has always been the opinion of the fishermen here that if the offal was dumped in the lake it would ruin the whitefish and trout fishery. They always figure on bringing that stuff ashore here, but it depends upon the captain of the boat; if he is too lazy to have it buried I guess some of it is dumped. But the better class of fishermen, and the fish dealers believe it hurts the ground and they do not want it done.

*Thunder Bay
pollution*

I have noticed it within 2 miles of the point (Thunder Bay) that the stuff was stirred up pretty well from the bottom, and I have seen it for 6 or 7 miles out that we could not find any clear water. There is a great deal of rubbish going out of the river

bark
slabs
logs.

all the time. A good deal of the bark comes off the logs as they are floated down. I do not know how the slabs and edgings get in as they are supposed to burn the refuse. When the logs come down over the dam they separate them into booms and let the refuse go. They have old logs up here on the rapids that have been there for years and years and I presume a good many of those are worthless and they let a good deal of it go. The river runs probably 40 or 50 miles into the interior. There were no brook trout in it until they planted them. These fellows around here claim that the river never had any trout in it before they ever run any logs in the river.

River.
B. trout

grayling

The nearest grayling region here is at the Au Sable river. They have to go back probably 20 or 30 miles to get them. They did not make much of a success of raising

them. They could hatch them, but could not raise them very successfully. I think they need clearer water than the trout and different water. There are a few of the rivers I think that run into Lake Michigan near Petoskey that have a few grayling in. They fish for them with the fly. It has always been supposed that there never were any grayling in these rivers north of the Au Sable that run into Lake Huron, but Mr. Bowdoin told me that he caught a lot in some of those streams that run into the Cheboygan River 2 or 3 years ago.

Pulp mill

I have not heard any fault found with the pulp mill. I do not think there are fish enough around the mouth of the river to amount to anything. Still, last winter some fellows fished small gill nets out in the mouth of the river and caught a few whitefish, which is something they have not

W. f. at mouth of river.

*maskinonge
Pulp mill
w.f.*

dredging.

done for years before, they claim. I do not know as I ever saw a maskinonge caught here in the bay. This pulp mill has been running for 5 or 6 years, and those white-fish have certainly been coming up there for the last year or two and they had not been coming up for several years back. When they dredged out the harbor here I think they dumped the stuff down near Grassy Island; down in the bay probably a mile below the mouth of the river. There are no spawning grounds there that I know of. They usually dump that stuff off in some shallow place.

Explosives

I do not know of any attempt being made to kill fish by explosives. Some man told me that the Soo River was a great black bass ground and that when they first commenced blasting there they could pick up a bushel of them at a time.

Spearing
● Sport
Trout

Spearing is not carried on very much in the lake. There is a little of it done for these shallow trout in the fall up at Presque Isle, Thunder Bay and Middle Islands, just for sport, and I think those fellows up at Presque Isle used to make a little money out of it. They would take regular spawning fish just the same as the gill nets would catch. There is a little spearing done here in the winter also, but not a great deal, and a little done in Saginaw Bay. Here it is done for trout and I do not think I ever saw a whitefish speared here. In Saginaw Bay they get trout and some pickerel. There is not enough of it done to amount to anything. There is a little spearing done for sturgeon, but not a great deal. They do it for sport more than anything else. I do not know of any spearing done along here by the Indians. Before they stopped them

walleye

● Sturgeon

Spearing
of Long Lake

spearing in Long Lake I know one man to go out there and he speared for 3 nights, and caught 60 odd one night, 70 odd one night, and 70 or 90 one night, of whitefish.

dip nets

On Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair or Detroit River there is no chance for dip netting. They dip in the river here a little in the spring when the suckers are going up, but that is the only dip netting I know of. That is altogether hand dip netting.

Hooks

There is very little hook and line fishing for commercial purposes on this lake. There is none done from here that I know of. There is a little done in Saginaw Bay. They do it there in the spring and I think about the only thing they fish for is catfish.

Cat.

They get the big catfish. They get very few big catfish here. They have to get down in warmer water for them. Lake Erie is a great place for hook and line fishing

in the summer for catfish. Those fellows have rigs that probably do not cost them over \$25 and they make \$100 a month.

Sturgeon

There are very few sturgeon around here any more. It used to be quite a sturgeon ground down in the bay here and around Sturgeon Point, but there are very few anymore. It would be advisable to plant sturgeon to increase the stock if they could do it. They are worth a lot of money and they are fish that are playing out faster than any thing I know of. I do not know any way to regulate it unless they prohibit catching them entirely or have a close season. They catch them at Monroe about the first of May, and up the river around Fox and Cross Islands, and at Algonac; and later on along the latter part of July they catch them up in the foot of the lake outside of Port Huron.

There is no particular sport fishing to be protected in this immediate neighborhood. At Saginaw Bay there would be certain localities where they caught black bass in the fyke nets. They used to catch them down here at South Point in good quantities. We got about 400 black bass from a man down there one spring and tried to get the eggs from them, but had no success with them. Of course we did not have a fair chance here as we took those wild fish and put them right into these tanks, and it did not give them any show. It might be, if we had fish penned up for a year or two, or sometime before the spawning season came on, we could get eggs from them, but I do not believe they can take bass just before they spawn and pen them up and get eggs from them. Their eggs do not have a chance to be lost and spoiled the way the whitefish eggs do

Sport

bas
fyke nets

hatchery

anyway. They are so few days in hatching out that they do not have a chance to fungus and spoil like the whitefish eggs do that lay for months.

I do not think there is a seine anywhere only in the bay and at the foot of the lake, at Port Huron. They use them there more for the sturgeon than anything else. I do not believe they catch very many whitefish in the fall with the seines there. I do not know of any spawning grounds around Port Huron. I do not believe they get very many whitefish down that way any more. They seine a good many pickerel down there I think because they commence seining pretty early in the spring. I do not remember of ever hearing the old fishermen tell about ever doing any seining here. Of course in Saginaw Bay they used to fish most altogether with seines, but I think the pound

Seines

Sturgeon

W. J.

Wall eye

net fishing was about the first fishing that was ever done here. There is one place this side of Whitefish Point where they can get whitefish eggs.

W. J. Spawning Co. C.

I think Mr. Alpern is pretty well thought of by the big fishing firms. The fishermen could fertilize the eggs I think, but there is a question in my mind whether they would do it or not. I would hate to have my stock of eggs come from any eggs they might take. Instead of hatching out 80 or 90 per cent we would hatch probably 20 or 30 per cent. I do not know why they got up the regulation to save the spawn unless it was to prevent the State from getting a close season. Alpern says the whitefish propagation is no good here simply because he has gone on record in his fight against the State Fish Commission. Lincoln used to claim that the fish all went over to Canada

Fishermen returning spawn

Alpern not in favor of hatching

