

Original: Fish Division

cc: Mr. Faulkner

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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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THE IMPROVEMENT OF RICE CREEK IN CALHOUN COUNTY

On September 22, 1939, Robert Ball and I met with Mr. H. C. Faulkner, Assistant Postmaster, Mr. Brown, in charge of NYA activities and the City Engineer of Marshall, to go over sections of Rice Creek for suggestions on stream improvement.

The conservation club and sportsmen in this district are apparently willing to support any movement suggested by us for the improvement of trout fishing in the lower end (12-15 miles) of Rice Creek.

The first few miles near Marshall is already a fine stream with adequate pools and riffles and very abundant shade. There are certain sections upstream, however, which were straightened by dredging fifteen or more years ago which could be improved.

We suggested that rock deflectors be used exclusively and these be spread out over the entire upper part of the section examined so as not to concentrate the work in a small area. The labor for this project is to be furnished by NYA and the material (rock) is readily available almost on the bank of the stream.

It is our opinion that this part of Rice Creek, which serves a large number of trout fishermen, should receive regular plantings of fingerlings and should also be given consideration in any distribution

of legal-sized fish in this district. There seemed to be very little desirable spawning area in the part of the stream examined, but spawning may occur farther up. Mr. Faulkner promised to look for spawning fish this coming season.

It also seems to us that this part of Rice Creek is deserving of consideration when stream frontage purchases are made. At present the stream is open to fishing with little or no posting against trespass. The adjacent land is privately owned by farmers but is composed mostly of waste land and pasture. The cost of acquiring frontage along most of this stream should be reasonable.

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By C. J. D. Brown  
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