

TEN MILE LAKE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER - SPRING 1979

WALLEYE POPULATION RESTORED, NOW FAR ABOVE AVERAGE

Let's rejoice and also give the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources a well deserved pat on the back for a splendid job well done. Ten years ago many of us feared that it would be a hopeless task to ever get the walleye population in Ten Mile Lake back up to normal. Patience, a lot of hard work and excellent professional management, however, have paid off. Our walleye count now ranks right up there among the highest in Minnesota.

In 1971 a DNR census confirmed our belief that walleyes had become very scarce in Ten Mile Lake. The DNR's nets produced only 1.65 walleyes per set compared with the statewide median of 3.60. Efforts at restoration had been under way for some years by stocking fry, without any success. Simultaneous attempts were made to grow fingerlings to be stocked when they reached a size that would assure some survival. Year after year, though, our established rearing ponds failed to produce, so the DNR located a new one for us.

The pond selected is a lovely little 9-acre lake near the junction of County #71 and Hiram #8, made available to us by the Chippewa National Forest, and we cut a road to it in the fall of 1971. The DNR stocked it with fry the following spring and harvested a bumper crop of fingerlings which were transferred into Ten Mile Lake in September. This process has been repeated each subsequent year. We call it Jake's Pond in honor of Jake Fleisher whose efforts led to the successful stocking program.

By 1974 our walleye count had come back up to 2.16 per set, and the following year anglers for the first time in many years began to catch young walleyes. Since then the walleye fishing has improved year by year, and the 1978 census yielded an almost incredible 9.87 walleyes per set. For this dramatic 6-fold increase in walleyes we owe a great debt of gratitude to John Kollar, DNR Area Fisheries Manager, and his crew consisting of Chuck Yliniemi and Howie Centerwall.

In 1976 we clipped the fins of all the 15,000 fingerlings stocked from Jake's Pond. In the 1978 census all the 2-year-old walleyes in the nets had clipped fins. The conclusions, as we have long suspected, are that the young walleyes in Ten Mile Lake all come from Jake's Pond and that there is no successful natural reproduction of walleyes in our lake.

What next? We will continue the stocking program and keep our fingers crossed that Jake's Pond will remain productive. We hope the DNR will conduct whatever studies are necessary to determine why the walleyes aren't reproducing naturally and whether anything can be done about it.

JAKE'S POND YIELDS ANOTHER GOOD CROP OF WALLEYE FINGERLINGS

Most of us never see or even hear very much about the year-around job done by the DNR crew in order to stock Ten Mile Lake with walleyes. A full description of this program was provided in our 1976 newsletter.

Last year the DNR stocked Jake's Pond with 60,000 fry in May. During August a few of the resulting fingerlings were trapped in order to get a preliminary indication of whether a good crop was developing. The balance of the fingerlings was taken in traps during the latter part of September, and all were introduced into Ten Mile Lake. The total harvest comprised:

Early August, 27 lb. of fingerlings @ 50/lb.	1350
Late September, 192 lb. of " @ 30/lb.	<u>5750</u>
Total	7100 Fingerlings

This was a marked improvement over the 1977 harvest and a good indication that Jake's Pond is remaining productive.

ILLEGAL SPEARERS NABBED

With utter disregard for our game laws, illegal spearers each spring at spawning time have been poaching large quantities of both walleyes and northern pike at certain places around Ten Mile Lake, including the Boy River. We are convinced that this unscrupulous and unsportsmanlike practice has had a very deleterious effect on our fishing, but exact information obviously is not obtainable. Previous efforts to put an end to this unlawful activity were unsuccessful until last year when our new Conservation Officer, Dave Smith, apprehended several of the law-breakers who received stiff fines and other penalties. Congratulations and thanks, Mr. Smith!

DWARF TULLIBEE STUDIES PROGRESSING

As we have previously described in some detail, Ten Mile Lake contains millions of small fish whose identity until recently was a mystery. Scientists in the Zoology Department of the University of Minnesota became interested in them a few years ago and determined that they are a rather unique form of dwarf tullibee. In cooperation with our Association and the DNR they have been studying them to ascertain how these little ciscoes got here or what caused them to evolve in our lake. The DNR is conducting experiments to determine whether they could be transplanted into trout lakes as forage for the trout and as an alternate food for loons to reduce their depredation of the trout.

These studies were continued in 1978. The spawning run of the dwarf tullibeets got

LIMNOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTINUED

Our friends in the Environmental Research Laboratories of the FMC Corporation at Princeton, New Jersey have continued to conduct analyses of Ten Mile Lake waters for us, carrying on the limnological survey commenced in 1975 and previously described in our newsletters. In reporting the most recent results on samples taken January 30, 1979, Mr. William W. Smith of FMC comments:

"These results are very similar to previous Ten Mile Lake nutrient concentrations and indicate that the lake quality has not deteriorated since 1975."

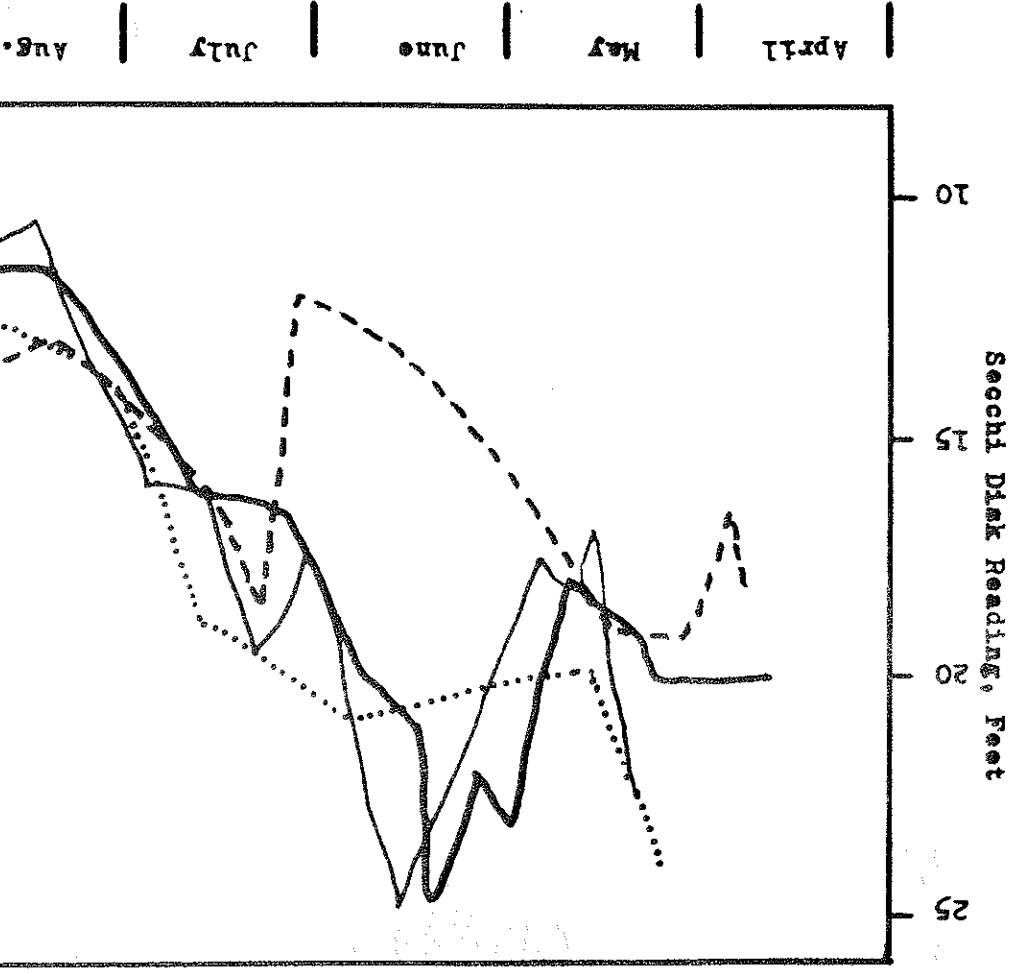
This is good news, of course, but it doesn't mean that Ten Mile Lake is immune to eutrophication. Its exceptional depth does contribute a great deal of resistance to eutrophic degradation, but the inexorable forces which cause the decay and eventual death of lakes are always at work in Ten Mile Lake and will eventually bring about its destruction --- albeit slowly (we hope). Organic matter enters the lake from many sources, some of them quite natural and unavoidable, but the most destructive are man-caused and preventable. Organic material undergoes bacterial decomposition to provide nutrition for algae. The resulting nutrients accumulate as mud and slime which build up at the bottom in the deeper parts of the lake. As these pools of organic mud develop over the years, they cause depletion of oxygen in the water and bring about numerous other harmful effects.

With proper care by all its residents, Ten Mile Lake can remain relatively clean and oligotrophic for many generations --- probably hundreds of years. Don't throw any refuse into the lake! Don't use fertilizer around the lakeshore! See that your septic system operates properly! A peripheral sewer probably will become necessary.

The limnological survey conducted for us during the past five years is of tremendous value for the preservation and proper management of Ten Mile Lake. This splendid service has been furnished at no cost to us, and ours is the only lake in Minnesota where FMC is conducting such studies, so we are most grateful to the FMC Corporation for their generous help.

THE WATERS OF TEN MILE LAKE ARE STILL EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR

Ten Mile Lake is known for the clarity of its water, but some turbidity does develop in the summer because of algal growth. This characteristic is important and is monitored by frequent measurements with a Secchi disk. The Secchi disk reading is the distance a standardized white metal disk is lowered into the water before it disappears from view.



SECCHI DISK READINGS I

SAILBOATING

The Ten Mile Lake Yacht Club has scheduled a full summer of weekend Class C sailboat races. Anyone interested in receiving complete information, schedules, etc. can write to:

Chris Brandt, Commodore
2975 Long Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55113

HILLAWAY

We understand from Bob Crabb that platting of the Hillaway property has been completed and approved by the County. Private interior roads have been graded, with some clean-up work yet to be completed this year. The approved names appearing on the plats are "Hillaway" for the area which formerly comprised the main camp and "Hillaway East" for the section that has been known as Sandy Beach.

JOGGING ANYONE?

Our attention has been called to the large numbers of joggers seen around the lake, and it has been suggested that perhaps we should hold a Ten Mile Lake Marathon. If interested, Laurence and Joan Urbanski would like to hear from you.

DEEP PORTAGE CONSERVATION RESERVE

The first of several buildings to be constructed in the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve is nearing completion, an interpretive center. Trails have been built and more are under construction. Courses are being taught in a variety of environmental subjects. These are just a few of the intriguing developments in this area of 6,000 acres set aside by Cass County for environmental purposes right in our front yard.

Mike Naylon is the new DPCR Director. For additional information about this interesting park you can contact Mike at the Land Office in the Court House (547-3300). Our Association and the other lake associations in this vicinity are supporting and urging others to support the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve.

SHERIFF'S WATER PATROL

Cass County Sheriff, Lou Chalich, has worked closely with us for several years on