

Original: Fish Division
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Institute for Fisheries
Research
L. N. Allison
J. A. Scully
J. T. Wilkinson
R. S. Marks

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

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ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ANNEX
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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COMPARISON OF TASTE BETWEEN BROOK TROUT ON
THE GRAYLING HOUSE DIET AND ON RED GIL

By Leonard N. Allison

An experiment conducted at the Grayling hatchery to compare weight and mortality among brook trout fed on Red Gil, as opposed to the house diet which is composed of fifty percent cooked horse meat and fifty percent pork melts, has just been completed. The experiment extended from November 14, 1949 to April 5, 1950, or about four and a half months. Mr. Otter, originator of the Red Gil diet for trout, had made rather broad claims for his concoction, one being a greatly improved flavor of the flesh of the trout. It was felt that the present experiment at Grayling would provide a good opportunity for making a taste comparison of the two groups of fish, and several members of the Fish Division were invited to participate. Members of the hatchery crew also took part. The following is a list of those assisting in the test:

J. T. Wilkinson	W. R. Crowe	H. Bradley	B. Hubbell	T. Thompson (U.S.G.S.)
H. L. Peterson	B. D. Engel	F. Bishaw	S. Paszek	L. N. Allison
D. S. Shetter	L. Bradley	A. Hubbell	J. Vinson	

The fish were cleaned and placed in two pans, one labeled "A" and the other "B." The writer was the only participant who knew which group had been fed the Red Gil diet. He fried the fish in two frying pans, using one pan

for "A" fish and the other for "B" fish. Since there were twenty fish in each group, everyone ate as many fish as he wanted. The fish were served on paper plates divided in half by a pencil mark, with one half marked "A" and the other half "B." Each serving included one trout from the A group and one trout from the B group. After each participant had eaten as many fish as was desired, he recorded his comments on a sheet of paper provided for that purpose. The various opinions recorded may be summarized as follows:

1. All fish were acceptable to the taste (much to the surprise of some participants) but were not so good as wild fish.
2. The trout fed Red Gil were slightly more moist and slightly sweeter than the trout fed on the house diet.
3. All agreed that the difference was only very slight and quite possibly would not have been detected had not a special effort been made to do so.

From these results it would seem that the feeding of Red Gil to brook trout holds no advantage over the normal diet, as far as improvement of flavor is concerned.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Leonard N. Allison

Report Approved by A. S. Hazzard

Report Typed by B. J. Bair