



GAME AND FISHERIES BRANCH

A REPORT ON THE FISHES

of

C H I L D S L A K E

SUMMER - 1951

by

R. K. STEWART-HAY

REPORT ON THE FISHES OF CHILDS LAKE (Duck Mountains)

GENERAL

Childs Lake was visited from August 6 to 8, 1951, camp being established at the Game and Fisheries cabin on the south shore. A highly inferior trail leads to the lake from the Forestry Service peripheral road, originating at 25-29-28' and ending on the shore of Childs Lake close to the cabin. This trail, fifteen miles long, consists simply of two earth ruts winding through the woods, with numerous makeshift detours around mudholes and other obstructions. Travel is difficult and slow, particularly in wet weather when more than two hours may be required for the distance. Passing another car requires careful consideration.

NET FISH

Gill nets were set as follows:

Four nets were set off the east shore in the region where the south arm of the lake joins the central body at 8.30 p.m. August 6 in from 4 to 50 feet of water. These nets were as follows: $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch, 20 mesh, 50 fathoms; $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch, 20 mesh, 50 fathoms; $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch, 60 mesh, 50 fathoms; and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch, 50 mesh, 50 fathoms. They were lifted after $12\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 9 a.m. August 7. Catch: 2 lake trout (Cristivomer sp. namaycush) and 7 burbot (Lota lota maculosa), or a total of 9 fish for 50 net-hours. See Tables I and II for analysis of catch.

SEINE FISH

Seining operations were carried out on the morning of August 6, using the boat to carry the minnow seine fifty feet out from shore. A suitable area was eventually found at the south end of the lake and the following is a representative haul:

1 common sucker (Catostomus commersonii) 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ inches long
1 central Johnny darter (Etheostoma n. nigrum) $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches long
500 perch (Perca flavescens) (estimated by handful counts), $1\frac{5}{16}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Two of the perch examined in detail showed that they had been feeding exclusively on small crustaceans (Cladocera).

OTHER FISH

A shore survey on August 6 showed that the bad weather prevailing had resulted in the death of a number of small fish. The following were recorded:

Perch, occasional specimens averaging 1 inch in length.

3 brook stickleback (Eucalia inconstans) $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches long

1 pike (Esox lucius) $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long

Dip-netting resulted in the capture of 10 spot-tail minnow fry (Notropis mcdonni), $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. These fish, although tiny, were clearly marked, and there is no doubt regarding their identification.

Also found was a dead pike eighteen inches long, and the remains of four others of comparable size were noted on the shore.

FIELD NOTES

Childs Lake is an attractive lake of the same deep green colour as West Blue Lake. The poor road does not deter enthusiastic anglers, both local and touring, who catch chiefly pike. The presence of lake trout seems to have been unknown locally. This survey indicates the lake to be fairly productive, and it is certainly a far better angling lake than the nearby Laurie Lake.

SUMMARY ON FISH PRESENT

The following species were taken in gill nets: lake trout, burbot.

The following species were taken by seining or shore collecting: common sucker, central Johnny darter, brook stickleback, spot-tail minnow, pike (fairly numerous), and perch (very plentiful).

"R. K. Stewart-Hay"

R. K. Stewart-Hay,
Department of Zoology,
University of Manitoba.

TABLE 1 - FISH NETTED IN CHILDS LAKE (Duck Mountains)

H-1 Lake Trout (Cristivomer n. namaycush), male, with very large testes approaching ripeness. Spinal length $23\frac{5}{8}$ inches; fork length $23\frac{5}{8}$ inches; overall length 28 inches. Weight 8 lbs. 3 oz. Age 9 years. General condition excellent, with a fair amount of fat.

STOMACH CONTENTS: 2 perch (Fresh), $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

INTESTINAL CONTENTS: Nil

PARASITES: 1 larval tapeworm (Triaenophorus tricuspidatus) encysted in musculature very close to tail. No alimentary parasites, no gill parasites.

CH-2 Lake Trout (Cristivomer n. namaycush), male, with very large testes approaching ripeness. Spinal length 23 inches; fork length 25 inches; overall length $27\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Weight 8 lbs. 12 oz. Age 9 years. General condition excellent, with plenty of fat.

STOMACH AND INTESTINAL CONTENTS: Nil

PARASITES: 5 small immature and young tapeworms (Bothriocephalus cuspidatus) in pyloric region of intestine. One larval tapeworm (Diphyllbothrium sp., but not latum) encysted in hypaxonic musculature just external to posterior ribs. One worm cyst, caseated and unrecognizable, just under skin below lateral line at pectoral arch. No gill parasites.

The age of these fish was confirmed by the Central Fisheries Research Station, Winnipeg.

TABLE 11 - FISH NETTED IN CHILDS LAKE (Duck Mountains)

(Cont'd)

BURBOT (Lota lota maculosa)

Ref. No.	Length inches	Weight Lbs-oz	Condition	Stomach Contents	Intestinal Contents	Parasites
CH-3	18	1 - 13	Good	Gammarus, $\frac{1}{2}$ full	Gammarus, full	Nil
CH-4	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 - 7	"	Few Gammarus	Nil	Nil
CH-5	19 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 - 0	"	Crammed with Gammarus	Digested material, $\frac{1}{2}$ full	Nil
CH-6	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 - 14	"	Crammed with Gammarus	Gammarus, $\frac{3}{4}$ full	Nil
CH-7	19	2 - 2	"	Few Gammarus	Digested material full	Nil
CH-8	17 $\frac{7}{8}$	2 - 2	"	Crammed with Gammarus	Crammed with Gammarus	Nil
CH-9	20 $\frac{5}{8}$	2 - 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Crammed with Gammarus	Crammed with Gammarus	Nil

Lengths given are spinal lengths.