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cc: Mr. Ruhl
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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

December 6, 1937

ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 443

REPORT ON CREEL CENSUS IN THE CONNECTING WATERS
BETWEEN LAKE SUPERIOR AND LAKE HURON

In connection with the question of commercial fishing versus sport fishing in Potagannissing Bay, Dr. John Van Oosten of the Bureau of Fisheries suggested that a creel census be taken in this area to ascertain the nature of the sport fishing.

Relatively complete data on the commercial fishing are available because reports are submitted by all of the commercial fishermen.

This report represents a summary of the creel census records submitted for the 1937 season by Conservation Officers Roosevelt Haken, Irving Ladd and Frank Nelson on Potagannissing Bay and other connecting waters in the general vicinity.

Records for only 240 fisherman-days over the entire area are available. This number is too small to indicate the extent of the angling or to be regarded as a reliable cross-section of the fishing in the several waters.

The 56 creel census records for Potagannissing Bay suggest that small-mouthed bass are rather common--of 237 legal-sized fish taken, 27 were bass.

On sheets for the other waters in the vicinity no bass were recorded. The records indicate too that Potagannissing Bay attracts anglers from a wide variety of localities. The 56 records are for residents from 7 counties and for 2 non-residents (Ohio). Almost half were for local anglers (Chippewa County); about a third were from Kent County and Wayne County.

The catch per hour (1.4) was identical with the average catch per hour for the entire state for the previous year (1936). In comparison, Waiska Bay (76 records in 1937) yielded 2.6 fish per hour. The fish in Waiska Bay had an average length of 11 inches; those from Potagannissing Bay averaged 9 1/2 inches long. The catch per hour (1.4) for Potagannissing Bay was in general slightly below that for the connecting waters (1.7).

Table 1 summarizes the general census data for each of the several waters; Table 2 indicates the species caught and the average size of the fish taken, and Table 3 shows the residence (by counties) of the anglers.

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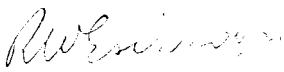

By R. W. Eschmeyer
Assistant Aquatic Biologist

TABLE 1

General Creel Census Data on Connecting Waters Between
Lake Superior and Lake Huron, 1937

Name of Water	No. of Fisherman-days	No. of Fisherman Taking No Fish	Total No. of Hours Fished	No. of Legal Fish Caught	Catch Per Fisherman	Catch Per Hour	Ave. Size Of All Fish Caught (Inches)	No. of Under-sized Fish Caught	No. of Hours Per Fisherman-day
Munuskong Bay	3	0	6.0	15	5.0	2.5	8.0	6	2.0
Below Power House ¹	16	10	68.0	12	0.75	0.2	Size not given	0	4.3
St. Mary's River	26	17	96.0	17	0.65	0.2	20.4	5	3.7
Scamon Cove	24	13	66.50	110	4.6	1.65	10.3	49	2.8
Pike Bay	2	1	3.0	5	2.5	1.7	7.0	4	1.5
Waiska Bay	76	0	332.0	864	11.4	2.6	11.0	160	4.4
Potagannissing Bay	56	17	170.50	237	4.2	1.4	9.5	180	3.0
Whitney Bay	37	7	100.00	184	5.0	1.8	9.0	131	2.7
Total or Average	240	65	842.0	1444	6.0	1.7	10.5	535	3.5

¹ Sault Ste. Marie

TABLE 2

Number and Size of Fish Caught, By Species, On the Number
Of Fisherman-days Indicated in Table 1

	Munuskong Bay		Below Power House		St. Mary's River		Scamon Cove		Pike Bay		Waiska Bay		Potagan-nissing Bay		Whitney Bay		Total No. & Ave. Size	
	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size	No.	Ave. Size
Rainbow Trout					2	19.0											2	19.0
Small-mouthed Bass													27	15.2			27	15.2
Sunfish											51	7.3	2	8.5	15	6.7	68	7.2
Yellow Perch	15	8.0					104	9.4	5	7.0	629	8.7	204	8.7	69	8.7	1026	8.8
Rock Bass											4	No size given	1	8.0	53	6.5	58	6.6
Walleye Pike			12	No size given	4	20.3					2	24.0					18	21.5
Northern Pike					11	20.7	6	24.7			146	22.1	3	18.5	19	18.3	185	21.7
Bullheads											32	No size given			28	9.3	60	9.3
Total and Average Size	15	8.0	12	No size given	17	20.4	110	10.3	5	7.0	864	11.0	237	9.5	184	9.0	1444	10.5

TABLE 3

Residence of Fishermen by County and State

County	Manuskong Bay	Below Power House ¹	St. Mary's River	Scamon Cove	Pike Bay	Waiska Bay	Potagannissing Bay	Whitney Bay	Total ²
				<u>Residents</u>					
Benzie							4		4
Charlevoix							4		4
Cheboygan							2		2
Chippewa	3	8	16	6	2	6	24	3	67
Kent							9	2	11
Macomb				1				2	3
Oakland			1						1
Saginaw							2		2
Wayne		4	6	4		63	9	3	89
Total	3	12	23	11	2	68	54	10	183
<u>State</u>				<u>Non-residents</u>					
Illinois		1	2			2			5
Ohio			1	13		6	2	27	49
Total		1	3	13		8	2	27	54

¹ Residence not given for 3 fisherman-days for this water

² 76.2% of the anglers were residents; 22.5% were non-residents.