

(W)

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

Report 304

August 14, 1935

WINTER CREEL CENSUS ON ROUND LAKE AND WAMPLERS LAKE, HAYES STATE PARK, IRISH  
HILLS, JANUARY TO MARCH, 1935.

The creel census data on which this report is based were collected by the Hayes Park C.C.C. Camp. Kenneth Vander Laan, an enrollee, was in charge of the work. The fish were measured to the nearest quarter inch and the time of fishing was checked to the nearest quarter hour. The men who collected the information were careful and efficient and the data they obtained are considered reliable.

Round Lake

Round Lake (Jackson, Washtenaw and Lenawee counties) is a relatively small lake (the exact area not obtained), which is connected with Wampplers Lake by a channel large enough to permit movements of boats and fish from one lake to the other.

Table I shows that the lake was not heavily fished and that the catch was negligible. The total catch consisted of two 8-inch perch (taken with hook and line) and six northern pike of an average length of 28.6 inches (speared). There were 27 local fishermen, 1 from Adrian, 16 from Clinton, 2 from Tecumseh and 1 from Onsted. There were 4 fishing shanties on the lake.

The figures represent all fishing from January 14 to the end of the winter; all who fished the lake during this period were contacted at the close of their day's fishing.

Table I. Statistics on winter fishing on Round Lake, January 14 to  
March 12, 1935

	Line fishing	Spearing	Total
1. Hours fished	7.5	168.75	176.25
2. Number of fishermen	4	43	47
3. Number of lines	9	..	..
4. Lines per fisherman	2.25	..	..
5. Average number of hours per fisherman	1.9	3.9	3.75
6. Total number of fish caught	2	6	8
7. Fish per hour	.27	.04	.05
8. Hours per fish	3.75	28.1	22.0
9. Fish per fisherman-day	.5	.14	.17
10. Number taking no fish	3	38	41
11. Percent taking no fish	75	88	87

Wamplers Lake

The data for Wamplers Lake, as for Round Lake, were collected from January 14 to the end of the winter fishing period. The information on the tables represents approximately 96% of all fishing after January 14. Table II gives a summary of statistics for line fishing, Table ~~III~~<sup>III</sup> for spearing and Table ~~IV~~<sup>IV</sup> for all fishing (except the 4% which were seen but were not contacted).

According to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Directory, Wamplers Lake has an area of 800 acres. There were 46 fishing shanties on Wamplers Lake according to a census taken about February 15.

Mr. Vander Laan included in his information the following note: "Stomach of pike speared January 5 weighing 8 3/4# contained one bass which measured 12" from flipper fin to end of tail (partially digested), estimated length when caught by pike 14". Estimated weight when alive 2#. The above report was received from Mr. F. J. Harris, 232 Dennis St., Adrian, Mich."

Item numbers in the discussion of the tables refer to similar item numbers in the tables.

Table II. Statistics on line fishing, Wamplers Lake, January 14 to  
March 12, 1935

	January 14-31	Febru- ary	March 1-12	Total
1. Hours fished	240	277.75	2.25	520
2. Number of fishermen	45	52	1	98
3. Number of lines	163	167	5	335
4. Lines per fisherman	3.6	3.2	5	3.4
5. Average hours per fisherman	5.3	5.3	2.25	5.3
6. Total number of fish caught	70	26	..	96
7. Fish per hour	.29	.09	..	.18
8. Hours per fish	3.4	10.7	..	5.4
9. Fish per fisherman-day	1.6	.5	..	1.0
10. Number taking no fish	21	38	1	60
11. Percent taking no fish	47	73	100	61
12. Catch				
Perch	56 (8.4)*	20 (9.5)	..	76 (8.7)
Northern pike	11 (18.6)	6 (23.2)	..	17 (20.2)
Gar	3 (21)	..	..	3 (21)
13. Average size of all fish	..	..	..	11.1 inches

\* Figures in parentheses represent average size, in inches.

Discussion of Table II

1. There was almost no fishing in March, probably due to early breaking up of the ice.

2. Line fishing was most extensive in January.

6. Line fishing was much better in January than in February, but was relatively poor all winter.

9. The number of fish taken and the number of fishermen were almost identical (96 fish, 98 fishermen).

11. A large percentage of the fishermen took no fish at all.

12. The average size of fish taken in February was considerably larger than the average size of those taken in January.

13. The fish were of a good average size.

Table III. Statistics on spearing, Wamplers Lake, January 14 to  
March 12, 1935

	January 14-31	February	Total
1. Hours fished	1091.5	2499.25	3590.75
2. Number of fishermen	216	434	650
3. Average hours per fisherman	5.1	5.8	5.5
4. Total number of fish caught	120	186	306
5. Fish per hour	.11	.07	.085
6. Hours per fish	9.1	13.4	11.7
7. Fish per fisherman-day	.55	.43	.47
8. Number taking no fish	143	299	442
9. Percent taking no fish	66	69	68
10. Catch			
Perch	2 (9)*	4 (9.7)	6 (9.5)
Northern pike	104 (21.0)	174 (22.4)	278 (21.9)
Gar	13 (21.9)	5 (31.3)	18 (24.5)
Dogfish	1 (32.0)	1 (21.5)	2 (26.8)
Suckers	..	2 (20.7)	2 (20.7)
11. Average size of all fish	..	..	21.8 inches

\* Figures in parentheses represent average size in inches.

Discussion of Table III

5. The catch, in terms of fish per hour, was poor.
7. Each fisherman took, on the average, less than one fish for each two days of fishing.
9. Two-thirds of the fishermen caught no fish at all.
10. Spearing of perch is illegal. Most of the fish speared were northern pike. Obnoxious fish predators constituted 6 1/2% of the catch.
11. The fish were of a good average size.

Table IV. Comparison of line fishing and spearing, Wamplers Lake,  
January 14 to March 12, 1935

	Line	Spear	Total
1. Hours fished	520	3590.75	4110.75
2. Number of fishermen	98	650	716*
3. Average hours per fisherman	5.3	5.5	5.5
4. Total number of fish caught	96	306	402
5. Fish per hour	118	.085	0.1
6. Fish per fisherman day	1.0	.47	.56
7. Percent taking no fish	61	68	67
8. Average size of all fish	11.1 inches	21.8 in.	19.2 in.
9. Catch - Perch	76	6	82

	Line	Spear	Total
Northern pike	17	278	295
Gar	3	18	21
Dogfish	..	2	2
Suckers	..	2	2

\* 32 both line fished and speared

Discussion of Table IV

1. 87 percent of the fishing was by spearing.
2. 32 fishermen both speared and line fished at the same time. These were considered separately (as two fishermen) under line fishing and spearing but are considered as one fisherman in the total.
5. Line fishing produced approximately twice the fish per hour that were taken by spearing.
7. Two-thirds of the fishermen caught no fish.
8. Fish taken with spear were almost twice as large as those taken by line.

General discussion

Wamplers Lake produced approximately one fish per two acres of water during the winter of 1935 (after January 14). Almost three-fourths of these were northern pike while 23 of the fish were obnoxious predators. It does not appear that the winter fishing on this lake, and on Round Lake, was injurious to the summer fishing; it may have been definitely beneficial.

These data together with data on other lakes (previously submitted) indicate that, in general, winter spearing and winter line fishing with minnows on our inland lakes cannot be considered as affecting adversely the summer fishing in those lakes.

Scale samples collected by the creel census crew have not yet been examined.

Wamplers Lake attracted fishermen from the following localities (with number from each locality): Local 315, Adrian 260, Tecumseh 64, Britton 12, Clinton 2, Onsted 4, Tipton 9, Clayton 1, Cadmus 1, Milan 1, Sand Creek 1, Indiana 1 and Ohio 44.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

*R. W. Eschmeyer*

R. W. Eschmeyer