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Original: Fish Division
cc: Education-Game
Mr. Earl Swift, R.F.D.#2, Holly
Mr. W. F. Carbine

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH Institute for Fish. Research
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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REPORT NO. 1008

EXAMINATION OF THE LAKE ON THE EARL SWIFT FARM

By
W. F. Carbine and G. N. Washburn

On April 12, 1945, Mr. C. A. Paquin, Chief of the Education Division, called our attention to the fact that an excessive winterkill of fish occurred on a small lake owned by Mr. Earl Swift, R.F.D. #2, Holly. Mr. Westerman suggested that this lake be examined the next time anyone from the Institute happened to be in the vicinity. On April 24 and 25 the writers contacted Mr. Swift.

This lake has never been given a name. It is located in Genesee County, Section 34, T.6N., R.7E. There is no permanent inlet or outlet. The lake can be reached by a good county road (Baldwin Road) and is just 2 miles west of U.S. 10.

According to Mr. Swift, this lake has provided excellent bluegill and largemouth bass fishing during the more than 100 years that the lake has been in the family. A few pumpkinseed sunfish, bullheads, and northern pike were also caught. Apparently northern pike were introduced about 12 years ago. Mr. Swift thought that at least one species of minnow was present in the lake. Apparently this is the first time that this lake has ever winterkilled.

Although this lake is privately owned, all neighbors and friends have been welcome to fish here.

This lake has an area estimated to be about 4 or 5 acres and a maximum depth of 31 feet. The drop-off is rather abrupt. The water is light brown in color. The lake is surrounded by fairly high, steep banks on three sides but is low and somewhat marshy along the southwest side.

Mr. Swift did not make an estimate of the number of fish that were killed this past winter. He said that most of the thousands of fish that were dead were bluegills. Many largemouth bass, some as large as 4 or 5 pounds, were also found along shore. Pumpkinseed sunfish and bullheads were found interspersed among the bluegills and bass. Only 4 northern pike were found around the lake. These fish were all large, weighing between 4 and 8 pounds each.

One experimental gill net was set in the lake at a depth of between 5 and 15 feet. No fish were taken when this net was lifted 20 hours later. It is believed that most of the fish in the lake were killed.

We suggested that Mr. Swift restock his lake with about two dozen each of largemouth bass and bluegills. He believes that he can obtain this number by angling from the private lake of a friend.

Mr. Swift agreed to keep us informed as to the success of the planting and if any species survived the winterkill. If we are in the vicinity during the summer, we plan on stopping to make further observations.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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