

Report 287

June 3, 1935

(2111)  
IDENTIFICATION OF CREEK CHUB FROM TRAVERSE CREEK, KEWEENAW COUNTY

On May 31, the Institute received for report the following request for identification and information:

Gentlemen: Lake Linden, Michigan 5/27/35  
Enclosed in this package is a fish caught with worms as bait in the Traverse Creek, Keweenaw County, in Section 29, T 56 N, R 31 W. Would appreciate very much if you would enlighten me on the following questions: FAMILY, SPECIE, COMMON NAME, HABITAT, EDIBLE and reason for finding them in a trout stream.

This particular stretch of above named stream contained a large number of these fish. The largest caught was 24 inches long. The fish is in a formaldehyde solution.

Yours truly,

H. E. Lemire (signed)

The fish referred to is a large adult, a breeding male, of the Creek Chub, also known as horned dace, etc. This fish belongs to the family of minnows, chubs, dace, shiners, carp, etc.,; in scientific nomenclature the family Cyprinidae. The scientific name of the creek chub is Semotilus atromaculatus.

The creek chub is one of the most abundant and universally distributed of Michigan fishes, occurring in virtually all parts of the state. It is commonest in small streams, but occasionally occurs in larger waters. It is edible, and would be considered a delicacy in many countries. Its only moderately firm flesh and plentiful bones, however, cause it to be seldom eaten in American except by small boys who eat anything they catch.

Creek chubs are common in many Michigan trout streams. In certain types of trout streams, especially warmer ones, they often abound; in some streams outnumbering the trout. The young chubs are eaten by the larger trout, but

large chubs feed to some extent at least on young trout. Furthermore, chubs eat much the same sort of food as trout and therefore are to be ranked as competitors. The good they do trout is probably about offset by the harm. In streams where large trout are common one would guess them to be helpful; in streams where small to medium sized trout abound, they are probably in general harmful to a greater or less degree. This problem is in need of more definite study.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs  
Director