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INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

DIVISION OF FISHERIES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COOPERATING WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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THE STOCKING OF DEEP LAKE AND THE
MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS FOR 1942

by

W. F. Carbine

The entire fish population was removed from Deep Lake (Oakland County) on September 12, 1941. Subsequent tests indicated that the lake was ready to be restocked by October 31.

On October 31, Walter Crowe and the writer, assisted by a crew of men from the Drayton Plains Hatchery, transferred to Deep Lake rainbow trout and smallmouth bass that had been held in experimental ponds since October 15. Data concerning the fish that were planted is presented in the following table.

Species	Date of planting	Number planted	Total length of fish in inches			Average weight		Total weight in pounds
			Minimum	Average	Maximum	Grams	Ounces	
Rainbow trout	Oct. 31	2,993	5.2	6.6	8.2	54.0	2	360
Smallmouth bass	Oct. 31	2,935	3.8	4.6	6.2 ↓	20.8	3/4	135
Bluegills	Nov. 5	100	4.1	4.1	5.4 ↗	210

↓ Several bass that were not measured were approximately 9 inches long.

↗ Several bluegills that were not measured were approximately 6-6½ inches long.

No dead fish were found at Deep Lake following stocking. Checks were made on the following dates: November 1, 3, 5 and 10.

The bluegills were taken at Howell (Thompson) Lake by means of fyke nets. The left pectoral fins of the bluegills were clipped. Due to the unseasonably cold weather and the poor results obtained from netting operations, only 100 bluegills were planted in Deep Lake.

While it might have been desirable to plant more bluegills to provide better immediate fishing, it is believed that sufficient fish were planted to restock the lake. Also it is possible that a heavier initial stocking of bluegills might be detrimental to the bass and trout while they are becoming established. The lake will be watched closely next summer to determine the extent and success of the bluegill spawning.

Management Suggestions

It is recommended that fishing should not be attempted until next spring. At that time only rainbow trout of legal length should be kept. Bluegills should not be kept if caught before the middle of July. This will give the bluegills an opportunity to spawn. Smallmouth bass of legal size may be kept if caught after the opening of the bass season (June 25).

Creel Census

In order to maintain good fishing and to enable the Institute to obtain certain necessary data required for future management practices, it will be essential that certain data on all fish caught at Deep Lake be recorded in creel census books that we will furnish. The data needed will consist of: number of fish of each species caught, legal or sublegal; either individual or combined weights of all legal fish of each species caught; size range, i.e. minimum and maximum size of all of the fish of each species caught; and the number of hours spent in fishing.

If it is agreed that a creel census will be taken at Deep Lake, it will be necessary to have located near the boat dock or other convenient place, the creel census books, measuring board, scales, pencils etc. needed.

Stocking in the autumn of 1942 should be limited to 1,000 rainbow trout and possibly 500 smallmouth bass, if found to be needed. This should probably be the last planting of smallmouth bass because natural reproduction ought to be sufficient to stock the lake after next year.

Future plantings of rainbow trout and the need for further stocking of smallmouth bass can better be determined after another year. The creel census kept by the owners and the population checks which will be made by the Institute will be a trustworthy guide to future management practices. All fish planted in Deep Lake in the future will have to be secured from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Northville Hatchery. Application forms for next year will be supplied the owners.

Frequent checks on Deep Lake will be made during 1942 to determine the success of the plantings, survival and growth of the fish and crawfish.

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