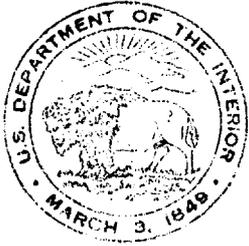


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BIOLOGISTS INTENSIFY SEARCH FOR ROUGH FISH CONTROL MEASURES

States are attacking the rough fish menace chemically, electrically, and mechanically in their efforts to find ways and means of controlling those unwanted populations with a minimum of injury to game species, Fish and Wildlife Service officials report. If an effective method is developed, one of the most difficult fish management problems of the present time will be rendered much less complicated, State and Federal fishery biologists agree.

Much of the work which the States are doing is being carried on with Federal Aid funds which come from a 10 percent tax on sport fishing rods, reels, creels and lures. The attack on rough fish has been going on for years but if the Federal Aid projects are a criterion the tempo was increased in 1956. During that year when five States which had immediate problems were "cleaning up" 20 lakes and ponds with rotenone, 16 States were conducting 29 research projects on how to control rough fish without damage to the fish the sportsmen seek.

One of the mechanical ways of controlling rough fish in a lake is to lower the level of the water immediately after the rough fish have spawned along the shallow edges, exposing the eggs to the drying sun and wind. This system presupposes two things--that the lake is inhabited by a game species which spawns at a time different from that of the rough fish, and that it is feasible to reduce the lake level at the proper time.

During the year South Dakota, with the cooperation of the Corps of Engineers, fluctuated the level of the new Fort Randall Reservoir, preventing successful reproduction of a large portion of the trash fish without harming the game species.

Several States have turned to the field of electricity for the answer to the problem of selective killing of rough fish. Wisconsin has carried on some basic research in the relations between electrical factors and electrode design as well as the amount of electrical energy fish receive when in various electrical fields. Studies indicate that carp can be electrically "herded" or concentrated in a small area from which they can easily be removed. More work must be done on this project before any definite decisions can be made. New York, Florida, and Kentucky have also done research on electrical control of fish.

Texas, Florida and Kentucky have continued to secure promising results with low concentrations of rotenone for selectively killing gizzard shad, drum and, to some extent carp. (Previous experiments in other States have indicated that some fish which have been rendered helpless can be revived if the rotenone is removed with other chemicals, making it possible to save game fish which have been victims along with the unwanted species. Rotenone, officials point out, is not an internal poison but rather paralyzes a fish's gills, making breathing impossible).

Washington reclaimed 843-acre Cavanaugh Lake with rotenone; Idaho cleared up its Stanley Lake of 179 acres in the same way; Minnesota killed the rough fish in another seven lakes which have a total of 89 acres and Maine used rotenone in six ponds totaling 270 surface acres. Oregon continued its vigorous chemical attack on trash fish. It used rotenone to rid its 1,113-acre Lake of the Woods in Klamath County and three of its tributary streams of tons of carp and yellow perch. Oregon also rehabilitated Malheur Reservoir, Beulah, Warm Springs, Thompson Valley Reservoirs and the tributary streams. (The Fish and Wildlife Service previously rehabilitated Malheur Lake on the Malheur refuge.)

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