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REPORT NO. 584

OBSERVATIONS ON LAKES MAPPED IN MENOMINEE COUNTY, JANUARY, 1940,
AS REGARDS AVAILABLE WATERS FOR FISHERIES WORK, WITH NOTES ON
STREAM CONDITIONS

Survey Party No. 1

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Incidental to sounding and mapping the lakes of Menominee County, some observations were made concerning the fish producing possibilities of the lakes and streams. The master plan map of Menominee County as furnished to the Division of Field Administration was used in planning operations and in field work. All public lakes considered to have depth enough for fish production were mapped and sounded. Private lakes were checked for production possibilities, and all lakes indicated on the map were investigated. Only those lakes found suitable for fish production are listed in this report. It will be noted that all these lakes lay in the Shakey River drainage or near that drainage system.

Public Lakes Suitable for Fish Production:

Chain of Lakes System - This consists of the following bodies of water: Long, East, Resort, Bass, Bakers and Beckers lakes. These lakes are all joined together by channels which allow the free movement of fish from one body of water to the others. The water level has been raised by

a dam at the point where the Shakey River leaves Long Lake. The Shakey Lakes County Park is situated between these lakes and they are the only considerable ^{bodies} ~~bodies~~ of water in the county suitable for fish production. They are heavily frequented in summer and a small amount of fishing is carried on through the ice.

Lake Ann and Lake Mary - These lakes are known locally as the Deep and Shallow Shakey lakes. Lake Mary is rapidly filling with peat and is already liable to winter kill. Lake Ann has a good flow of water through it and though of no great size, has definitely good fish production possibilities.

Snakey Lake - This body of water, though long, is very narrow and has a maximum depth of nine feet. There is no flow of water either in or out of it and the possibilities for fish production are very limited.

Lindbeck Lake - A small kettlehole lake which has some depth, but is too small and too difficult of access to be of much importance.

Dawn and Sunset lakes - These two small bodies of water lay on the head of Goodman Creek, which flows into the Menominee River. They contain some fish but are very limited as to fish production possibilities.

Private Lakes:

Of six private lakes investigated, only two are of value for fish production.

Spring Lake Pond - On the property of the Whispering Pines Club. An area of a few acres created by a dam.

Johnson Lake - On the property of Mr. Lauerman - A small lake with good drainage known to produce considerable fishing.

Thirty-seven other bodies of water in the county were investigated. Four of these were Mill Dams.

Talbot Pond and Spalding Pond - The dams at these places have recently broken or been blown out. No impounded water remains. Good fishing reported from these places when they held water.

Ingalls Pond - Dam has been out for a number of years.

Hermansville Pond - Still in use but negatived for fish production because of use as a hot pond. We observed hundreds of dead fish in the open water near the mill.

Thirty-three other lakes, many of considerable size, were found to be so filled with marl or peat accumulations that they will no longer support fish.

Recommendations:

It is obvious to any observer that fish production in the lakes of Menominee County is limited by the small amount of suitable water available.

There are two methods whereby this available water area might be increased:

(a) By impounding water again in the old river dams or at other suitable places.

(b) By removing the peat from some of the smaller filled in lakes by pumping operations. This procedure has not been tested thoroughly and might prove to be impractical but is suggested as worth an experiment.

Stream Conditions:

No regular survey of streams was attempted, but general conditions were observed, and as much information as possible collected from residents and interested parties.

The same low water table conditions which affect the lakes holds true in regard to stream fishing. Some good early season catches of trout were reported but these reports indicate that these catches were made on those streams or brooks where the fish had an opportunity to retire to areas of deeper water where they could survive the adverse circumstances attendant on low water conditions. In a few cases spring water conditions exist which permit of trout survival.

Usual methods of stream improvement would probably be ineffective due to lack of consistent flow. Further investigation should look to possibilities for conserving water levels and the raising of the general water table.

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