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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

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REPORT ON THE FIN-CLIPPING OF BROOK TROUT FINGERLINGS

RELEASED IN HUNT CREEK, MONTMORENCY COUNTY,

BELOW THE EXPERIMENTAL STREAM AREA

by

David S. Shetter

For the second successive year, all brook trout fingerlings planted in Hunt Creek have been marked before their release. These fish were marked in order that they might be recognized as hatchery-reared trout when later recovered by anglers, so that the percentage of fall-planted fingerling trout surviving to reach the angler's creel as legal fish might be determined. These data will be obtained from intensive creel censuses in progress on the experimental portions of Hunt Creek, or to be inaugurated in the 1941 season below Halberg's Bridge, when the marked fingerlings released in the fall of 1939 should begin to enter the legal catch in considerable numbers.

The data for the two plantings are as follows:

1939

Mark used -- dorsal and adipose fins removed.

Number planted -- 35,109.

Average total length -- $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches⁺.

Average weight -- 6.5 grams (70 fish per pound).

These fish were planted in the following sections through which

Hunt Creek flows:

T. 29 N., R. 2 E., Secs. 25, 35.

T. 29 N., R. 3 E., Secs. 3, 9, 17, 19, 30.

1940

Mark used -- adipose and right pelvic fins removed.

Number planted -- 17,635.

Average total length -- $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches⁻.

Average weight -- 5.0 grams (91 fish per pound).

In the 1940 planting, fish were released in almost the same places,

and were liberated at the following points:

T. 29 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 25.

T. 29 N., R. 3 E., Secs. 3, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 30.

Ten brook trout of the 1939 fall fingerling planting (dorsal and adipose fins removed) were captured during the seinings in the experimental sections of Hunt Creek during September, 1940. The total lengths of these marked fish varied from 120 to 156 mm. ($4\frac{3}{4}$ to $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches), and the ten marked specimens were of an average size of 138 mm. total length (5.5 inches). No marked fish of the 1939 fall planting were recorded in the legal catch of the intensively censused experimental area during the 1940 trout season.

However, Gerald Perry, caretaker of the Hunt Creek Rearing Station, reported that a number of fish with the dorsal and adipose fins missing were included in the 1940 catches made in the vicinity of the rearing station, indicating that some of the larger fingerlings (5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches when planted) survive and may be expected to enter the anglers' catches in the year immediately following release. Judging from the measured lengths of dorsal- and adipose-marked trout taken in seinings, the great majority of the survivors of the 1939 fall planting will not be of legal size (7 inches) until 1941 or later.

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