

Original: Fish Division
cc: Education-Game
Mr. Fortney
Mr. J. G. Marks
INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH Mr. Washburn
DIVISION OF FISHERIES Institute for Fisheries
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Research
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

September 27, 1944

ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ANNEX
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 959

INSPECTION OF WILDER CREEK REARING POND

IN RESPECT TO TROUT POSSIBILITIES

by

G. N. Washburn

Wilder Creek Rearing Pond, Eckford Township, lies in the central part of Calhoun County (T. 3 S., R. 5 W., Section 23). It was formed by the impoundment of Wilder Creek, a tributary to Rice Creek. The pond is maintained and controlled by the Wilder Creek Association in cooperation with the Department of Conservation. The grounds around the pond act as a picnic spot and are neat and attractive in appearance.

An inspection (for trout possibilities) of the impoundment and immediate stream was made on September 26, 1944. The stream above the pond contained clear, cold water (temperature 57°F.) with an estimated flow of 3-4 c.f.s. The stream bed was variable in composition, being composed of stretches of sand, gravel and rubble, which would be suitable for trout spawning grounds. Indications that this stream would support trout the year around is evidenced by the presence of large patches of water cress, an aquatic plant that invariably thrives in cold spring water. The stream has been regularly planted with small numbers of legal-sized trout or fingerlings in past years. Examination of the bank along the stream showed that some erosion is taking place, even in areas where the cover is abundant.

Consequently, seasonal high water can be expected and should be considered in any management program.

The pond covers about 12-15 acres (estimated) with a maximum depth of six feet, located near the outlet. The basin slope is gentle and complete drainage is possible. Aquatic plants in the lower pond area are sparse, consisting of a few beds of water lilies; while in the upper portion, beds are more profuse. The bottom is chiefly sand overlain with muck ranging in depth from six inches to two feet. The water level is controlled by sluice boards in the inlet to the seining box (the only outlet to the pond at present), and the flow is controlled by a similar box at the inlet which can be adjusted to completely shut off the water, forcing it to flow through a by-pass ditch constructed for this purpose. The inlet and outlet logs are of the same dimension (estimated at 18 inches in diameter). There is no device (emergency spillway) present at the dam to control an excess of water which might enter the pond, nor is there any dam on the by-pass ditch to force the full flow of Wilder Creek into the rearing pond.

Recommendations

If agreeable to the association a planting of trout (brown and rainbows) should be made in the fall of 1944 or in the spring of 1945 and fishing (restricted--similar to Portage Creek Pond) be allowed during the 1945 season, providing certain conditions are corrected if investigation proves this is necessary.

Investigations needed are as follows:

a. At the inlet, should some sort of a barrier be placed across the by-pass, raising the water level sufficiently to keep the inlet log filled at all times?

b. At the outlet, would it be desirable to construct an emergency sluice to take care of excess water?

The advice of the Fish Division engineer on these points would be very helpful.

Note

In order to maintain a cool temperature in the pond throughout the summer, it is believed that a flow (maximum for the present inlet) should be in operation continually, hence the need for an emergency spill.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

G. N. Washburn

Report approved by: A. S. Hazzard

Report typed by: M. Klaphaak