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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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ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 502

TAGGING OF LAKE TROUT IN LAKE MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 7, 1938

On November 5, 1938, Harold Bowditch and the writer were met at Baldwin by Walter Crowe of the Institute for Fisheries Research, who had instructions to contact Mr. Earl Juilloret of Harbor Springs. Mr. Juilloret had volunteered to obtain lake trout for tagging.

The original objective of the Harbor Springs fishermen in requesting the tagging (see previous correspondence) was to determine whether the smaller lake trout spawning on the inshore reefs of Little Traverse Bay return to these grounds in succeeding years. However, when the investigators arrived, the spawning was over in Little Traverse Bay, and we fished over deeper reefs in Lake Michigan outside and northwest of Little Traverse Bay. The few lake trout tagged were marked in order to see if we could handle the fish of relatively large size which they catch in deeper water under the conditions of the skiff fishery. We found that it could be done without too much difficulty.

We arrived in Harbor Springs on the afternoon of November 6 and immediately set 400 feet of 5 1/2-inch mesh gill net about 250 yards off Seven-Mile Point in Lake Michigan. The net was set by Fred Gasso in ~~from~~ 7 to 15 feet of water and was fishing from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No fish were taken in this lift.

On the evening of November 7, two 400-foot nets of the previously mentioned mesh were set about one mile northwest of Seven-Mile Point in from 35 to 50 feet of water (6 to 8 fathoms). The nets were set at 5:45 p.m. and pulled at 9:00 p.m. Two 16-foot skiffs were used; the nets and fish were lifted in one boat, while the fish were tagged and measured in the other. The oarsman in the tagging boat kept both boats headed into the wind as much as possible. A Coleman lantern was used for illumination. The fish were passed from one boat to the other, measured, tagged and released. Temperatures were: air 43, water 49 at 6 p.m. (rain).

A total of 33 lake trout ranging in size from 20 to 38 inches were taken in the lift, of which 28 were tagged and released, 3 escaped either in being passed between boats or as they were being lifted, and 2 were dead in the nets. All tagged fish swam away. The fish released were tagged with the large No. 1 monel metal tags bearing "MICH" on one side and the serial number on the other. The tags were placed so as to encircle the lower left jaw. A list of the tag numbers and corresponding lengths is appended.

Because the work was done in a tossing boat by lamplight and in a pouring rain, it took approximately two hours to tag this rather small number of fish. Despite their size they were more easily handled than rainbow or brook trout of half their size. No more fishing was attempted because the fishermen wished to prepare for the open season; also a northwest gale was blowing.

According to the fishermen, anywhere from 500 to 1,000 lake trout could be tagged if we visit Harbor Springs shortly after the Lake Michigan season closes in October. We arrived too late to do any fishing in Little Traverse Bay. Working conditions would also be more favorable if we can fish where they indicated.

Every cooperation possible was afforded us during our short stay in Harbor Springs. Boats and nets were furnished by Fred and Alex Gasso and by the Juilleret Brothers fishery. We are indebted to these men for assistance in the work.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

David S. Shetter

By David S. Shetter
Assistant Aquatic Biologist

Lake trout tagged 3/4 mile off Seven-Mile Point,
Lake Michigan, WNW by W, November 7, 1938

<u>Tag No.</u>	<u>Total Length (mm.)</u>	<u>Tag No.</u>	<u>Total Length</u>
50203	840	50228	830
50204	790	50229	725
50205	680	50231	650
50206	565		
50207	640		
50208	633		
50209	700		
50210	760		
50211	670		
50212	620		
50213	760		
50214	675		
50215	860		
50216	940		
50217	735		
50218	590		
50219	658		
50220	620		
50221	755		
50222	740		
50223	635		
50224	790		
50225	650		
50226	700		
50227	800		