

Michigan, Lake Superior or Green Bay, or within one-fourth mile of the shore line of Door county, or in any of the harbors or bays of Door county.

3. An absolute closed season in Lake Superior during the period from September 15 to November 1, and in Lake Michigan and Green Bay during the period from October 20 to December 1.

4. Stipulate the minimum size of lake trout, whitefish, chub, herring, bluefin, pike, pickerel and other fish that may be caught, had in possession or under control.

The statistics on Lake Michigan and Green Bay show that last year the state licensed the use of 12,533,665 feet or 2,375 miles of gill nets. Do you realize this means that if the licensed gill nets were joined they would reach from New York to Chicago, to St. Paul and then down to the City of New Orleans? Over two million set hooks were used. It is said that a man cannot count a million dollars, one at a time, in a life time. This will give you some understanding as to the dire necessity of placing upon the Statutes of Wisconsin, fishing laws that are truly in the light of conservation, laws that should be simple, each to understand, laws that may be enforced and laws that, when violated, the violator may be brought into court and the state be able to secure a conviction.

DISTRIBUTION OF FISH.

A great majority of the people interested in the planting of fish are of the opinion that because the fish hatchery is located in their midst, nothing further is necessary to furnish fry for distribution. They do not understand that we must either have a large number of breeding fish on hand, or that we must catch a large number of mature fish during the spawning season to obtain eggs for hatching. Brook and rainbow trout and black bass are the only varieties of fish that we raise for propagation purposes, and keep in our ponds, from which to obtain eggs for the hatchery.

At the time we started the 1916 distribution of fry, our files contained approximately 17,000 applications for fish of the various varieties. These applications were received from every part of the state. All told, approximately 206,000,000 fry were planted in the waters of Wisconsin by this Department. Of this number, some 140,000,000 brook and rainbow trout, pickerel, pike and muskellunge were planted in inland waters. The remaining 66,000,000 consisted of lake trout, whitefish, bluefin and chub, which were planted in the outlying waters of the Great Lakes and Green Bay.

The following table will show how the eggs of the different species of fish vary in size. We use as a basis the number of eggs per quart.

Brook trout average.....	13,000 to the quart
Rainbow trout average.....	10,000 to the quart
Lake trout average.....	7,000 to the quart
Wall-eyed pike average.....	150,000 to the quart
Whitefish average.....	40,000 to the quart
Muskellunge average.....	50,000 to the quart
Bluefin average.....	120,000 to the quart

The prevailing color of fish eggs in healthy condition is of an amber hue. If the eggs have not been properly fertilized or if there has been an undue

change in temperature, or if the eggs were not properly handled, those that die immediately turn white.

When the eggs are received at the different hatcheries they are all measured and in this manner we know exactly the number of eggs received. All poor eggs removed are measured and by subtracting the loss of eggs from the amount received at the hatchery, it is very easy to determine the approximate number of fry that the hatchery produces and ships out for planting in the waters of the state. Dividing the total production of the hatchery by the number of cans used to make the distribution gives the number of fry per can, and by multiplying the cans by the number of fry in each can, we arrive at the number of fish planted by each person applying for the same.

During the past three months the employees of the commission traveled over 46,000 miles in the distribution of fish and the planting of them in public waters. The fry was transported in specially constructed cans similar in shape to a ten gallon milk can. It required over 16,000 of these ten gallon cans to transport the fry and at certain times it is necessary to curtail the shipments, as the empty cans are not returned as rapidly as is necessary. Oftentimes persons receiving the fry do not return the cans to the depot promptly, and this hampers us greatly in our work of distribution.

ROUGH FISHING OPERATIONS.

During the season of 1915 the Commission entered into 36 contracts under sections 62.38 and 62.50 for the taking of buffalo, carp, dogfish, garfish, ellpout, suckers and sheepshead from inland waters. Six of the contracts were under sec. 62.38 covering the waters of Winnebago county and thirty covering other inland waters. Most of the rough fishing operations were carried on in Lakes Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts and Winnebago in Winnebago county, and in the waters of the Crawfish and Rock rivers, Lakes Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and Beaver Dam. Under section 62.38 the fishermen paid the state at the rate of one-half cent per pound on all fish sold and under section 62.50 the state collected one cent per pound. All fishermen paid a per diem of \$2.50 plus necessary expenses including lodging and board for the services of a state supervising warden.

Most of the fish were sold in eastern markets, carp bringing from 3 cts. to 6 cts. per pound, buffalo from 5 cts. to 10 cts. Several carloads of live carp were transported to New York in a car especially constructed for this purpose. These fish were shipped from Hubbleton and Beaver Dam.

To make rough fishing successful under these contracts, requires the investment of considerable capital. It also requires one who understands the business of fishing and operation of nets. Many fishermen lost money because of their inexperience. This work is practically confined to waters in the southern portion of the state; northern waters are not heavily infested with the rough fish. Very few game fish were taken in the nets. Our game fish do not remain in the vicinity of a large school of carp or buffalo. When a particularly large haul of carp was made, 40,000 to 60,000 pounds, not over 75 to 100 pounds of the better varieties of fish would be found in the haul.