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Institute for
Fisheries Research
-Mr. J. T. Wilkinson
Mr. W. R. Crowe

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
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ALBERT S. HAZZARD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

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ANALYSIS OF DATA ON SUCKER REMOVAL FROM BURT LAKE,
CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, APRIL 12 TO MAY 16, 1949

By
Walter R. Crowe

The sucker removal program initiated in Burt Lake in 1947 was continued for a month in 1949. During this period 4 trap nets were operated for a total of 36 lifts. The nets were set in the vicinity of the mouth of the Sturgeon River off the public bathing beach. The nets were operated by Messrs. Verne Seaman, Jr. and Jack Hilborn, commercial fishermen resident in Cheboygan. The nets were lifted under the supervision of Mr. Norman Aldrich, Conservation Officer in Cheboygan County. Data were compiled from field sheets turned in by Mr. Aldrich, and a summary prepared by Mr. H. L. Thompson, District Fisheries Supervisor. Mr. Seaman also submitted a summary showing poundages of suckers sold, and given away. Data from these three sources are incorporated in the report. Results are tabulated in Table I.

The suckers harvested from Burt Lake in 1949 had an average weight of 2.4 pounds. Total poundage of suckers removed was 16.2 tons. From an examination of results obtained in 1947 and 1948 it is apparent that the sucker fishing was done during the most productive period of the spring. This can be more clearly demonstrated in Table II.

TABLE I

Summary of commercial netting in Burt Lake
Cheboygan County, Michigan, April 12 to May 16, 1949

	4-12-49	4-13-49	4-16-49	4-18-49	4-22-49	4-25-49	4-29-49	5-12-49	5-16-49	Total
Sucker	1760	633	1621	2069	2538	510	1089	140	2960	13320
Catch/Lift	440	158	405	517	634.5	127.5	272	35	740	370
Percent	91.6	90.9	89.1	93.1	92.9	72.1	77.2	34.8	89.6	87.6
Walleye	123	39	126	97	136	105	210	103	135	1074
Catch/Lift	31	10	31.5	24	34	26	52.5	26	34	30
Percent	6.4	5.6	6.9	4.4	5.0	14.9	14.9	25.6	4.1	7.1
R. Bass	6	2	17	19	31	37	63	134	158	467
Catch/Lift	1.5	0.5	4	5	8	9	16	33.5	39.5	13
Percent	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	1.1	5.2	4.5	33.3	4.8	3.1
Bass [✓]	12	7	31	22	13	32	27	19	23	186
Catch/Lift	3	2	8	5.5	3	8	7	5	6	5
Percent	0.6	1.0	1.7	1.0	0.5	4.5	1.9	4.7	0.7	1.2
N. Pike	19	9	15	9	3	4	9	...	11	79
Catch/Lift	5	2	4	2	1	1	2	...	3	2
Percent	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.6	...	0.3	0.5
R. Trout	2	6	10	3	5	6	7	...	2	41
Catch/Lift	0.5	1.5	2.5	1	1	1.5	2	...	0.5	1
Percent	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.5	...	0.1	0.2
Other [✓]	4	5	13	5	6	13	46
Catch/Lift	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	1.5	3	1
Percent	...	...	...	0.1	0.2	1.8	0.4	1.5	0.4	0.3
Grand Total										15213
										423
										100.0

[✓] Includes both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

[✓] Includes muskellunge, brown trout, dogfish, lawyers, carp, gar, sunfish, bullhead, mullet (M. anisurum)

TABLE II

Comparison between netting in Burt Lake, Cheboygan County, Michigan in 1947, 1948, 1949

1947 3/21/47-5/13/47

1948 3/22/48-5/10/48

1949 4/12/49-5/16/49

	Total Catch			Catch per lift			Percent			1947	1948	1949
	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1949			
Sucker	7,367	9,958	13,320	134	172	370	82.6	65.8	87.6	16.9%	30.7%	12.1%
Walleye	1,121	3,259	1,074	20	56	30	12.6	21.5	7.1	game fish	game fish	game fish
R. Bass	70	867	467	1	15	13	1.0	5.7	3.1			
Bass [✓]	217	297	186	4	5	5	2.3	2.0	1.2	26 game fish	80 game fish	51 game fish
N. Pike	78	149	79	1	3	2	1.0	1.0	0.5	per lift	per lift	per lift
R. Trout	18	23	41	...	...	1	...	...	0.2			
Other [✓]	46	571	46	...	9		0.5	4.0	0.3			
Totals				161	261	423	100.0	100.0	100.0			

[✓] Includes both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

[✓] Includes muskellunge, brown trout, brook trout, dogfish, lawyers, carp, gar, sunfish, bullheads, mullet, sturgeon, whitefish, herring.

It is apparent from the results obtained in 1949 (Table II) that the fairly extensive netting done in Burt Lake in 1947, 1948, and 1949 has had little effect on the available crop of suckers.

There are certain fluctuations evident in the catch of game fish but no very significant changes are apparent. As in 1947 and 1948 major effort was devoted to the capture of suckers, and nets were not moved about. The netting period in 1949 was of relatively short duration.

I believe that the suckers in Burt Lake should continue to be harvested if commercial fishermen are available for the project.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Walter R. Crowe

Report approved by A. S. Hazzard

Report typed by B. J. Bair