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DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
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VOLUNTARY CREEL CENSUS OF CARROLL AND REED LAKES, OAKLAND COUNTY

By K. G. Fukano

In recent years the Fish Division has been creating trout waters by stocking lakes which have sufficient oxygen to support trout in the cold water layer. During the summer bass, bluegills and other pan fish inhabit the surface and shoal waters; whereas trout are confined to the deeper cold waters, thereby using an area which was formerly lacking fish life.

Under the guidance of Ray Chabot members of the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association recorded summary cards of their trout fishing in some lakes in Oakland County. The bulk of the reports were of fishing in Reed and Carroll lakes, which were stocked with rainbow trout for the first time in the spring of 1949.

Carroll Lake was mapped on January 9, 1947 by an Institute for Fisheries Research crew. The lake bottom is mostly marl and pulpy peat with a maximum depth of 38 feet. Water analysis made on August 13, 1947 indicated that Carroll Lake could support rainbow trout. A stocking of 800 rainbow trout averaging 8.0 inches was made on April 11, 1949.

Reed Lake has a similar history. On March 21, 1947 Reed Lake was mapped. Its maximum depth was 48 feet and the lake bottom was found to be marl to the drop-off and pulpy peat beyond. Water analysis taken on August 22, 1947 showed that this lake has some water suitable for rainbow trout. On April 1, 1949 a total of 800 rainbow trout averaging 8.0 inches was planted.

NAME
ADDRESS

PHONE

NO. TROUT TAKEN

AVERAGE SIZE

LARGEST

LAKES FISHED

HOURS FISHED

AMOUNT
AMOUNT
AMOUNT
AMOUNT

REMARKS:

SIGNED:

A total of 33 individuals submitted fishing summary cards, of these only four failed to record the hours spent fishing. These four anglers have been assigned a time spent fishing based on the number of trout these anglers caught and the total catch per hour. The catch per hour is used to indicate fishing quality. Most anglers had a high catch per hour which indicates either the trout fishing in these lakes was extremely good or the summary cards do not include all of the hours spent fishing but, rather, only the time spent fishing on days in which the angler caught trout. The catch per hour for all anglers was 0.86 fish. A total of 550 trout were caught in 577.5 hours of fishing. Excluding one angler who fished 200 hours for 25 rainbows, the catch per hour was 1.26 fish. A summary of the creel census is given in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of fishing results for Carroll and Reed Lakes, 1949

Angler	Hours fished	Total trout	Catch per hour	Number of trout caught:		
				Reed Lake	Carroll Lake	Union Lake
No. 1	2.0	12	6.00	12	...	...
No. 2	2.0	6	3.00	6	...	...
No. 3	9.0	9	1.00	4	5	...
No. 4	4.0	9	2.25	9	...	...
No. 5	75.0	90	1.20	75	15	...
No. 6	12.0	15	1.25	15	...	...
No. 7	4.0	6	1.50	6	...	...
No. 8	6.0	3	0.50	3	...	...
No. 9	6.0	4	0.67	4	...	...
No.10	6.0	7	1.17	7	...	...
No.11	18.0	12	0.67	12	...	...
No.12	14.0	18	1.29	...	18	...
No.13	4.0	8	2.00	...	8	...
No.14	6.0	11	1.83	11	...	...
No.15	8.0	16	2.00	...	16	...
No.16	4.0	5	1.25	...	5	...
No.17	7.0	15	2.14	...	15	...
No.18	30.0	25	0.83	18	7	...
No.19	10.0	12	1.20	5	7	...
No.20	17.5*	15	0.86	8	7	...
No.21	12.0	7	0.58	7	...	...
No.22	8.5	10	1.18	10	...	...
No.23	15.0	6	0.40	6	...	...
No.24	25.0	41	1.64	20	14	7
No.25	4.0	6	1.50	6	...	...
No.26	4.0	7	1.75	7	...	...
No.27	4.5*	4	0.89	4	...	...
No.28	23.0*	20	0.87	15**	5**	...
No.29	60.0	77	1.28	77	...	...
No.30	14.0*	12	0.86	7	5	...
No.31	200.0	25	0.13	25	...	...
No.32	12.0	17	1.42	17	...	...
No.33	10.0	20	2.00	15	5	...
Totals	636.5*	550	0.86	411	132	7

* Hours fished not given, time is based on the number of trout caught and the total catch per hour.

** Number of trout taken by lakes not given, based on percentages (75 Reed Lake and 25 Carroll Lake).

Following remarks were on the summary cards: "Best thing Conservation Department ever did. Plant one big one in each lake. I'll catch him if it takes all summer." "The finest thing the Department has done for the fishermen in southern Michigan. We had no trouble taking our limit any night after work, except in the hot days of midsummer. Trout were in fine condition and increased greatly in size from June to November. Fished any time of day." "Very good eating. Hope we can get more." "Very enjoyable--if possible, keep restocking. Would it be possible to put about four fish in each lake weighing 4 or 5 pounds each for added incentive." "Please keep restocking. I enjoyed trout fishing very much." "Stocking trout in the inland lakes is the best thing the Conservation Department has ever done. Please keep it up." "I certainly hope the Department of Conservation continues planting trout in our lake here in Oakland County. We've had the best fishing in years, from these trout." "It is a wonderful idea, let us hope it becomes a habit. Maybe a few bigger ones." "Great sport." "Fish found in perfect condition!" "Fish found to be in good condition." "Believe trout planted in smaller lakes--that would support trout--would make larger recovery." "Fish in perfect condition." "Enjoyed fishing very much. Restocking very good idea." "Meat solid--good cold water."

Following is an excerpt from a letter dated March 17, 1950 written by Mr. Alan L. Higbie, Secretary of the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association, to Mr. Harold Hughes, Drayton Plains Hatchery Supervisor:

"Ray reports he feels the Reed Lake count is accurate with respect to total take within five percent since it adjoins Multi-Lakes club property and he and a number of close personal friends fished it regularly. This figure is almost exactly half of the eight hundred planted last spring. The Carroll Lake reports are a spot check only, and it was not fished until fall. Ray feels his summary

cards could be reworded another time to give even more information about the hours fished. His general comments are as follows: The fall fishing is very good and the trout seem to have gained about two inches in length during the summer; Reed Lake trout all were in fine condition but some taken from Carroll Lake were scarred, presumably by pike. To Ray's knowledge, no trout were taken on flies, a few on small lures and the great bulk trolling with spinners with worms or minnows. Some thirty-five people who fished trout in these lakes were fishing trout for the first time. Food for trout seems to be plentiful and the number of boats on Reed increased from four the previous season to about twenty-five for the trout fishing the past season."

The Multi-Lakes Conservation Association members are to be commended for their interest in keeping catch records.

It is recommended that a revised form be used this coming season if the members of the association are still interested in recording their own catch records.

Name Address		Phone City		Trout Taken			Bait Used
Name of Lake	Date	Time Fished		Number	Av. Size	Largest	
		From	To				

Fill out a line, even though little or nothing has been caught. Use back of card to record remarks.

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