

Original: Fish Division

cc: Mr. Paul Travis

Mr. George Travis

Mr. Ruhl

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

December 8, 1939

1-10-40
ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 564

RESULTS OF THE PLANTINGS OF MINNOWS AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

IN LITTLE LONG LAKE, OSCEOLA COUNTY

by

W. F. Carbine

On August 28, 1939, K. E. Goellner and the writer examined Little Long Lake (Buckhorn Ranch, Osceola County) to obtain further evidence relative to the establishment of the 15,466 fatheaded minnows planted during May and June, 1937 (refer to Report No. 444), and the adult smallmouth bass also planted during 1937. All of the shallow waters along the entire lake shore were carefully observed for evidences of fry and adult minnows and smallmouth bass. Exhaustive seining were made around the entire lake shore during the day, and a number of hauls were made on the sandy beach of the north shore that night. Fatheaded minnows and smallmouth bass were not taken, and no evidence of their presence was noted. Bluegills were extremely abundant along the whole shore of the lake, and largemouth bass, both fingerlings and adults were common. One horned dace, Semotilus atromaculatus, was taken at the south end of the lake. It was probably introduced accidentally by fishermen.

Up to the present time, this lake has been examined three times. During the latter part of the summer of 1937, D. S. Shetter recovered

two adult fatheads. Although evidence of spawning was not obtained, it is possible that a few fatheads had been able to escape the ravages of the bass long enough to spawn. But even if spawning did occur, the shiners were still insufficient in numbers to be taken by us, or were unable to entirely evade the bass. The failure to recover any minnows during the last two examinations leads us to conclude that the fat-headed minnows were unable to establish themselves in Little Long Lake.

Mr. George Travis reports that several adult and one undersized (9 inches) smallmouth bass were caught during the summer of 1939.

Additional seinings and creel census will be necessary before any definite conclusions can be reached regarding the establishment of the smallmouth bass.

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