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April 9, 1940

REPORT NO. 593

THE NORTHERN PIKE RUN AND CONDITIONS FOR
SPAWNING AT WALLED LAKE, OAKLAND COUNTY

by

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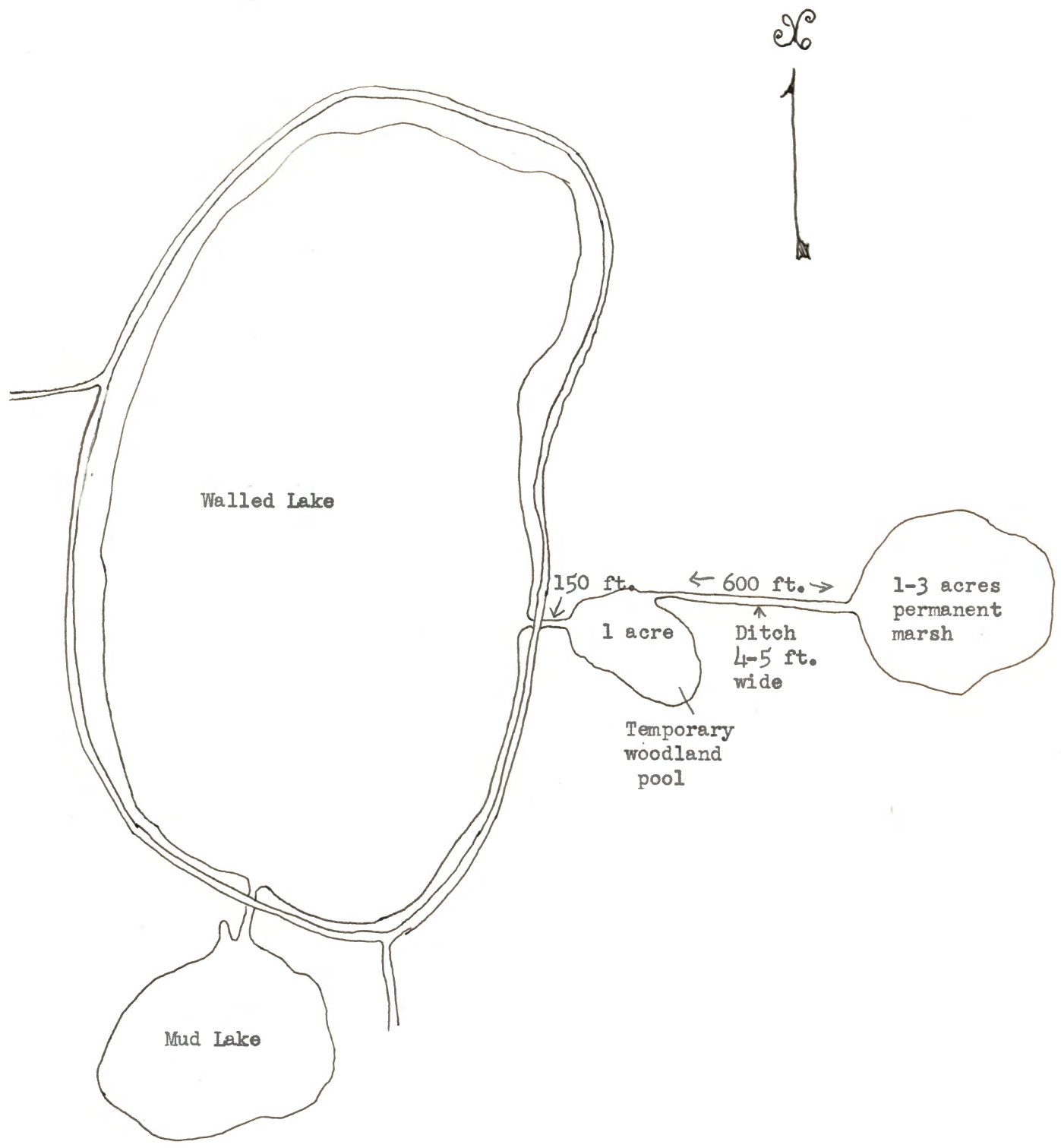
Following receipt of a telegram from Mr. E. E. Tucker, District Supervisor of the Division of Field Administration, on the afternoon of April 5, 1940, Dr. Moffett and I made an examination of conditions at Walled Lake with regard to the pike run and spawning facilities.

The main run of pike seems to go into the temporary stream known locally as the "Fly." This enters the lake from the East side and carries about one c.f.s. where it enters the lake.

The drainage of this stream is short and of small extent, and the flow is probably greatly reduced as soon as all the snow and ice is gone. Reports indicate that it practically dries up after the spring run off.

The following diagram indicates the relation of the stream to the lake.

There has been some problem in preventing poaching in the ditches. Last year a weir was placed at the mouth of this little stream and pike were prevented from entering the creek. This year the fish are allowed to run up the stream and the question as to the value of this more or less temporary spawning grounds has been raised.



Walled Lake

Mud Lake

150 ft.

← 600 ft. →

1 acre

Ditch
4-5 ft.
wide

1-3 acres
permanent
marsh

Temporary
woodland
pool



It seems to us that this temporary woodland pool and marsh are ideal for pike spawning and might well be the most important region for natural propagation in the lake. However, a check should be made to see whether the young pike are able to return. If the water lowers too rapidly, young fish will probably be trapped and lost.

While it would be extremely easy for poachers to take pike as they are passing up the inlet and 600 feet of ditch to the marsh, there is little danger of poaching in the marsh and pool because of the nature of the bottom and dense brush on the margins.

We believe that this run should be allowed to proceed normally, as it is this year, unless it is definitely proven that later water conditions prohibit the return of any of the young fish. The few large pike lost to poachers would probably be a legitimate sacrifice for the young produced.

During this investigation we noted 8 pike in the ditches and ponds above, and about a dozen in Walled Lake near the mouth of the creek.

No pike were observed in the ditch connecting Walled and Mud lakes. A lot of dead perch, bluegills and minnows were noticed in this ditch and around the north margin of Mud Lake. The death was probably from winter kill.