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REPORT ON THE CREEL CENSUS IN  
LITTLE BAY DE NOC, 1942.

by

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During the spring and summer of 1942 a creel census was conducted in the upper end of Little Bay De Noc by the two boat livery operators on this bay, Mr. Joe Meltz of Rapid River and Mr. William Nelson of Masonville. Conservation Officer Allen Tweedy of Rapid River secured the cooperation of these men, and obtained many reports through personal contact.

The form used in this census was developed from suggestions made by conservation officers and livery operators and has also been employed in a similar census on Lake St. Clair. (See sample attached.) For a simple yield study this form has proved to be quite satisfactory.

Very little fishing was done prior to the opening of the walleye season on May 21, and none was reported after September 9, 1942. During the period records were obtained from 825 anglers. These people fished 2,942 hours and took 2,494 legal fish, or 0.85 fish per hour.

The species composition of the total catch is given in the following table.

SPECIES COMPOSITION OF 1942 CATCH IN LITTLE BAY DE NOC.

	Percent	Number
Perch	70.5	1,757
Walleye	14.3	357
Black Bass	8.0	200
Northern Pike	5.4	135
Rock Bass	1.5	36
White Bass	0.3	8
Dogfish	-	1
Total	100.0	2,494

Non-residents composed 29.6% of the total number of fishermen. States represented in the non-resident group are Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Missouri, and Texas.

Of the 825 fishermen 287, or 34.8%, took no fish. Comparing the residents and non-residents in this respect, it is found that 35.2% of the non-residents and 34.6% of the residents were "blanked". This information is summarized in the following table:

	Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Number	581	244	825
Per cent	70.4	29.6	100
Number taking no fish	201	86	287
Per cent taking no fish	34.6	35.2	-

In regard to the type of bait used, it is interesting to note that the anglers using natural bait (worms, minnows, etc.) caught 1.52 fish per hour; those using artificial lures (plugs, spoons, etc.) took 0.27 fish per hour; and those using combinations of the two (spinner and worms, etc.) caught 0.41 fish per hour. This illustrates again that the angler using natural bait is likely to take home a larger catch. It must also be emphasized that many of the natural bait users are fishing for perch, and perch are usually taken in larger numbers than are pike or bass.

A creel census is being taken during the winter months by Officer Tweedy from Rapid River and Officer Brown from Escanaba. It is hoped that the census can be conducted again next summer through the cooperation of the boat livery operators. This method has proven very satisfactory in several instances and it is felt that a reasonably true picture of the amount and quality of sport fishing is obtained.

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