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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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VOLUNTARY CREEL CENSUS ON MARBLE LAKE, BRANCH COUNTY for 1948

By K. G. Fukano

FISH DIVISION

The Branch County Conservation League obtained records of fish catch during 1948 for Marble Lake and other lakes in Branch County. Of the 75 creel census books and 50 creel census sheets issued to the League, 12 books and seven sheets were returned to the Institute for Fisheries Research for tabulation.

Of these, five individuals (M. Gagauis, V. Grossjean, C. Hess, C. D. McKenzie, and R. J. Matuszak) recorded the information necessary for a complete analysis. The Curtiss Boat Livery recorded information for a partial analysis. Mr. J. F. Sweet did not record the time spent fishing; therefore, his records are not included in this tabulation. The five individuals who submitted complete information of their fishing should be praised for their work. However, we should have much better cooperation by members of the Branch County Conservation Club, giving fishing records on a larger number of fishermen, if the experiment on plantings of marked hatchery bluegills is adequately evaluated.

The purpose of the creel census on Marble Lake was to aid in determining the value of planting bluegills. In November, 1948, 10,000 left pelvic fin-clipped bluegills averaging two inches in length were stocked. To evaluate the effect of stocking on fishing, one must know the fishing quality before and after the stocked fish grow to catchable size.

The tabulation of the creel census is given in Table 1. When possible, two methods of determining fishing quality (1) the catch per hour and (2) the catch per angler, were calculated. The times spent fishing by fishing parties using the Curtiss Boat Livery were not given for each fishing party in many cases. Therefore, the quality of fishing was determined by using the catch per angler. After a glance at the catch per angler column one might be inclined to think that fishermen fishing from livery boats had better fishing success than the rest. However, the length of fishing day for the livery fishermen may be several hours longer than for the rest. To compare catch per angler between two groups of anglers, the average time spent fishing should be the same.

General creel census data, which are obtained by Conservation Officers, for Branch County are given in Table 2. The catch per hour for the general (2.04 fish) and voluntary creel census for Marble Lake (2.09 fish) are very similar.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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Report Approved by A. S. Hazzard

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Table 2: 1948 General creel census for Branch County

Number anglers	Hours fished	Legal fish	Catch per hour	Catch per angler	Blue-gill	IM bass	Perch	Crappie	Rock bass	P'seed	Brown trout	Pike	Rainbow trout
372	1,009	2,057	2.04	5.53	1,572	53	147	156	1	91	1	31	5