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FISH DIVISION

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

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Report 157

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON CONDITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
BROOK TROUT IN THE PIGEON RIVER

In previous reports, we have pointed out that brook trout in the Pigeon River (Otsego and Cheboygan counties) were in rather poor condition, thin and generally affected with small parasites producing black specks in the skin. Furthermore, we reported that the brook trout were becoming less abundant and were seldom taken in the lower portion of the river (in Cheboygan county).

It will be remembered that the advice of the Institute was requested as to the desirability of introducing brown trout into the Pigeon, in view of the condition as reported for the brook trout. Our reply was the suggestion that we await a more normal year before making a decision, as the observed condition might well be due to the abnormally low and warm water of 1930 and 1931.

Observations between the middle of June and the middle of July in 1932 show that our suspicion was correct. The brook trout, which we have seen in considerable numbers, are now in excellent condition, well rounded out and in good color, and free of the black cysts. The brook trout predominate over the rainbows in the Pigeon River Forest Area, and some are being taken down as far and even farther than Afton.

We therefore conclude that the Pigeon River is still regardable as a good brook trout stream. The addition of shelter by the stream improvement in the Forest area has clearly helped the fishing. The improved areas have been very heavily fished, however, and the upper area especially shows signs of depletion. This

situation will call for a heavy plant of large fingerlings or preferably yearling brook trout in the Forest area.

Although the weather has been generally cool during the period of observation in 1932, the stream has reached rather high temperatures. Part of the time it has been warmer than the air. No such dangerous water temperatures have been reached in the Forest this year as were attained during 1930 and 1931. However, the warmth of the water in this relatively cool season again emphasizes the need for holding down the temperature. One more large dam on the upper reaches of the river might well throw the stream beyond the balance for trout.

Water temperatures taken in Pigeon River in 1932

(The air temperatures were taken in the shade just above the water)

Where taken	Date	Time	Air temp.	Water temp.
Otsego Co., upper improvement area	June 22	11:30 A.M.	67	65
" " " " " "	" "	5:15 P.M.	70	66
" " " " " "	" 25	11:00 A.M.	64	59
" " " " " "	July 2	4:00 P.M.	65	65
Cheboygan Co., lower improvement area	July 11	3:45 P.M.	70	73
Otsego Co., at Headquarters	" 13	10:30 A.M.	78	68
" " " " " "	" "	3:15 P.M.	85	75
" " upper improvement area	" "	4:30 P.M.	75	68

Report prepared by Carl L. Hubbs and Clarence M. Tarzwell.

Copies furnished Messrs. Loutit, Westerman, Harper and Weber.