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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
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COOPERATING WITH THE
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ANALYSIS OF FISHING ON
PLEASANT LAKE, OAKLAND COUNTY
SUMMER AND FALL OF 1936

Under the direction of Project Superintendent Charles M. Leeson, the Dodge Bloomer State Park CCC camp checked the fishing on Pleasant Lake, Oakland County for two years. The first year's creel census has been reported on in detail (Report 353). The 1936 census has been analyzed in less detail, and the results of the summer and fall fishing on this lake are given below.

Summer Fishing

Two thousand six hundred twenty-two records were obtained in 1936 during the summer fishing period. This represents an increase of about a hundred records over the previous season. Thirty-eight per cent (985 records) indicated no fish caught. Eighteen per cent of the anglers were women, an increase of almost 4 per cent over the previous year.

The fishermen took 11,606 fish in 12,033 hours--an average of almost one fish (0.96) per hour.

Fishing was decidedly better in late June and early July than later in the season. After mid-July the catch per hour decreased consistently, each half month. The average size of the fish increased very slightly, but consistently, as the season progressed.

1936

2622 records
11606 - 96 fish per hour.

In general the 1936 data compared rather closely with similar information for the previous year. There were certain marked changes in the species taken, however, for bass decidedly declined in the catch and black crappies almost doubled. The catch of fish most commonly caught in Pleasant Lake in 1935 and 1936 is listed below:

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. Taken in 1935</u>	<u>No. Taken in 1936</u>
Bass	583	237
Bluegills and sunfish	7,128	8,565
Perch	1,478	1,477
Black crappie	429	826
Northern pike	16	21
Bullhead	404	461

Average sizes of the fish caught are included in Table 1. It is not certain that the census takers were invariably able to differentiate between the two basses and between bluegills and sunfish. Six walleyes were reported caught. Whether or not walleyes are actually present has not been ascertained.

About three-fourths of the anglers were from Wayne County; the others were almost entirely from Oakland County. Only fourteen records were for non-residents and only four resident anglers were from counties other than the two mentioned. Most of the fishing in this lake was done by local people in contrast to what has been found for lakes further north, where anglers are almost invariably from a wide variety of localities in Michigan and other states.

Fall Fishing

Fall fishing yielded primarily bass and perch; in decided contrast with summer fishing, when most of the fish caught were bluegills. The average size of the fish taken in fall was much larger than that of the summer caught fish, but the catch per hour was low. Fall fishing (October 1 to November 15) accounted for 326 fish taken in 136 fisherman-days.

The two year record on this southern Michigan lake is especially valuable because relatively little information is available on fishing in southern Michigan waters. Winter fishing was reported to be negligible, so no information on the much disputed winter bluegill fishing question could be obtained from the study.

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Table 1

General Information on Summer and Fall Fishing,
Pleasant Lake, Oakland County, 1936

	June 25-30	July 1-15	July 15-31	Aug. 1-15	Aug. 15-31	Sept. 1-15	Sept. 15-30	Total or Average
1. Number of fisherman-days: Male	183	244	288	450	416	439	135	2154
Female	33	60	76	98	75	101	25	468
Total	216	304	364	548	491	539	160	2622
2. Number taking no fish: Male	17	51	94	150	134	135	85	776
Female	5	15	30	46	38	57	13	209
Total	22	66	124	206	222	242	103	985
3. Number of fish caught (legal)	1787	2135	1935	2527	1627	1510	232	11,606
4. Number of hours fished	981	1237	1689	2703	2089	2644	690	12,033
5. Catch per hour	1.8	1.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.96
6. Catch per fisherman-day	8.3	7.2	5.3	4.2	3.3	2.3	1.5	4.4
7. Ave. no. of hrs. per fisherman-day	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.9	4.3	4.9	4.3	4.6
8. Per cent taking no fish	10	22	34	38	45	45	64	38
9. Ave. size of fish caught	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.7	7.3	8.5	7.5
10. Catch by species*								
Large-mouthed bass - No. taken	28	43	28	34	18	31	14	201
Ave. size	12.4	11.6	11.6	13.1	12.4	12.2	13.3	12.2
Small-mouthed bass - No. taken	17	1	3	8	1	6	...	36
Average size	11.1	11.0	10.7	10.6	12.0	12.8	...	11.6
Bluegills - No. taken	979	1409	1239	1798	1288	978	72	7813
Ave. size	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.2
Sunfish - No. taken	213	153	122	79	74	95	16	752
Ave. size	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.0
Perch - No. taken	318	220	250	300	115	235	41	1477
Ave. size	7.2	7.7	7.4	8.2	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.7
Black crappie - No. taken	193	301	133	40	34	60	10	826
Ave. size	7.4	8.4	8.0	9.1	8.4	8.7	9.1	8.2
Pock bass - No. taken	1	...	...	4	...	1	...	6
Ave. size	7.0	...	...	8.0	...	8.0	...	7.8
Walleyes - No. taken	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	6
Ave. size	...	...	...	15.0	14.5	17.3	...	16.1
Northern pike - No. taken	1	1	1	5	9	3	1	21
Ave. size	20.0	16.0	14.0	16.3	14.9	16.3	18.0	15.6
Bullheads - No. taken	31	25	88	58	86	97	70	461
Ave. size	9.9	9.0	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.9	9.4	9.5
Dogfish - No. taken	3	...	...	1	1	1	...	6
Ave. size	22.3	...	...	13.0	30.0	20.0	...	22.5

* One "mud bass" also recorded.

Oct. 1-15	Oct. 15-31	Nov. 1-15	Total or Average
91	34	3	128
3	3	2	8
94	37	5	136
46	25	2	73
2	2	2	6
48	27	4	79
281	44	1	326
451.00	125.00	14.00	590.0
0.8	0.4	0.07	0.6
3.0	1.2	0.2	2.4
4.8	3.4	2.5	4.3
51	75	30	58
10.2	11.5	18.0	10.2
21	3	1	25
11.2	12.0	18.0	12.1
21	23	...	44
12.2	12.9	...	12.6
1	...	...	1
6.0	...	...	6.0
1	...	...	1
7.5	...	...	7.5
49	16	...	65
8.7	9.2	...	8.8
1	1	...	2
10.5	10.5	...	10.5
...
...
...
...
2	1	...	3
15.0	18.0	...	16.0
135	...	...	188
10.1	...	...	10.1
...
...