

Original: Fish Division

cc: Education-Game

Mr. Stanley Shust

Mr. Earl Kaiser

Mr. Alphonse Peterson

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH Mr. Fred Owens

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

Institute for Fisheries Res.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.

DIRECTOR

October 13, 1944

ADDRESS  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ANNEX  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 964

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF FISH

INTO AND OUT OF TROUT LAKE, ALGER COUNTY

by

A. S. Hazzard

On September 7, 1944, in company with Stanley Shust and Fred Owens of the Fish Division and Earl Kaiser of Field Administration, an inspection was made of Trout Lake, Alger County (T. 44 N., R. 20 W., Sections 6, 7, 18).

Trout Lake is an impoundment of the headwaters of the Whitefish River. A number of fine springs have been partially or completely flooded by the construction during early lumbering days of a low head dam located in the northwest quarter of Section 18. It is reported that a natural lake existed before the dam was built and that this dam merely added four or five feet to the original depth of the lake. At present the dam is in a poor state of repair and has little effect upon the lake level. Movement of fish through the spillway should be readily possible.

It is reported that northern pike come upstream from the lower Whitefish River and possibly even from Lake Michigan since there are no dams to block their movement. Also that some of these pike remain in Trout Lake and spawn there and that they are a detriment to the trout fishing. Local sportsmen have requested permission to spear these pike in order to better conditions for trout. Trout Lake has been stocked consistently with trout

by the state and is said to provide some excellent fishing especially for large brook trout. It is also reported that there are some runs of trout at the dam at certain times of the year.

The Department has also been requested to repair the outlet dam and to maintain a screen there to prevent movement of pike into the lake. Repair and maintenance of this dam would be a fair-sized project if done properly and probably could not be undertaken until after the war. Operation of a screen in a stream of this size (low water flow roughly estimated at 20 c.f.s.) would involve considerable time and expense and may not be justified. Such a screen might do more harm than good by blocking the movement of trout into and out of the lake.

It was suggested and concurred in by Mr. Shust and Mr. Kaiser that a two-way fish trap be built and operated at the dam for several years to determine the movement of fish there and the need for and possible value of a screen. Since other similar weirs have proven of value in solving such problems and since the dam site should be readily adaptable to such an installation, it is suggested that this be done as soon as the structure can be built and a capable man secured to operate it. Based on information secured at the outlets of Lake Gogebic and Houghton Lake, the Platte River and other weirs, operation would not be required except in the spring and fall since very little fish movement occurs except at these times.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

A. S. Hazzard, Director

Report typed by V. Andres