Original: Fish Division
cc: Mr. Hans Peterson 9-24-42
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DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
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REPORT NO. 722a

(SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 722)

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON CLEAR LAKE, OGEMAW COUNTY

by

L. E. Perry

A party of the Institute for Fisheries Research, comprising R. Van Deusen, P. Galvin, S. Lievense, and L. E. Perry visited Clear Lake, Ogemaw County, on September 9, 1942, to make a brief investigation of the natural propagation of fish in the lake during 1942. The previous day the party met and conversed at length with Mr. Percy McCoy and Representative A. M. MacKay at West Branch, who have taken an active interest in the development of the lake. The physical and biological features of the lake were discussed and the survey report (No. 722) on the lake was explained in a brief way.

An attempt was made to see Mr. Stanley Carpenter and Mr. Edward Sirmeyer at the request of Mr. MacKay. These men were not at home; however, other residents of the lake were available.

Fishing is reported to have been good during the past year, especially for largemouth bass. Two main complaints were heard: (1) that non-resident fishermen, mainly from Ohio, are not checked closely enough and they remove more than a reasonable amount of small and undersized game fish; (2) that high-powered speed boats should be prohibited from such a small lake. There was little evidence of organized thought concerning the improvement of fishing.

The shallow water was seined in several places to determine the extent of natural propagation during the year. A 25-foot bag seine was used. Three hauls yielded the following young-of-the-year game fish:

Bluegills	84	2	2
Largemouth bass	5	27	22
Pumpkinseeds	16	...	4
Pike	1	...	...

These collections were made in various habitats including bottom soils of sand, gravel, pulpy peat, fibrous peat, and vegetation such as water lilies, bulrushes, and muskgrass. Minnows and adult game fish were also collected.

It is evident that these species are spawning in the lake, although conditions for some, as the largemouth bass and bluegills, are only fair. The paucity of vegetation, however, as reported by the previous survey limits the number of fish that can inhabit the lake, and it is believed that there are sufficient spawning facilities and natural propagation to supply the present needs. The addition of brush shelters might be useful in increasing the productivity of the lake. These would encourage the growth of plants on the sandy shoals, provide cover for nearly all species of fish, and improve spawning conditions. This type of improvement would certainly be more desirable than trying to increase productivity with commercial fertilizer as suggested by some local residents.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

By L. E. Perry

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