

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Report 78

DEATH OF FISH IN CROOKED LAKE, WASHTENAW COUNTY,
SPRING OF 1931.

Near the end of May, District Officer Tawse brought into the office of the Institute a large pumpkin seed sunfish found dying in Crooked Lake, Washtenaw County. He had been called to the lake by the report of cottagers that the fish were dying in large numbers. He found many dead, and brought in this one found dying.

This one fish showed much inflamed and partly disintegrated gills, indicating a gill infection, likely bacterial, as the cause of the death.

In the absence of Dr. Krull, two of the fisheries fellows, who were familiar with the lake, made an examination and a verbal report to George Wood Hays and others. They brought in some live fishes, which died soon in the aquaria. Some of them showed somewhat diseased gills, though others were apparently normal in this respect.

Two of the bluegills preserved in formalin, showed surface injuries on later examination by Dr. Krull. A small male had frayed pectoral and caudal fins which may have resulted from spawning activities. A female had a large area on one side devoid of scales.

The largest bluegill, preserved in alcohol, showed no surface lesions.

The perch showed no surface lesions and none of the fish showed internal abnormalities. All of them contained an abundance of fat in the visceral cavity, indicating a good physical condition.

The flesh and skin in both species, were free from larval trematodes, which, to a certain extent, is unusual and particularly desirable.

The accompanying copy of Report 77, indicates that the death of the fish in Crooked Lake is not a special case, for the fish of many lakes have suffered likewise this year.

We may add that the evidence does not indicate that the fish were killed in Crooked Lake by dynamiting, netting or other illegal practices.

We can offer no suggestion as to the prevention of fish mortality in such a lake as Crooked. The only thing which could be done to counter the ill effects of such a mortality is to stock the lake somewhat more heavily than usual.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Carl L. Hubbs
Director