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May 2, 1944

REPORT NO. 942

FISHING RESULTS ON PORTAGE CREEK POND FOR THE
FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE 1944 TROUT SEASON

by

George N. Washburn

Portage Creek Pond, located in the Waterloo Recreation Area of Jackson County, was investigated by personnel of the Institute during the summer of 1943 and found to be suitable for the maintenance of trout, consequently plantings of 300 each of legal-sized brook, brown and rainbow trout were made in November of the same year.

Realizing that the pond would be quickly fished out if the usual regulations on trout fishing prevailed, it was recommended that additional restrictive measures be employed on these waters (Institute Report No. 920). These are similar to the regulations in force in Pennsylvania's successful Spy Creek Project. The Conservation Department approved this plan with few changes and requested the Conservation Commission to act under the authority of Act 230 which they did as indicated by the order cited below.

STATE OF MICHIGAN - ORDER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION -
REGULATING FISHING IN CERTAIN WATERS IN JACKSON COUNTY.

The Director of Conservation, having made a thorough investigation relative to fishing conditions in certain waters in Jackson County, recommends certain regulations.

THEREFORE, the Conservation Commission, by authority of Act 230, P.A. 1925, hereby orders that from April 29, 1944, to September 4, 1944, inclusive, it shall be unlawful to fish or attempt to fish in Portage Creek and its tributaries, including the pond, situated in Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, and 18, Township 2 South, Range 2 East, except with artificial flies only from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset each day.

The daily limit shall be two trout of a minimum length of eight inches.

No boats or rafts are to be placed or used on the pond during the period covered by this order.

Signed, sealed and ordered published this fourteenth day of March, 1944.

HARRY H. WHITELEY

Chairman

WAYLAND OSGOOD

Secretary

Countersigned:

P. J. HOFFMASTER

Director

During the first two days of the 1944 trout season, an intensive creel census was conducted, [✓]the summarized results, of which, are presented below.

On Saturday, April 29, a total of 43 anglers fished 103 hours, catching 70 trout, representing a catch of 0.67 fish per hour. Of the 70 trout taken 30 per cent were brook trout, 18.5 per cent browns and 51.4 per cent rainbows. [✓] Also, of the 70 trout caught on Saturday, 32 were released again, representing 45.7 per cent of the total catch.

[✓]Assistance in collecting creel census was given by Dr. K. F. Lagler and students from the University of Michigan and Mr. Derrell Kniss, Division of Field Administration, Michigan Department of Conservation.

[✓]The original planting in the fall of 1943 consisted of 300 of each species, brook, brown and rainbow

Sunday, April 30, a total of 34 anglers fished the pond, catching 34 trout in 95.25 hours of fishing, representing a catch of 0.35 fish per hour. Of the 34 trout taken, six, or 17.6 per cent were released in the pond by the fishermen. The 34 trout were composed of the following species: 35.2 per cent brook trout, 26.4 per cent browns and 38.2 per cent rainbows.

In summarizing the data for the two days, a total of 80 anglers took 104 trout in 198.25 hours representing a catch of 0.52 fish per hour. Of these 104 trout caught, 66 or 63.4 per cent were kept by the anglers, the remaining 38 being released again in the pond. Not all of the anglers were successful, 34 or 42.5 per cent failed to catch a single fish, while 11 anglers released more than their limit, some not keeping a single trout. 35 or 43.7 per cent of the anglers kept their total catch. Only two women anglers were present, one of which failed to catch a fish, while the other took her limit. The per cent by species of the 104 trout caught was as follows: brook trout 31 per cent, browns 21 per cent, rainbows 47 per cent. The largest fish taken was a 15 1/4 inch brown (undoubtedly a wild fish).

General Observations and Remarks

The first morning, Saturday, April 29, was cool and calm, the air temperature at 5:30 a.m. being 31° F. Floating patches of decomposing algae and icing of the line somewhat handicapped the fishermen for this first hour. Fishing was generally good except during the middle part of the day (from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.). More catches were made in the upper portions of the pond near the main inlets.

Fishing conditions were somewhat more suitable on Sunday, April 30, as no freezing temperatures were recorded for the early morning and the sky was partly overcast most of the day.

A large number of sightseers visited the pond, (estimated at 125 people), some staying only a few minutes and others remaining several hours while the male members fished.

Several fishermen voiced their opinion on the project and were enthusiastic and favorable to the idea, even though this was the first attempt at fly fishing for some of them.

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