

Original copy: Fish Division
cc: Mr. Guy Lincoln
Mr. Clare Webster
INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH Mr. D. S. Shetter
DIVISION OF FISHERIES Mr. Ruhl
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

A. S. HAZZARD
DIRECTOR

November 10, 1936

ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 394

FIN-CLIPPING OF RAINBOW TROUT FINGERLINGS (*SALMO GAIRDNERII IRIDEUS*)
PLANTED IN SOUTH ARM OF LAKE CHARLEVOIX, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the request of Mr. Westerman, the author proceeded to Charlevoix, Michigan on October 23, 1936, where he was met by Mr. Guy Lincoln, District Superintendent of Fisheries Operations at the Oden Hatchery. Mr. Lincoln had previously arranged for the Charlevoix Sportsmen's Club to furnish their supply of 9-months-old rainbow for marking purposes. One of the Oden Hatchery assistants, Mr. Ditmer, was also detailed by Mr. Lincoln to assist in the marking and in the planting.

Fin-clipping was chosen as the most logical method of marking these fish, because any type of mark attached to fingerlings might be lost or forced off in the growth to the extremely large sizes frequently attained by the rainbow trout in Lake Charlevoix. Adipose and dorsal fins of 5,005 rainbow trout were clipped flush with the back. The clipping tools were LaCrosse manicure shears. The necessity of clipping two fins was nicely demonstrated here. Of the 5,100 fish handled, 9 were found which possessed no adipose fin. For the validity of the fin-clipping method of marking fish, the reader is referred to Institute Reports 339 and 393.

A random sample (113) of these fish were measured and were found to have an average standard length of 3.27 inches (83 mm.) and an average total length of 3.93 inches (100 mm.).

Planting was done by interested individuals of the Charlevoix Sportsmen's Club, who donated their services and transportation. All fin-clipped rainbows were planted on the southern inshore side of Holy (Pine) Island in the South arm of Lake Charlevoix, as this region of Lake Charlevoix is thought to be rich in food for the young rainbow.

Mr. Clare Webster, President of the Sportsmen's Club, has promised to have the Club finance the printing of an adequate number of posters to advertise the work and to request returns on marked fish from the fishermen of the region. The form for these posters will be set up in the near future, so that they may be distributed next spring.

In all probability, there will be relatively few returns for two or three years, since the smallest rainbows now caught on Lake Charlevoix will average between ten and fifteen inches.

Besides providing data on the question of rainbow trout migration, this planting of marked rainbow fingerlings should determine the benefit to the sport fishing which may be derived from the planting of rainbow trout fingerlings in Lake Charlevoix. It will also indicate whether or not the rainbow fingerlings develop the color pattern of the so-called "steel head" now caught in Charlevoix Lake.

Thanks are due Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Ditmer of the Oden Hatchery for arranging the details of the clipping work with the Charlevoix Sportsmen's Club. The latter organization is to be commended for its fine cooperation in providing facilities and extra help for the work.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

BY: David S. Shetter
David S. Shetter