

Institute for Fisheries Research
Report Number 44

December 26, 1930

REPORT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING
THE GRAYLING HATCHERY AS AN EGG REARING STATION
(Supplementary to Report 41)

By Wendell H. Krull

While a great deal cannot be said in regard to the Grayling Hatchery, since a problem of a like nature has not previously confronted us, there are certain facts nevertheless that should be considered in reference to the future status of the station.

We are aware of the fact there are other other stations which have had to give up the rearing and maintenance of adult brook trout. There is a tendency in this state, we believe, to do away with adult brook trout altogether since eggs can be purchased at a reasonable figure. It is entirely possible, of course, that this policy may be changed in the future for the purchased eggs also give plenty of trouble. This would be especially true if improvements in the handling of brook stock can be devised. Much needs to be done, in our opinion, before we are justified in concluding that better results can be obtained with the one or the other method of obtaining eggs.

It must be admitted that the Grayling Hatchery has been successful in spite of the fact that so-called "goitre" has been a constant danger. This has been successfully handled in a scientific way. In addition, it is reasonable to believe that adult brook trout have been cared for in the presence of the worst

plague among fish, namely furunculosis. We know that this disease is present among the fish living in the river which supplies the hatchery with water.

We also know that diseased fish have been released from the hatchery, and that we can expect to see this disease, furunculosis, take its toll in our natural waters as it has done in almost all European countries. The extent of the distribution of this disease in Michigan is not known and we think that it is time to give this phase of the problem some consideration. It is strongly suspected that this has been the cause of the occasional, obscure cases of loss among our brook trout in natural waters the past years.

Other hatcheries carrying adult trout are not immune to the attack of this disease and anything which can be learned at the Grayling Hatchery will be of considerable importance in regard to policy for other hatcheries when occasion demands.

Since not only these but additional pathological conditions are found as well as apparent difficulties with stock fish originally obtained from the Caspacia River in Canada, we would emphasize the desirability of having the Grayling Station continued as a station carrying adult trout (in accordance with the suggestions set forth in our recent report). This would make possible continued investigations of the diseases occurring there, and give an opportunity for the experimental determination of means to handle brood stock at Grayling station as an egg-producing unit would rather seriously handicap investigations along these lines.

Let us here emphasize emphatically the desirability of the complete isolation of the yearling fish if these are kept, as we suggested.

We also recommend that if the raceways are filled to capacity that the side walls be repaired to prevent the filling in and the final complete collapse of these walls.

By Wendell H. Krull
Fish Pathologist

cc of original report: Westerman
Grayling Hatchery