

CONTROLLING POPULATIONS OF NOXIOUS FISHES

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A survey of the control of "obnoxious predatory fishes" in the north central states shows that control operations have yet to be based on a scientifically ascertained need. Further, effects or results have never been measured. A summary of food and population studies of gars and bowfin (grindle) indicates that a general need for control probably does not exist and that reducing populations of such forms can never alone yield the results desired by fishermen. The need is not for more control of predators, but for better use of available information. There are still many people who do not know that not all predators are vermin.

PONDS AS A FACTOR IN FISH, GAME, AND FUR-ANIMAL RESTORATION

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Hundreds of artificial lakes and ponds, most of them less than 10 acres in area, are being constructed in Illinois by various governmental and sportsmen's organizations. Management practices are being developed which can be projected to larger waters.

Artificial lakes often furnish poor fishing because of improper stocking and management. Complete fish censuses of two small lakes in this category were made in 1939 and 1940. Although stocked less than 4 years, both contained tremendous numbers of stunted fish. Hook-and-line fish of desirable sizes made up less than 5 percent of the total population.

In central Illinois, new artificial lakes (2 to 6 years old) are much less productive of fish than old lakes (15 to 20 years old). As rich top soil is washed into the lakes from their drainage basins their fertility increases. Two 4-year-old lakes contained respectively 229.7 and 220.8 pounds of fish per acre, while 4 old lakes of about the same size and in the same region averaged nearly 550.0 pounds per acre.

In 7 new lakes near Rushville, Indiana, experimental stocking studies are being made. Bluegill breeders average 0.18 pound when stocked, and 1 year later from 0.26 pound in the poorest lake to 0.54 pound in the best. Maximum size was attained in the lake stocked at the rate of 37 per acre. Here the average weight increase was nearly 300 percent in a single season.

Small artificial lakes are of economic value from the standpoint of the fish, fur, and game they produce. Owners can lease duck-hunting privileges at the rate of \$10 to \$15 per acre, per season, and fishing privileges at 25 cents per day, which in well-managed lakes may net as much as \$500 during the spring, summer and fall.--R.L.C.
