

Original: Fish Division

cc: Education-Game

Mr. Ralph Marks

Mr. Carl T. Johnson - Cadillac Sportsman's

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Club "1-3-4"


DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

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ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

October 29, 1941

REPORT NO. 691

SEINING OPERATIONS ON LONG LAKE, WEXFORD COUNTY

by

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Long Lake, Wexford County, is a large, shallow lake which has been subjected to severe winter-kill the past few years. The lake level has lowered about 8 feet the past few years. This is due to the general lowering of the water table, because Long Lake has no inlet or outlet. Thus until the general water table should again rise, there is nothing that can be done to raise the level of the lake.

It had been reported that bluegills were very numerous in the lake and the local sportsmen's group was very anxious that they should be saved if possible from winter-kill. At the request of the Cadillac Sportsmans Club, referred to the Institute for Fisheries Research by Mr. Westerman, W. Fenton Carbine and the writer went to Long Lake to attempt to seine the fish and transplant them into Lake Mitchell.

We arrived at the Harrietta Hatchery on Monday, October 20. We obtained a boat and trailer and car, as our truck did not have a trailer hitch, from Mr. Ralph Marks, District Supervisor of Fisheries Operations. We went to Long Lake and after cruising the lake for a time, we set two fyke nets. We had difficulty in finding water deep enough to set the nets, and could not set one net because of lack of deep water. The deepest water we found was about 5 feet, the majority of the lake having a depth of from one to two feet.

We located three possible seining areas. Most of the lake was so full of trash and logs that seining was impossible. Also, the bottom was so soft that it would have been impossible to drag the seine through it.

On Tuesday, October 21, we returned to the lake and lifted the fyke nets, taking 3 bluegills, 5-6 inches in length; 2 pumpkinseed sunfish, 3 and 5 inches; 7 perch, two 6-inch and 5 fingerlings 2-3 inches; and 2 common suckers, about 10 inches in length.

When the men from the Cadillac Club arrived, we began seining. Several hauls were made with the 125 foot bag seine with little success. In all, the seining, only 1 pumpkinseed sunfish young of the year, and 510 perch fingerlings, 2-3 inches, were taken.

It was the concensus of opinion that these operations were not profitable enough to warrant the expenditure of time and effort to continue. The group helped us load the equipment into the trucks and we left.

The perch and bluegills that were taken were planted in Lake Mitchell.

The Cadillac Club should be commended for the splendid assistance provided, especially the following men who helped in the seining operations: H. A. Johnson, William Modders, Ray Modders, Harold White, Cole Culver, Bob Davis, and Jack Crowe.

Thanks are also due Mr. Ralph Marks for his cooperation and to Mr. William Waters, who drove the tank unit and helped us at the lake.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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