

June 18, 1931

Report No. 71

ON DISEASES OF TROUT AT THE U. S. FISHERIES STATION, NORTHVILLE,  
MICHIGAN

Frank L. Snipes, Superintendent of Federal Hatcheries in Michigan, reported a rather heavy steady loss among fingerling brook trout at the U. S. Fisheries Station, Northville, Michigan, and was anxious to have us investigate the situation.

An investigation made June 13, 1931, showed that many of the brook and rainbow trout had not taken food and were exceedingly weak. Microscope examination showed a heavy epidemic of Cylochaeta and Costia, both protozoan parasites. The lake trout fingerlings were suffering from the effects of Cyrodactylus, but this epidemic, as yet, was not serious as far as loss of fish was concerned.

The following recommendations were offered. All utensils which were used on the troughs were to be dipped in a strong saline solution. The fish were to be treated and transferred to troughs which had been scrubbed thoroughly with salt. The fish were to be treated for three minutes in a salt solution consisting of one part salt to 20 parts water (bulk measure).

The treatment was carried out, on all brook, rainbow and lake trout fingerlings and at the time of this writing (June 17, 1931) the fish are practically free from these parasites. In spite of the weak and emaciated condition of the fish and the injuries of the skin and fins produced by the parasites, the loss was reduced to practically nothing immediately after treatment. To reduce the possibility of a fungus epidemic it was suggested

that the fish be cleansed twice with a weak salt solution in the trough during the week following the treatment for the parasites.

Although the losses prior to the treatment were not alarming, we believe that a serious loss would soon have been encountered.

Any further developments we hope to keep under observation.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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Report to Mr. Snipes  
CC to Department of Conservation  
CC to Institute for Fisheries Research