

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH  
DIVISION OF FISHERIES  
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COOPERATING WITH THE  
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CREEL CENSUS OF THE PINE RIVER, LAKE COUNTY

AUGUST 15 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 1936

During the conference of District Supervisors of Fisheries Operations held at Lansing August 7, 1936, it was suggested that a creel census be conducted of the Pine River in the section which is being developed by the State Conservation Department through the assistance of the E.C.W. Through the kind cooperation of Mr. George Young, in Charge of Michigan E.C.W., this census was arranged immediately to continue from August 15 to the close of the season (September 7). An attempt was made to secure a record of all of the fishing in the section of the river between the highway bridge below the Ne-Bo-Shone Club to the highway bridge just below the Wexford-Lake County line.

As conducted last year, many of the fishermen were contacted before they had completed their day's catch. As a result of this, the number of records listed as unsuccessful is probably higher than was correct. The method of contacting fishermen will be changed this year and records will be taken only when fishermen leave the stream.

The table which is included in this brief report summarizes the information secured by the CCC enrollees assigned to this project by Camp Sable River.

The total number of fishermen using this section of the river in the period which was slightly less than one month was 342, 330 men and 12 women. Of this number, 181 records showed that no fish had been taken up to the time the fishermen were contacted. Seven of these unsuccessful fishermen were women and the balance were men. These anglers caught a total of 475 legal trout of an average length

of 11.1 inches and 60 under-sized trout of an average size of 5.3 inches.

The trout were caught at the rate of 0.5 of a fish an hour per angler, and each angler caught on the average of 1.4 fish. The catch per hour for this section of the Pine River apparently is somewhat above the average for trout streams of the state if these figures are comparable to those collected in the general state census. The average size of the trout taken, however, was considerably larger than the average size for trout streams in the Lower Peninsula.

Of the total number of people fishing the stream during the period covered by the census, 319 were residents of Michigan and 23 were non-residents.

It will be noted from the table that 347 of the trout taken were rainbows having an average length of 12.1 inches; 11 were brook trout of an average length of 8.5 inches; and 9 were brown trout of an average of 8.9 inches. It is interesting to note the number of brown trout in the catch. Brown trout have not been planted in the Pine or its tributaries within recent years and are generally considered rare in this river system. Either brown trout are taken more often than is generally supposed or else the enrollees responsible for these records made an error in identification. It is planned to coach the enrollees selected for this work so that there will be no chance of mistakes in identifying the species taken from the Pine River during the census planned for this year.

It should be stressed that this census was probably not conducted long enough to enable any very definite conclusions as to the fishing in the Pine River during the season of 1936. However, the records secured will be useful in making comparisons with the catches made during the similar period of the summer of 1937.

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1.	Total number of fishermen - Male .....	330	
	Female .....	<u>12</u>	
	Total .....	342	
2.	Number taking no fish - Male .....	174	
	Female .....	<u>7</u>	
	Total .....	181	
3.	Number of trout caught - Legal .....	475	
	Undersize .....	60	- average size 5.3
4.	Trout caught per hour .....	0.5	
5.	Trout caught per angler .....	1.4	
6.	Average size of trout caught .....	11.1	
7.	Total hours fished .....	894.50	
8.	Average time fished (hours) .....	2.6	
9.	Number of Michigan fishermen .....	319	
10.	Out-of-state fishermen .....	23	
11.	Catch by species:		

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Average Size</u>	<u>No. Inches</u>
Rainbow	347	12.1	4190.0
Brook	119	8.5	1007.25
Brown	9	8.9	80.0
Total	475	11.1	5277.25

There were also 30 suckers caught which averaged 12.9 inches long.

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