

# 1950 Fish Study

DIVISION OF FISHERIES  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
COOPERATING WITH THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

County: Washtenaw

Township

T. 18 R. 3, 1/2 E. Sec. 13, 18

Lake or stream: North Lake

Letter from W. E. Williams to W. Springer, October 35, 1950

I have been asked to write you in answer to your inquiry concerning the fish survey which was carried out on North Lake this summer. I was a member of the survey party and thus am able to give you first hand information.

There have been a considerable number of complaints about the fishing in North Lake this past season, most emphasizing that there seemed to be an unusually large number of small fish in the lake, referring chiefly to panfish. We found this to be true, as we did take many small panfish by seining. However, all of these fish were young fish, two and three years old, and were not stunted in their growth. Our nets took, in addition, a considerable number of bluegills up to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches (5 years old), largemouth bass up to 18 inches (7 years old), pumpkinseed sunfish up to 7 inches (4 years old) and wormmouth or mud bass up to  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (8 years old), plus numbers of chubsuckers, golden shiners, green sunfish and mud pickerel. One northern pike (20 inches and 1 year old) and two gar pike (to  $46\frac{1}{2}$  inches) were also taken. While many small rock bass, black crappies and yellow perch were taken, none were over 5 inches in length. Five large bluegills (8 - 9 inches, 6 years old) were censused from an angler.

Because of the fact that nearly all fish sampled from North Lake were growing faster than the state average I believe there is nothing wrong with the lake. There may be a shortage of the larger panfish especially bluegill, perch, crappie and rock bass, but the large numbers of small, fast growing fish of these species seem to indicate that fishing should take an upward trend soon.

Either or all of several factors may be responsible for the poor fishing this summer. As I indicated above there may actually be a shortage of the larger size panfish, perhaps due to poor spawning success over



4 to 6 years ago. However, the large amount of natural food this season, or the extensive cool weather may also have contributed. As you know panfishing has been generally poor throughout much of the state this summer. Unfortunately not enough is known about what factors influence fishing success; this fact makes it difficult to exactly determine the real reason for fishing being poor at some times and excellent at others. However, it is my opinion that in North Lake there exists a healthy fish population containing adequate numbers of small, young fish and a good concentration of predator fish, such as bass, pike and gar pike, which are essential in preventing the panfish from becoming stunted.

I hope this summary will be of interest and assistance to you. Should you have any further questions please feel free to either write me or come in personally to discuss the.

ORIGINAL FILED:      Surveys - Lake Survey, Inventory

DIVISION OF FISHERIES  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
COOPERATING WITH THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

County: Washtenaw

Township Dexter

T. 1 S. 4 E. Sec. 18

Lake or stream: North Lake

Upon receipt from Don Thomas, Creel Census Clerk, of numerous complaints of poor fishing in North Lake this summer due to overabundance of small, fish it was decided to make a test netting and survey of the lake. The following fish were taken by 6 overnight gill nets sets and by seining on August 2-4, 1950, and 3 overnight gill net sets and creel census on August 10-11, 1950:

		Age group								
		0	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Black crappie	19		4.7							
Bluegill	29			4.4	5.6	7.2	7.2	9.0		
Chubsucker	11		5.8	7.2	8.8	9.3				
Golden shiner	5			6.4	6.5					
Green sunfish	3			4.0	5.7					
Largemouth bass	15	2.3	5.6	8.1		13.5	16.0		18.0	
Mud pickerel	20		3.9		10.1	11.4				
Northern pike	1		20.0							
Pumpkinseed	32		2.1	4.2	5.8	6.8				
Warmouth	26		2.0			6.1	5.8	6.7	6.8	7.7
Rock bass	2			3.6						
Yellow perch	27		4.5							

There did seem to be a very large number of fish of age groups I-III present in seine hauls, but very few young of the year fish. Some fishermen however were catching nice size warmouth,

C: Lansing, District, Region

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County: Washtenaw

Township: Dexter and Lyndon

T. 1 S. R. 3-4 E. 13. 1E

Lake or stream: North Lake

North Lake is a public lake accessible by Goodband road  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north from N. Territorial Road or by Webb Road  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of N. Territorial Road. There are two boat liveries, one at each end of the lake.

It is probably a kettle lake slightly over one mile long and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide. The area is approximately 350 acres, and the maximum depth is about 58 feet. Only about one third of the lake is over 20 feet deep, and about one third is shoal area. Apparently the bottom of the lake is marl with a covering of pulpy peat in many places which is sometimes quite thick. There are a great many luxuriant weed beds.

According to local residents, fishing is very good, and there is a heavy concentration of fishermen both winter and summer. Bass and pike grow quite large, but the lake is noted for its large bluegills and perch. Perch are supposed to be commonly caught 14 inches long.

Random Winter Mapping Party, 1942

R. D. Van Deusen  
R. D. Frank  
F. P. Owens