

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

Report 301

August 2, 1935

REPORT ON SPECIMENS OF FISHES FOUND DEAD IN LAKE 13, HOUGHTON  
COUNTY

On August 2, 1935, the following letter was received by the Institute from  
R. S. Marks, Superintendent, Watersmeet State Fish Hatchery:

We are shipping you today by parcel post two suckers and one perch taken from Lake 13 in Houghton county.

The suckers and perch in this lake have been dying off at an alarming rate for the last two weeks. I wish you would examine these fish and if possible let me have a report on them and any suggestions you may have that might help the condition.

The lake is dammed up several feet by a Beaver dam and there is a lot of dead trees and brush in the lake near the shores. As this lake is within the National Forest I have suggested to them that they probably would help the condition by removal of the beaver dam.

In walking around the lake we found on the average of about five dead fish per rod.

The fish which arrived at the same time consisted of 2 adult Common Suckers (Catostomus c. commersonii), 1 adult Yellow Perch (Perca flavescens) and one adult Northern Dace (Margariscus margarita nachtriebi). These fishes were examined for possible cause of death, with the following result:

Skin: small black specks (cysts of trematode worm parasites) sparse in the suckers, common in the dace and perch; several white cysts of larger trematodes in the perch; tail region of body attacked by fungus, and fins injured, in the suckers.

Gills: apparently normal.

Internal organs: not well preserved, but apparently not badly infected.

From this examination, and the facts of the case, it would seem probable that the parasites were only a contributing factor to the death of these fishes; that the condition of the water either caused the death of the fish directly or weakened them so disease set in.

On this date Mr. J. W. Leonard of the Institute staff was wired at Crystal Falls to investigate the situation (if time permitted), and to report to appropriate authorities whether blowing the beaver dam would be expected to benefit the conditions.

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*Carl L. Hubbs*

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Director

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FISH DIVISION