

Fish Diseases

copy to: I. L. Bullis

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

April 21, 1931

Report No. 55

REPORT ON A LARGE DISEASED PIKE-PERCH FROM THE
MUSKEGON RIVER

Concerning this specimen we received the following information from the Department of Conservation on April 11:

"Mr. Isaac L. Bullis of Newaygo, who is detailed to assist in the transfer of fish over the dam at Newaygo on the Muskegon River, advises that he sent one pike-perch to Ann Arbor under date of April 7th regarding which he comments as follows:- "this fish looks very bad, I wish you would let me know what is wrong with it."

The fish was in a good state of preservation when received.

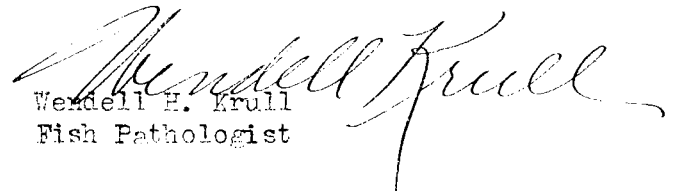
The disease is characterized by tumorous growths on the surface of the body which lift or free the scales. The disease is apparently the result of the hypertrophy of skin cells. Some of the areas were quite bloody and quite likely the result of handling the fish.

The disease is very similar to Lymphocystis (Dermocystis) described in Report No. 37. This disease, however, differs somewhat from lymphocystis since the fins in the specimen were not affected and the wart-like growths were more fibrous, indicating a tremendous connective tissue development.

The cause of the disease is as obscure as cancer in the human being. There seems, however, to be a possibility of it being due to bacteria or yeasts. A pure culture of bacteria has been isolated from this specimen but it may be of little value since it was isolated from the fish long after its death.

We are interested in finding out whether other diseased specimens, especially small ones were found affected and would appreciate any specimens sent us (on ice).

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH


Wendell E. Krull
Fish Pathologist