

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

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Report 146

ON DWARF SUCKERS FROM WEST TWIN LAKE, ROSCOMMON COUNTY

On May 18th the Institute for Fisheries Research received a shipment of 8 small suckers, accompanied by the following letter:

"Am sending you by express a few sucker minnows taken from West Twin Lake, twp. 21 N. range 1 west, Roscommon County. This request was made by F. A. Westerman, of Fish Division, Lansing, Michigan, letter dated August 1st, 1931, which copy was mailed to Dr. Hubbs.

Yours very truly

Thomas White (Signed)

Conservation Officer"

The letter from Mr. Westerman to Mr. White, dated August 1, 1931, was as follows:

"We have your letter of July 25th regarding the taking of minnows from West Twin Lake in T. 21 N., R. 1 West, Roscommon County.

"Messrs. Roy Carr, Warren Beebe and Charles Sanford with whom you are acquainted called at this office a few days ago regarding this same matter. They explained that the taking of minnows from this lake is confined to a two-week period some time during the month of May when suckers appear on the shore of this lake in great numbers which, apparently, are mature fish and average small size.

"Therefore, we will delay final action on this matter until more careful investigation can be made at the time the fish are running. We desire that you advise of the date next year. We also desire to have samples of these fish shipped to the Institute for Fisheries Research at Ann Arbor, for identification and age determination."

An examination of these eight fish showed them to belong to the species Catostomus commersonnii, commonly known as "white suckers" or "common suckers".

They were all in the height of maturity, and the sex products were freely strip-pable. Two were males, six females.

These lake suckers represent a much dwarfed stock, as shown by the tabulated size and age determinations.

Sex	Standard length, mm.	Over all, inches	Age
Male	128	6 1/4	III
Male	134	6 9/16	III
Female	137	6 13/16	IV
Female	141	6 7/8	IV
Female	139	6 15/16	IV
Female	143	7 1/16	IV
Female	158	7 3/4	V
Female	161	8	IV

The age is expressed in even years since spawning. The estimates are in part certainly correct, in part possibly one year off, plus or minus.

In any event, the fish are breeding adults of a dwarfed stock. The dwarfing is probably related to overcrowding, as the fish are reported to appear on the shoals in great numbers during the spawning season in May.

On account of the great numbers and the dwarfed condition, there would appear to be no serious harm in allowing the taking of even rather large numbers of these little suckers for "minnows".

Examination made and report prepared by the undersigned.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs.

Carl L. Hubbs
Director.