

Original: Fish Division  
cc: Mr. Potts  
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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
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REPORT NO. 525-A

REVISED MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS FOR O'BRIEN LAKE, ALCONA COUNTY

by

A. S. Hazzard

Net samples taken in the spring and fall of 1942 and creel census records secured by C. O. Verne Dockham at the start of the 1942 fishing season indicate that:

- a) Perch, rock bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, common shiners and horned dace have re-invaded the lake probably due to the defective brush filter dam in the outlet.
- b) Cutthroat trout planted in 1940 furnished good fishing in 1941 but have now practically disappeared and apparently did not reproduce in the lake.
- c) Grayling were present in fair numbers at the start of the fishing season but are now rare or absent. No reproduction is evident.
- d) Brook trout have not done well in this lake. In spite of two plantings of good sized fingerlings (10,500 in 1939 and 2,500 in 1941) relatively few brooks have been caught and none over ten inches have been taken in gill netting. Also the brook trout from this lake appear to be rather thin for lake fish.

The original management proposals made in March, 1939 have therefore been revised as follows: (See management Proposal card—numbers used are item numbers on this card).

3. Retain present "Trout Lake" designation but omit from list of trout lakes in which the use of live minnows is prohibited.

6. No more plantings of trout or any other fish should be made until the lake can be repopulated because warm-water fish have become re-established and brook trout growth and condition seem poor. Cessation of stocking will also permit an opportunity to determine if natural reproduction is successful.

10. Cancel earlier recommendation for brush shelters. No shelters are considered necessary at present.

11. Add to gravel placed in spring inlets if needed. (Under Mr. Clark's direction, the inlet streams were cleaned out this fall and a layer of gravel was placed in them.)

12. Install a rock and gravel filter dam in the outlet to prevent entrance of fish after re-poisoning.

13. Re-poison lake as soon as Derris (or a good substitute) is available.

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Report typed by: G. Wood