

569. In order to comply with an almost general desire, the regulation of 20th May, 1886, fixing the close season for whitefish in the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories from 1st November to 1st February, was altered so as to read from 5th October to 10th November. It is claimed that the latter dates fully cover the breeding period of these fish, and will afford sufficient protection. The Department is causing experiments to be made in order to fully determine that point.

Close season for whitefish in North-West.

570. The close season for smelts, already in force in the Province of New Brunswick, has been extended to that of Nova Scotia, and fishing by means of bag nets is prohibited except under licenses from this Department.

Close season for smelts.

571. In order to put a stop to the waste which hitherto occurred in oyster fishing, the close season has been extended to the 15th September instead of the 1st, as formerly.

Oysters.

572. The total expenditure for the fisheries service during the year ended 30th June, 1886, was :—

Expenditure for fisheries, 1886.

General service.....	\$ 82,748
Fish breeding .....	44,039
Fisheries protective service.....	37,613
	<u>\$164,400</u>

which amount was divided among the several Provinces as follows :—

Ontario.....	\$ 27,597
Quebec.....	23,136
Nova Scotia .....	25,330
New Brunswick.....	18,572
British Columbia.....	7,284
Prince Edward Island.....	3,875
Manitoba .....	1,921
Fisheries protective service.....	37,613
Miscellaneous.....	19,072
	<u>\$164,400</u>