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cc: Education - Game
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VOLUNTARY CREEL CENSUS ON MARBLE LAKE, BRANCH COUNTY for 1948 LIVISION
By K. G. Fukano

The Branch County Conservation League obtained records of fish catch during 1948 for Marble Lake and other lakes in Branch County. Of the 75 creel census books and 50 creel census sheets issued to the League, 12 books and seven sheets were returned to the Institute for Fisheries Research for tabulation.

Of these, five individuals (M. Gagauis, V. Grossjean, C. Hess, C. D. McKenzie, and R. J. Matuszak) recorded the information necessary for a complete analysis. The CurtissBoat Livery recorded information for a partial analysis. Mr. J. F. Sweet did not record the time spent fishing; therefore, his records are not included in this tabulation. The five individuals who submitted complete information of their fishing should be praised for their work. However, we should have much better cooperation by members of the Branch County Conservation Club, giving fishing records on a larger number of fishermen, if the experiment on plantings of marked hatchery bluegills is adequately evaluated.

The purpose of the creel census on Marble Lake was to aid in determining the value of planting bluegills. In November, 1948, 10,000 left pelvic fin-clipped bluegills averaging two inches in length were stocked. To evaluate the effect of stocking on fishing, one must know the fishing quality before and after the stocked fish grow to catchable size.

The tabulation of the creel census is given in Table 1. When possible, two methods of determining fishing quality (1) the catch per hour and (2) the catch per angler, were calculated. The times spent fishing by fishing parties using the CurtissBoat Livery were not given for each fishing party in many cases. Therefore, the quality of fishing was determined by using the catch per angler. After a glance at the catch per angler olumn one might be inclined to think that fishermen fishing from livery boats had better fishing success than the rest. However, the length of fishing day for the livery fishermen may be several hours longer than for the rest. To compare catch per angler between two groups of anglers, the average time spent fishing should be the same.

General creel census data, which are obtained by Conservation Officers, for Branch County are given in Table 2. The catch per hour for the general (2.04 fish) and voluntary creel census for Marble Lake (2.09 fish) are very similar.

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Report Approved by A. S. Hazzard
Report Typed by B. J. Bair

Table 1. Monthly tabulation of Marble Lake creel census

				Legal	l Catch	Catch				Legal fish						Undersize fish			
Month 1948	Name of fishermen	Number anglers	Hours fished	fish kept	per hour	per angler	Blue- gill		Perch		Rock bass	P'seed	Bull- head		Blue- gill		Perch	Crap- pie	Rock bass
June	Matuszak Hess Gagauis	10 11 7	28.0 58.5 27.5	86 71 89	3.07 1.21 3.24	8.60 6.45 12.71	73 54 80		6 4 3	13	3	1 1 	• • • •	1 	92 14 60	1 	17: 1	•••	1
July	Total Matuszak Hess Gagauis Grossjean	28 55 13 31 18	114.0 151.4 45.0 100.5 56.8	246 178 53 296 119	2.16 1.18 1.18 2.95 2.10	8.79 3.24 4.08 9.55 6.61	207 107 47 282 119	6 7 2	13 14 1 3	14 35 5 2	3 4 	2	1 	1 8 	166 77 16 103 19	3	18 9 	1	1 1
August .	McKeńzie Total Matuszak	9 126 27	13.0 366.7 67.0	66 712 98	5.08 1.94 1.46	7.33 5.65	57 6 12 88	2 11 1	18	48 48	5 2	5	1	15	47 262 8	7 11	12	1	1
	Hess Gagauis Grossjean McKenzie	28 22 5 9	57.0 69.4 16.0 12.0	123 235 40 47	2.16 3.39 2.50 3.92	4.39 10.68 8.00 5.22	123 234 40 20	16	•••	11				1	1 8 30	8	•••	4	•••
6 - 1 - 1	Total	91	221.4	543	2.45	5.97	505	17	2	13	2	2		2	47	8		4	···· '
September	Hess Grossjean McKenzie	12 6 7	52.0 23.0 10.5	42 61 45	0.81 2.65 4.29	3.50 10.17 6.43	42 61 30		•••	1	6		•••		14	9		•••	• • •
	Total	25	85.5	148	1.73	5.92	133	8	•••	1	6		<u> </u>		18	9	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Season	total	270	787.6	1,649	2.09	6.11	1,457	42	33	76	16	6	1	18	493	29	30	5	2
Curtiss	Boat Live	ry																	
June July Season	+0+01	·	450	1,361 3,942 5,303		8.61 8.76 8.72	1,060 1,905 2,965	106 227 333		180 1 ,787 1,967	•••	•••	•••						

Table 2: 1948 General creel census for Branch County

		_		Catch per angler	Blue- gill		Perch		Rock bass		Brown trout		Rainbow trout
372	1,009	2,057	2.04	5.53	1,572	5 3	147	156	1	91	. 1	31	5