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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Report 187: Opinion regarding nursery streams

The opinion of the Institute for Fisheries Research has again been asked regarding the advisability of opening nursery streams to fishing.

A conclusive answer to this problem can not be given at this time. It will be recalled that last year it was necessary to cut nearly all the trout investigations other than those involved in the stream improvement work. Additional work was largely confined to survey work in the Pigeon River region, and to studies there of possible methods of inventory for trout waters.

Considering all the varied and conflicting evidence, it is still our opinion that the nursery stream idea is sound in principle, although we do not believe that the idea rests on a really proven basis.

In expressing this view, we wish to emphasize the words "in principle". The original classification of closed and open streams was not accurate or wise, as we suppose is generally recognized. We refer to the closing of all streams in the state, except a limited number which were declared open. The fact that it has become desirable and necessary to open up a very considerable number of additional streams is evidence that the original classification was too drastic.

Nor do we wish to express the opinion that the present classification has reached perfection. We still find many streams which are closed without valid reason, to the detriment of fishing. Such streams are:

- (1) Those, whether large or small, which feed directly into non-trout waters, as the Great Lakes (except parts of Lake Superior) and warm inland lakes and rivers, and may not readily be divided in themselves. Even though these are tiny brooks, they may afford a little sport if open. If closed they are wasted as far as fishing goes.
- (2) Streams which are fairly large (say around 20 feet wide) and open, so that they are subject to a very considerable amount of fishing by violators and by predators, which tend to congregate on these less frequented waters.
- (3) Streams which are populated chiefly by rainbow trout, which if not caught when small will run out in to the big lakes, and thus be removed from the sport fishery.
- (4) Streams even though small which contain brook trout in abundance, yet which feed directly into waters containing few trout other than browns or rainbows.

Our view is that the closure of nursery streams has not been proven to be an unsound policy; that the closing of some streams is desirable; that many streams now closed should be opened, and that the best way to determine what streams should be opened is to make a reconnaissance survey of our trout waters with that end in mind.

Carl H. Hubbs.
Director.

January 12-1933.