

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
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FISHING ON CRESCENT LAKE, OAKLAND COUNTY, WINTER OF 1934-1935

This report covers the creel census taken on Crescent Lake by the Dodge Bloomer C.C.C. Camp (SP-3). The census started on January 21, 1935 and continued until late in March when the winter fishing was concluded. The census was under the supervision of Camp Superintendent, Charles Leeson.

Fish were measured to the nearest quarter inch and the time of fishing was listed to the nearest quarter hour. This report covers all fishing on Crescent Lake for the period mentioned above. The census was taken in an excellent manner and the data collected by the census crew are reliable.

The catch was so meager that the hours when fishing was best could not be determined.

The area of Crescent Lake was not ascertained. Crescent Lake has extensive resort development, and is only a few miles from Pontiac; it was accessible during the entire winter period.

Table I. Line Fishing in Crescent Lake, Oakland County - Winter of 1935

	January 21-31	February	March	Total
No. of hours	76 1/4	518 3/4	172 1/2	767 1/2
No. of fishermen	28	189	49	266
Hrs. per fisherman	2.7	2.7	3.5	2.9
No. of lines	64	467	114	647
Lines per fisherman	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4
Fish per hour	.3	.2	.2	.2
No. of fish	21	94	31	146
No. getting no fish	24	153	35	212
% getting no fish	86	81	71	80
Perch (no. & size)	20 (11.6)	79 (8.6)	23 (9.6)	122 (9.2)
Rockbass "	1 (8)	14 (7.8)	5 (7)	20 (7.6)
Bullhead "	—	1 (13 1/2)	—	1 (13 1/2)
Largemouth bass "	—	—	2 (11)	2 (11)
Pike "	—	—	1 (17)	1 (17)
Total size of all fish	—	—	—	9.1 inches

Table I shows that there were 266 line fishermen, that they fished a total of 767 1/2 hours at the rate of almost 3 hours per fisherman. The fisherman used, on the average, half the number of lines which may be legally used and fished an average of 5 hours for each fish caught. Four fishermen in five caught no fish at all. Eighty-five percent of the fish caught were perch. These had a fair average size.

Table II. Spearing on Crescent Lake, Oakland County, Winter of 1935

	January 21-31	February	Total
No. of hours	81 1/4	166 1/4	247 1/2
No. of fishermen	22	47	69
Hours per fisherman	3.7	3.5	3.6
Fish per hour	.07	.06	.065
Number of fish	6	10	16
Number getting no fish	16	39	55
% getting no fish	73	83	80
Northern pike	2 (23)	5 (24.5)	7 (24.1)
Suckers	1 (20)	4 (18)	5 (18.4)
Dogfish	1 (22 1/2)	..	1 (22 1/2)
Gar <small>Bullhead</small>	2 (45)	..	2 (45)
Average size of all fish	23.9 inches

Table II shows that 69 fishermen speared, that they fished 247 1/2 hours at the rate of 3.6 hours per fisherman. The 69 fishermen caught only 16 fish; all except 7 of these were coarse or obnoxious fish. The fish were taken at the rate of 1 fish per 15 hours of fishing. It happens that the chances of catching one or more fish were identical for line fishing and for spearing; only 1 fisherman in 5 caught fish by either method.

Table II. Total fishing in Crescent Lake, winter of 1935

	Line fishing	Spearing	Total
Number of hours	767 1/2	247 1/2	1015
Number of fishermen	266	69	335
Hours per fisherman	2.9	3.6	3.0
Fish per hour	.2	.065	.16
Number of fish	146	16	162
Number getting no fish	212	55	267
% getting no fish	80	80	80
Perch	122	..	122
Rockbass	20	..	20
Largemouth Bass	2	..	2
Northern Pike	1	7	8
Bullhead	1	1	2
Sucker	..	5	5
Dogfish	1	1	2
Gar	..	2	2
Average size of all fish	91. in.	23.9 in.	10.6 in.

Table III shows that 335 fishermen fished the lake, that a majority of the fishing was line fishing, that line fishing was three times as effective as spearing in catching fish but that the fish caught with line were of a much smaller ~~in~~ size than those taken with spears.

General comments

Only 162 fish were taken during the entire period of the census. The lake probably produced fewer than 300 fish during the entire winter. Most of these fish were perch while most of the larger ones were predatory, coarse or obnoxious fish. It may be safely stated that the winter fishing on Crescent Lake did not adversely effect the summer fishing.

Of those who fished the lake, 293 were from Pontiac, 19 from Detroit, 3 from Birmingham, 7 from Keego Harbor, 5 from Dearborn and 1 from Ferndale.

Creel census reports for winter fishing on 10 lakes have now been submitted; seven of these were for fishing in the upper part of the lower peninsula, 3 were for fishing on southern Michigan lakes. All have been similar in one respect: the winter fishing in all lakes for the period of the census produced so few fish that it could not have adversely affected the summer fishing. There is some reason to believe that in a majority of these lakes winter fishing may have been beneficial to the lakes. The abundance of fish shanties and of fishermen on the ice (they are quite conspicuous) might easily lead to the conclusion that our lakes are being depleted by the winter fishing. The large amount of reliable data which have been collected shows definitely that for the ten lakes which were examined this conclusion would be without foundation. The ten lakes may not present a true picture of winter fishing in general but it is probable that those lakes in which winter fishing with spear or with minnows adversely affects summer fishing are relatively few in number.

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R. W. Eschmeyer

R. W. Eschmeyer
Lake Improvement Investigator