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ATTEMPTS TO SECURE MARKED RAINBOW TROUT  
FROM THE RIFLE RIVER

by

George N. Washburn

On September 17, 1942, 10,019 fingerling (two to four inches in length) rainbow trout from the Grayling hatchery were marked by the removal of the dorsal and adipose fin and planted in the Rifle River at the following locations: Ogemaw County, Churchill Township, T. 22 N., R. 3 E., Sections 21, 28, 9 and 4, Cummings Township, Sections 4, 33, 27 and 22.

On June 15, 1943 an Institute field party composed of C. J. D. Brown, L. E. Perry, and G. N. Washburn spent an afternoon on the Rifle River, fishing in the near vicinity of where the fin-clipped rainbows were released. A small sample of trout was secured using both bait and fly. The stream was fished at three locations; namely, Sections 21 and 28, T. 22 N., R. 3 E., just above and below the M-55 road bridge. At this location five trout were taken. Near a county road crossing in Section 9 of the same town and range one trout was obtained. The remaining fish were collected in Section 4 of the same town and range. Two trout were taken at this location.

Tabulated below is a list of the trout collected, including the total length in millimeters\* and marking identifications.

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\*Measured and scale-sampled six months after preservation in formaldehyde.

Species		Markings					Total length in millimeters
Rainbow trout		Dorsal and adipose fin removed					162
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	173
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	161
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	164
*"	"	"	"	"	"	"	161
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	153
"	"	Unmarked					189
Brown trout		"					151

\* The anterior portion of the dorsal fin showed some regeneration.

Of the eight trout captured, seven were rainbows, of which six were marked, signifying that they were a part of the fall of 1942 planting. The remaining two trout, a brown and a rainbow were probably a part of a wild population.

Angling did not prove to be too successful a method for securing an adequate sample. A total of approximately 12 man-hours were necessary to secure eight trout, of which six were taken by bait and two on flies. The stream conditions were not ideal as high and turbid waters were encountered. The weather conditions were fair, the sky being partly overcast and a gentle breeze blowing. No record was made of the water temperatures.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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