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UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ANNEX  
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REPORT NO. 955

AN EXAMINATION OF WEBBER LAKE, HOUGHTON COUNTY,

TO DETERMINE ITS SUITABILITY FOR STOCKING WITH TROUT OR OTHER FISH

by

A. S. Hazzard

A memorandum of July 17, 1944 by Mr. M. J. DeBoer to Mr. Florin Warren mentioned the interest of Mr. Earl Clark of Houghton in restocking Webber Lake, Houghton County, preferably with trout. Mr. Clark stated that Webber Lake practically dried up several years ago but was now coming back. Also that it used to provide excellent fishing but now contained no fish.

A brief examination was made of Webber Lake (T. 53 N., R. 35 W., Sec. 7) on August 23, 1944. This lake is close to and visible from the road running from Toivola to Misery Bay. A trail passable to cars turns south from this road just before reaching the lake and skirts the lake shore.

Considerable use of the lake was evident. Three or four rafts were along the shore and a crude dock had been built out from the east side.

The present acreage was estimated between 7 and 8 and there was good evidence to support Mr. Clark's statement concerning the lake having nearly dried up. A fringe of drowned alders and birches bordered much of the shore. A dead white birch at least three inches in diameter was about ten feet from shore. Its presence and size indicates that the lake was considerably shrunken and remained so for some time during the recent dry cycle. Another small pothole lake of an acre or so just east of Webber Lake

is still at a very low level.

The lake was cruised in the rubber boat and sounded in the open water up the center. The maximum depth found was 13 feet in the north end near the center. The temperature at one foot was 69.8°F. At 12 feet (one foot from bottom) the temperature was 68.9. The air temperature was 69°. The time was 1 p.m. There are no spring streams entering the lake. The bottom was sand or pulpy peat.

Aquatic vegetation (pondweeds, yellow water lilies and water smartweed) was found everywhere in the lake except in the center.

Young-of-the-year bluegills or sunfish were quite abundant along the shore. A few larger fish were seen jumping for flies.

The lack of stratification, expected in a shallow lake lacking spring fed inlets, indicates that the water probably contains ample oxygen everywhere during summer but also that temperatures would be too high for trout during hot weather.

This lake is probably well suited to largemouth bass and bluegills. Stocking this fall to establish bass and bluegills would be desirable. If successful, no further planting should be required unless the lake again shrinks and loses its stock.

On my way to Copper Harbor I stopped at Haas Bros. store, Houghton to report to Mr. Clark but found him out for the day. It is presumed that Mr. Warren will acquaint him with the results of this investigation upon receipt of this report and that he will make the plantings recommended this fall if possible.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

A. S. Hazzard, Director

Report typed by V. Andres