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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF FISH FROM WOODWARD LAKE, IONIA COUNTY

At the request of Mr. Harold Treat, District Supervisor of the Division of Field Administration, of Grand Rapids, an examination was made of the fish from Woodward Lake, which lies directly north of Ionia.

According to reports, this lake was overrun with small bluegills.

On July 9, 1938, a fish sample was taken in the east end of the lake near Paul Pelon's resort. Over 100 bluegills were taken by Mr. Pelon and myself in 2 hours. Not one fish was of legal size. Eight 6-8 inch bluegills were seen in the catch of two fishermen who had fished all day. One 18-inch large-mouth bass ($2 \frac{3}{4}$ pounds) was taken on a plug. This fish was 9 or 10 years old and in good condition.

Scales were examined from the fish caught by angling.

The random sample of 40 fish saved for study included 2 pumpkinseeds, 17 bluegills and 21 hybrids (pumpkinseed x bluegill).

The largest bluegill was just a fraction under 6 inches (total length) and had 7 annuli (year marks). The other bluegills which ranged from $2\frac{1}{2}$ -5 inches in total length showed between 3 and 7 annuli.

A pumpkinseed (5 inches total length) had 6 annuli, and a hybrid ($5\frac{1}{4}$ inches total length) had 5 annuli. One perch just 4 inches total length had 3 annuli.

It is quite obvious that the population of bluegills and sunfish are stunted. Any measures which would reduce the population without affecting other conditions adversely would undoubtedly improve fishing conditions.

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