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

A. S. HAZZARD
DIRECTOR

ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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Report 149

AGE DETERMINATION OF A BROWN TROUT CAUGHT IN THE WHITE RIVER BY MR. IKE
BULLIS OF NEWAYGO

A sample of the scales from a brown trout were received May 25, accompanied by the following letter:

"Newaygo, Michigan.

"I am enclosing scales of one brown trout, length 12 in., weight 15 ounces, caught on White River, Sec. line 28-21-14-12, May 23, 1932. As the Department has at no time planted Brown's in White River, Mr. Cook has asked me to send in a set of scales to you. Hoping these are all o.k. Kindly let Mr. Cook know about these as soon as possible as he is real interested about this matter. I have caught quite a few this year and it is the first I have ever heard of on this river.

Yours truly,

I. L. Bullis (Signed)"

Study of several scales showed four winter marks. The fish was of the hatch of the winter of 1927-1928.

Since the length of the scale is proportionate to the length of the fish, it is possible to calculate lengths at the end of each growing season with close accuracy, although exactness cannot be expected due to scale wear and other factors. The calculations from measurements of a scale are: at end of first growing season 3.0 inches, at end of second 5.3 inches, at end of third 9.1 inches, and at end of fourth 11.5 inches. The length when taken was 12 inches.

Studies of growth rate of brown trout, which are in progress, indicate a slower growth of wild browns than of wild brook trout during the first two seasons. The fish here reported upon, did not make an exceptionally rapid growth for a brown trout.

The examination made and report prepared by the undersigned.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

John R. Greeley
Asst. to Director