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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

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Demonstration netting of Hubbard Lake,

Alcona County

by

W. F. Carbine

On August 26, 1946, Messrs. Leland R. Anderson, Kenneth Peterson, and Joe Southwick and the writer gill netted and seined Hubbard Lake for evidence of natural spawning and the general abundance of game fish. We also hoped to take rainbow trout and lake trout as a check on the survival of these planted species.

We contacted Mr. E. J. Rouleau, President of the Hubbard Lake Sportsmen and Improvement Association on the afternoon of August 26, at his home on the lake and told him of our plans. We also made arrangements with him to have all interested sportsmen present the morning of August 27 to witness our seining operations and to watch us lift the gill nets. Mr. Lou Cramer of Hubbard Lake Village was also contacted and was to be on hand to take pictures. Conservation Officer, Donald Gillies was also notified that we were setting gill nets and he was invited to come over when we set and lifted the nets.

All of the gill nets were set in the north end of the lake out from Madison's Resort. Six gill nets were set in depths ranging from

12 to 40 feet late on the afternoon of August 26 and were lifted on the morning of August 27. Approximately 30 people were present to witness our netting operations on August 27 and five boats accompanied our boat while the nets were being lifted.

A total of 280 perch (5 to 14 inches in length) and 8 ciscoes (5 to 8 inches in length) were taken in the gill nets. This catch is considered to be much better than average for perch in comparison with other lakes that have been netted during 1946. Some people were a bit disappointed because there were so few large fish in the nets. But our explanation (and demonstration) that our gill nets were of poor quality cotten and would permit large fish to swim right through them was accepted without argument.

Our gill netting demonstrated that Hubbard Lake has an abundant supply of perch.

Several hours were spent discussing the various problems that the sportsmen were interested in and answering numerous questions. All of the sportsmen seemed to be pleased with our efforts. According to some reports, fishing has not been too good at Hubbard Lake this past year, but many people who were acquainted with the lake had made good catches of fish and claimed that fishing was excellent.

Hubbard Lake is one of the largest lakes in Michigan (8,850 acres) and it is rather difficult to expect anyone to do any better than we did in such a short period of time. To do a real netting job it would be necessary to fish at least for a full week.

Seining was not very productive because of the sparse weed beds which provide but little cover for young fish. Six hauls of a 25-foot

bag seine along 300 feet of shore yielded 2 young-of-the-year northern pike (4-5 inches in length) and 43 perch (2-3 inches in length). Further seining with larger nets was not attempted because of the soft bottom and the numerous snags.

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