

Original: Fish Division

cc: Education-Game

George Sumner, Conservation Officer

Mr. Robert Fortney - 11/27/44

Mr. J. G. Marks - 11/27/44

(W) 11/27/44

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Institute for Fisheries Res.

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*all*

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DIRECTOR

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ADDRESS  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ANNEX  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 970

MANAGEMENT CHECK ON DEEP LAKE, BARRY COUNTY

*See 26-T 3 N, R 10 W  
by Andrew Sprague, Jrf*

by

A. S. Hazzard

Four experimental gill nets were set over-night on October 30, 1944 in Deep Lake. One was placed out from the inlet stream, one near the outlet and the other two about midway between these sets along either shore. Depth of water ranged from six to about thirty feet. Surface water temperature was 50°F. The following fish were taken:

- 4 Brown trout (18 1/2, 20 3/4, 24 and 25 3/4 inches)
- 1 Mud pickerel (232 mm.)
- 3 Perch (244, 280, 297)
- 2 Largemouth bass (175, 182)
- 1 Green sunfish (127)
- 5 Bluegills (102-200)
- 1 Pumpkinseed sunfish (168)
- 1 Black crappie (150)
- 8 Common suckers (285-464)
- 1 Golden shiner (170)

The three largest brown trout were mature males and were taken in the one net set off the inlet stream. Presumably they were on their way up to spawn in the inlet or had just dropped down after spawning. As they were caught only by the teeth and were in good condition, they were released

alive. The fourth trout was taken in the net set off the bar extending out from the east side of the lake and was dead in the net. This fish was a female only partly spent and still ripe.

The primary purpose of the netting was to determine if any of the rainbow trout planted in 1942 and 1943 had survived. Report of the capture of one rainbow trout in Deep Lake in 1943 was received through District Fisheries Supervisor Fortney. Conservation Officer George Sumner, who met us at the lake when the nets were being lifted, stated that he had not heard of any rainbow trout being caught there this past year but that fishermen reported seeing a number of silvery fish jumping which they took to be rainbows. Since no rainbow trout were taken in our nets and in view of the reports of field men, we must assume that the plantings of 2,000 rainbow fingerlings (8 months) each in 1942 and 1943 were failures. The reported presence of good-sized largemouth bass and the presence of large brown trout probably accounts for the lack of survival of rainbows of this size. Mr. Sumner reported there had been excellent bluegill fishing in Deep Lake at times this past summer and that some good bass and perch are also caught. Apparently very few if any brown trout are taken by anglers presumably because they do not fish at the proper depths during the season when the lake is open. He promised to try to encourage some deep fishing with minnows for these fish another year.

Brown trout have not been stocked in Deep Lake at least during the past ten years but have been maintaining what is presumably a maximum population by natural reproduction. Since they seem adapted to this particular lake and since rainbow plantings have apparently failed, it is recommended that no further stocking be done but that an effort be made to develop the fishing for brown trout. Any of the four trout, particularly any of the three big ones, would give an angler a real thrill. I believe they can

be caught if fished for in the thermocline (from about 20 to 30 feet of water) with worms or medium sized (4-5 inches) minnows.

While at the lake the outlet was examined and it was noted that the low dam present when the survey was made (1936) has gone out. An increase in the present level by from 2 to 3 feet would greatly improve this lake by adding to the area by flooding the present swampy border, by increasing the productive shoal (which is very limited at present), and by bringing the water up to high, firm ground. Very little timber would be affected by such an increase and no cottages would be endangered. An ideal site for the dam is available. It is believed that cottage owners would welcome this dam and it would improve the existing state frontage which I believe is considerable.

A new management card is being prepared for Deep Lake.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

By A. S. Hazzard

Report typed by V. M. Andres

SKETCH SHOWING STATE OWNERSHIP

SECTION 26, Town 3 North, Range 10 West

Shore line of Deep Lake, drawn from G. L. O. Notes. Total Meandered shore line: 152.40 Chains, or 10,150 feet.  
In Private Ownership: circa 1640 feet.

State Ownership: Indicates Purchase numbers.

