

September 27, 1932

Report 171

REPORT ON MUD LAKE, MANISTEE COUNTY,
WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FISHING

<u>Size and location</u>	Mud Lake, one of the Dickson lakes, is quite small. It has an area of 8.5 acres. It is located 1/2 mile east and about 1/2 mile north of Brethren. A trail passes within several hundred feet of the lake.
<u>Inlets and outlets</u>	The inlet enters the lake from Dickson Lake which is a few hundred yards to the east. The outlet is a tributary to Bear Creek. Both inlet and outlet streams are reported to be trout streams.
<u>Water</u>	The water is fairly clear and is clean. There is no evidence of pollution.
<u>Use of water</u>	The water is used only for fishing. Conditions are unsatisfactory for swimming. There is no resort development. Several boats were found on the lake.
<u>Temperature</u>	Summer temperature is high at all depths.
<u>Oxygen</u>	Oxygen is high at all depths.
<u>Other chemical conditions</u>	The water is fairly soft. It is decidedly alkaline. No free carbon dioxide was present when the lake was examined.
<u>Bottom</u>	The bottom is chiefly of pulpy peat. Some soft marl is present in portions of the lake.
<u>Cover</u>	There is very little protection for young fish except that provided by vegetation.

Vegetation Mud Lake is amply supplied with bulrushes, lilies, pickerel weed, several pondweeds, muskgrass, water weed, and water milfoil. Other useful weeds are present in small patches.

Natural food Minnows are fairly abundant. Snails are plentiful. Frogs and aquatic insects are abundant. Food, in general, is good.

Spawning grounds Some bluegill beds were observed on the marl. The nests were made on vegetation. No bass beds were seen. It is reported that bass nest in Dickson Lake and that the young bass enter Mud Lake through the short inlet from Dickson. It is reported that bass were never known to spawn in Mud Lake. Conditions are unfavorable for their spawning.

Predators Turtles, including snappers, Blanding's and painted, are quite common. Kingfishers, great blue heron, and green heron are also common. Undesirable predatory species of fish were not seen or reported.

Species of fish present Game fish. Bass, bluegills, and perch are common. All reach a fair size in this lake. Trout are reported to be taken at certain times of the year.

Coarse fish. Common suckers are present in limited numbers.

Obnoxious fish. No obnoxious fish were seen or reported.

Forage fish. Minnows, including golden shiners, are fairly abundant.

Recommendations

Stocking Bluegills are plentiful in Dickson Lake and enough appear to enter Mud Lake from Dickson. The annual planting of 300 largemouth bass fingerlings is recommended. The lake is too warm in summer for trout.

Predator control Predator control is considered unnecessary.

Gravel spawning beds Not considered advisable.

Food increase

Increase of food is considered unnecessary.

Vegetation and
fertility increase

Considered unnecessary.

Cover increase

The construction of 10 small brush shelters is recommended. For this lake the shelters suggested in the general report are considered too large. Ten shelters of loosely woven brush (about 5' x 5' x 3') anchored in the lake at various locations, should offer excellent shelter for the young fish. This is especially desirable in winter when vegetation dies down and when both trout and warmwater fish are present.

Water level

Water level appears to remain quite constant. Damming the outlet, to raise the water, would be difficult because of bottom conditions in the outlet. It would also tend to flood the road. A dam is not recommended.

Screen in outlet
and inlet

Screens in outlets and inlets are often desirable. Since pike are apparently not present in Mud Lake and since trout use the lake at certain times of year, a screen in the outlet appears unnecessary.

Some pike are present in Dickson Lake but these apparently do not enter Mud Lake. A screen between the two lakes would prevent young bass from entering Mud Lake. Since Dickson Lake contains more favorable spawning conditions the passage of small bass into Mud Lake appears quite desirable. A screen in the Mud Lake inlet is not now suggested.