

Original: Fish Division

cc: Education-Game

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DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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AGE AND GROWTH OF LARGEMOUTH BASS IN PINE AND STILL LAKES,
HOUGHTON COUNTY, AND PARTRIDGE LAKE, GOGEBIC COUNTY

by

W. C. Beckman

The samples of largemouth bass were taken from Pine and Still Lakes, Houghton County, by Conservation Officer C. E. Delene, and Paul Eschmeyer, District Fisheries Biologist, on July 3, 1941, and from Partridge Lake, Gogebic County, on July 14, 1941, by Roy Johnston, District Supervisor of Fisheries Operations, and Paul Eschmeyer. The scale samples were sent in to the Institute for age determinations.

The ages of the largemouth bass from Pine Lake are:

Standard length (mm.)	Total length (inches)	Weight (ounces)	Sex	Age group
218	10.2	8 3/4	♂	IV
221/4	10.6	9	♂	IV
232	11.0	12 1/4	♂	IV
235	11.2	11	♂	IV
266	12.6	14 3/4	♂	V

The sample, though small, indicates a slightly stunted population of largemouth bass. According to the tentative state average, largemouth bass at an age of IV years, in its 5th summer of life should be 12.1

inches in length, and at V years should be 13.3 inches. The weight was about normal for their length.

The ages of the largemouth bass from Still Lake are:

Standard length (mm.)	Total length (inches)	Weight (ounces)	Sex	Age group
200	9.6	6 3/4	♂	III
119	6.5	8	♂	IV
213	10.0	7 1/4	♂	IV
216	10.1	8	♂	IV
227	10.8	9	♂	IV
124	6.6	9 1/4	♀	IV
208	9.9	8	♀	IV
221	10.4	8 1/2	♀	IV
224	10.7	9 1/2	♀	VII
217	10.6	8 1/4	♀	VIII

The fish from this lake also are stunted. They average smaller than the fish taken in Pine Lake. The weight of these fish was about normal for their respective lengths.

Only 2 largemouth bass were taken from Partridge Lake. The ages are:

Standard length (mm.)	Total length (inches)	Weight (ounces)	Sex	Age group
153	7.3	...	♀	III
196	9.2	...	♀	IV

These fish also were small for their age, but the sample is not adequate for definite statements.

If the largemouth bass from these waters are not heavily parasitized, the slower rate of growth should not be considered as a detriment to their use in restocking other waters. It is quite possible that their

introduction into new waters would increase the growth of the stock planted. The removal of the fish for brood stocks in other waters also may increase the rate of growth in Pine, Still and Partridge Lakes.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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