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COMPARISON OF 1943 GENERAL CREEL CENSUS FOR TROUT WATERS

WITH SIMILAR CENSUSES OF PREVIOUS YEARS

by

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The data hereby submitted for the general creel census of fishing in trout waters for 1943 are not complete. Some of the conservation officers undoubtedly have not submitted all of their records even though the "trout season" closed on Labor Day. Also the fall fishing season for rainbow trout is too recently closed to expect complete returns as yet. The number of records of fishing in trout waters for 1943 (4,258 anglers interviewed) is considerably smaller than the figure for preceding years (1942 - 6,798 records; 1941 - 6,947 records; 1940 - 5,090 records). Table 1 gives the data according to hatchery districts (separate totals for upper and lower peninsulas) for 1943 fishing in trout waters. The catch per hour for fishing in trout waters is given for each hatchery district for the five-year period preceding 1943.

These figures of "catch per hour" include all fish (legal-sized) taken by anglers from trout waters. Although the waters are considered as primarily trout waters, there are many other species present and some of these (notably yellow perch, suckers, rock bass, chubs, etc.) are taken in considerable numbers. Some anglers prefer these "other fish" to trout (brook, brown, and rainbow) and fish for them rather than for trout.

Table 1

Hatchery District	Total number of anglers	Number of unsuccessful anglers	Total hours spent fishing	Total legal fish taken	Catch per hour	Catch per hour in previous years				
						1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
1	1,068	408	2879.5	2,454	0.85	1.12	0.70	0.76	0.82	0.94
2	1,262	372	4603.5	3,999	0.87	0.98	1.09	1.12	1.15	1.10
Total Upper Peninsula										
	2,330	780	7483.0	6,453	0.86	1.06	0.86	0.94	1.00	1.01
3	564	159	1422.7	1,049	0.74	0.96	0.83	0.72	0.89	0.78
4	228	80	571.6	1,066	1.86	0.98	0.65	0.55	0.68	0.80
5	436	174	1600.4	875	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.64	0.47	0.61
6	169	45	651.8	382	0.59	0.29	1.00	0.41	1.17	1.25
7	84	31	271.5	202	0.74	0.97	0.82	0.80	1.03	0.85
8	173	65	463.3	404	0.87	0.70	0.31	1.16	0.25	0.43
9	154	42	514.5	362	0.70	0.59	0.70	...	0.59	0.80
10	22	1	51.5	46	0.89	...	1.07	0.46	0.94	1.76
11	98	1	310.0	538	1.74	0.74	0.62	0.22	0.07	...
Total Lower Peninsula										
	1,928	598	5857.3	4,924	0.84	0.74	0.68	0.66	0.72	0.79
STATE TOTAL										
	4,258	1,387	13,304.3	11,377	0.85	0.89	0.77	0.77	0.83	0.91

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During 1943, 16.03 per cent of all fish taken from trout waters were fish other than trout. This percentage is higher than that for 1942 (13.53 per cent) and 1941 (10.23 per cent). In 1940, only 5.33 per cent of the fish taken from trout waters were of kinds other than trout, whereas in 1936 16.03 per cent (same as 1943) of the total catch was "other fish." From the records of the general creel census since its inception, these two figures for 1940 and 1936 are the low and high respectively.

The trout taken from trout waters were larger in 1943 than in any previous year according to the records of the general creel census (Table 2). The 7,554 brook trout had an average total length of 8.8 inches; the 909 rainbow trout had an average total length of 11.7 inches, and the 384 brown trout had an average total length of 11.0 inches.

Table 2

Year	Average total length in inches		
	Brook	Rainbow	Brown
1938	8.7	10.2	10.4
1939	8.6	9.9	10.6
1940	8.7	9.5	10.4
1941	8.7	9.9	10.5
1942	8.7	10.2	10.5
1943	8.8	11.7	11.0

Inasmuch as the number of fish caught per hour during 1943 is above the average of the five years immediately preceding, and the fish taken were of larger size, the catch in pounds of fish per hour was considerably more than in previous years.

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