

copy to: Chas. Craig

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

December 8, 1931

Report No. 108

IDENTIFICATION OF LAKE SHINNERS IN AU SABLE RIVER, IOSCO COUNTY,  
AND DESIRABILITY OF PLANTING SAME IN HUBBARD AND OTHER LAKES

On December 8, the Institute for Fisheries Research received from  
Chas. Craig, of the Harrisville Hatchery, the following communication:

"I am sending, by parcel post, a sample of shiners that are present in large numbers, at this time, in AuSable river. They are apparently all of the same species and I have an idea to plant them in some the lakes that are deficient in perch and bass food Particularly Hubbard Lake. Where all of the investigations (By Metzlar, Langlois, Jones & Hubbs. The latter which I,m not sure was Your self or not). All shows that the Perch were under size and as we are planting year after year lake Huron yellow perch. I assume that it must be due to lack of proper food.

"I,m of the opinion that these shiners can,t due any thing but good even if they consume some of the smaller fish fry. But of course am referring the matter to higher authority before going ahead.

"As usual we are in a considerable of a hurry as we don,t know how long the fish will stay."

The fish arrived the same day. These proved, as would be expected, to be lake shiners (Notropis atherinoides). This species exists in untold millions in the Great Lakes, and has the habit of crowding into the river mouths in the fall. They are often mistaken for the young of the lake herring, but they are a species of shiner.

As to the desirability of planting this species in Hubbard Lake we can only offer some ideas.

In the first place, this species is absent in nearly all of the inland lakes of the state, absent in practically all except a few of the largest and cleanest lakes which are near the Great Lakes level. We have seined some

inland lakes in which lake shiners are said to have been planted and have found none surviving.

The facts that the lake shiner is naturally absent in most of our inland lakes, and that it apparently has not survived in some in which it has been planted, leads us to regard the introduction of this species into interior waters as a very uncertain gamble.

There is little reason to suppose that the lake shiners will eat any large numbers of the fry of the game fish.

A large proportion of the lake shiners which might be carried into Hubbard and similar lakes would probably be eaten themselves by the game fish even though they did not reproduce themselves - provided they were handled carefully enough so that death would not follow transportation. This species is quite delicate, but can be handled in quantity in cold weather. Care should be taken to avoid any injuries as these fish easily lose scales and easily develop fungus.

This report is given merely as a matter of fact and opinion. The question of whether it will be considered worth while to transport these fish in quantity into Hubbard or other lakes is of course a matter for the Department to decide.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

*Carl L. Hubbs*

Carl L. Hubbs

Director

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