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REMARKS BY CLARENCE F. PAUTZKE, COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AT DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF JORDAN RIVER NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY, ELMIRA, MICHIGAN, MAY 29, 1965

It is indeed a pleasure to join the Governors, Congressmen, and Senators; the Directors of the State Conservation Departments, members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, our Canadian neighbors, and others convened here.

I have been asked to bring you personal greetings from the new Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Dr. Stanley Cain, who spent so many years of his distinguished career at your great University of Michigan and also served as Michigan's Conservation Commissioner for many years. Dr. Cain regrets that because of a heavy work load he was unable to come home for these ceremonies.

This hatchery, one of the largest of its kind, was built for the production of lake trout as a tool in the joint effort among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Government, the Province of Ontario, and the States bordering on the Great Lakes in reclaiming the important lake trout fishery.

Some acts of nature are dramatic, others are tragic, many are both. The sea lamprey-lake trout story has the drama and tragedy--but also new hope of a brighter future. The drama began in 1829 with completion of the Welland Canal between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. This ship canal, which has since been enlarged, provided a vital link for commerce between our Great Lake ports and seaports throughout the world.

The tragedy came almost a hundred years later when the parasitic sea lamprey finally found this route to the western Great Lakes, where previously Niagara Falls served as an effective natural barrier. Although the sea lamprey may have been present in Lake Erie for some time, it was not observed until about 1921. Its migration westward was quite rapid thereafter.

The lamprey, by its parasitic action, soon reduced the lake trout to practical extinction. Between 1938 and 1947, Lake Huron trout production dropped from 5 million pounds to less than 400,000 pounds. It is now nil in Lake Huron proper. In Lake Michigan, production dropped from 615 million pounds in 1944 to 400 pounds in 1953. Fishermen lost annual income of more than 5.5 million dollars. Losses to other channels of the trade and to sport fisheries are inestimable. The voracious lamprey had trouble going through the locks in St. Marys River to reach Lake Superior. But--by 1947 enough of them passed through to establish a rapidly growing population in the largest of the lakes. Consequently, commercial landings of lake trout in Superior for the United States and Canada combined dropped from 4.7 million pounds in 1950 to 1.1 million in 1959. Many commercial fishermen were forced to seek other means of livelihood and the abandoned fishing fleets and docks presented a dismal picture. The economy of lakeshore communities faced a bleak future.

Just as man was initially responsible for the entry of the sea lamprey into new waters, man has sought means of sea lamprey control and lake trout rehabilitation. This also is a drama. It is a story of men of two nations, two Federal governments, one province, and eight states working in a combined effort to set the stage. And we find politicians, administrators, scientists, educators, commercial fishermen, sportsmen, and laymen all playing prominent roles as the story unfolds.

This is another example of why 1965 is being observed worldwide as International Cooperation Year.

Concentrated effort was begun about ten years ago, when Canada and the United States entered into an agreement known as the Great Lakes Convention, to undertake the task of Great Lakes fish management, with sea lamprey control and lake trout rehabilitation as the priority task. The convention or treaty established the Great Lakes Fishery Commission with six members, three from Canada and three from the United States. This Commission coordinates activities of all participating agencies. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 assigned the United States portion of the Great Lakes investigations as a function of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. To the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife fell the responsibility for operating all Federal fish hatcheries for lake trout as well as other species of fish. The responsibility for producing lake trout for the Great Lakes is shared by the conservation departments of the States bordering the Great Lakes, the Canadian Government, and the Province of Ontario.

Sea lamprey control began by installing mechanical barriers in streams to intercept and destroy lampreys before they spawn. The mechanical barriers were soon replaced by electrical barriers which were more effective and less costly to operate. Although these barriers were effective to a degree, scientists reasoned that more effective controls must be developed if they were to accomplish their mission.

Meanwhile, chemists and biologists were busy seeking a chemical that could be applied to streams and be effective in killing only the sea lamprey larvae without damage to other fish and aquatic organisms. After testing more than 5,000 chemicals, one was found that would serve as a selective lampricide. It is commonly known as T.F.M.

Since the Lake Superior lake trout population was not totally eliminated, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission determined that efforts in lamprey control should be concentrated here. Consequently a gigantic treatment program was set up and 110 tributaries to Lake Superior were treated by 1961. Some streams had to be treated for the second and third times to attain the desired results.

Beneficial effects of the stream treatment program on lake trout populations were soon evident. The number of lake trout bearing fresh sea lamprey wounds or scars dropped sharply. While all this was going on, fish-culturists were also carrying out an important role in another act of this drama. Brood stocks of lake trout, which take seven years to mature, were being developed so that eggs would be available to produce the fish needed for restocking. Diets and better rearing techniques and facilities were developed and improved. Fish-culturists and biologists also sought better methods of planting to obtain maximum survival of fish stocked. Each lake trout planted is marked on a prearranged pattern so that future identification is assured for later assessment to determine the effectiveness and progress of the program.

In the past seven years, 10,722,000 hatchery-reared trout have been planted in Lake Superior. Last October--the first time in a decade--a significant number of mature lake trout returned to the natural spawning grounds to reproduce. This is proof of real progress in the reestablishment of lake trout in Lake Superior. With the results experienced in Lake Superior, there is little doubt that the programs set up for Lakes Michigan and Huron won't be equally successful.

In Lake Michigan, initial treatment of lamprey-producing streams will be completed by the fall of 1965. The first large-scale planting of lake trout in Lake Michigan is now underway. Only through continued diligent research, extensive investigations, and application of modern techniques and the cooperation of all, can we expect to reap a harvest complimentary to the money and effort expanded in this large and complex program.

We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent. The Nation's population is expected to nearly double by the year 2000. That is only 35 years away. With the expanding population, shorter work week, longer paid vacations, better roads and modes of travel, and more efficient fishing gear, the fishing pressure will be greater than ever before and will continue to increase rapidly. With these facts before us, we

must not be so naive as to think we can exploit our fisheries without carefully planned regulations based on our knowledge of the resource potential. We cannot afford to have a few years of wide-open lucrative fishing on the basis of first come, first served. This can only lead to bankruptcy. Some questions must first be answered--such as--who will be permitted to take lake trout? How many will the angler be allowed? How many will the commercial fisherman be allowed to harvest? We must find the answers to these questions before there can be any assurance that the lake trout fishery can be maintained throughout the years for the benefit of all.

Each year as more people join the millions who seek outdoor recreation through fishing, we cannot think of the sportsman alone. We must also think of the commercial fisherman who brings to the tables of many the delights of a fine fish dinner.

The true vastness of the Great Lakes is perhaps not well appreciated by those who do not know them well. The combined area of the lakes is 95,000 square miles, more than 1½ times that of all New England, and about equal to the area of Oregon. Nearly two-thirds--61,000 square miles or 64 percent--of this total lies within the boundaries of the United States.

All five of these lakes rank among the world's greatest. Lake Superior, by a good margin, is the world's largest fresh-water lake; Huron ranks 4th, Michigan 5th and the smaller lower lakes--Erie and Ontario--11th and 13th respectively.

Increasing multiple use of water is creating problems of water quality that concern the commercial and sport fishery. The environment is being changed directly by toxic industrial waste and more subtly by progressive enrichment from sewage effluents and other nutrient materials. These all add up to another problem which we face in maintaining a lucrative fishery.

Fishing in America dates back many thousands of years. Remnants of fish nets found in caves near Great Salt Lake are more than 10,000 years old. Recreational fishing as a right of the private citizen did not exist in Europe. When the colonists came to America, they appreciated their new privileges and jealously guarded the right to fish in the rivers and lakes of the new land. Thus, recreational fishing in America is a great heritage passed on to our generation from the first settlers.

A national survey of sport fishing in a typical recent year revealed some interesting facts. It showed that 50 million Americans fished at least once that year and 25 million of them, 12 years or older, fished in a substantial way. Collectively, the more ardent American sportsman fished nearly 466 million man-days that year and caught 1.1 billion pounds of sport fish.

About 1/10th of our Nation's population, or some 17 to 18 million people, live along the shores of our Great Lakes and with the millions of tourists who visit the lakes, make extensive use of sport fishing opportunities. Expenditures by sportsmen are such that economic returns from sport fishing well may exceed those from commercial operations by a sizable margin.

Aside from the water-borne traffic on the Great Lakes which is nearly 300 million tons per year, the bathing, boating, and other recreational activities, the fisheries have a tremendous impact on the economy of the communities along their shores. These fisheries cannot be ignored.

As I was driving through the forest today and viewed the beautiful Jordan River Valley from Deadman's Bluff, I thought, it is little wonder that the early settlers loved the valley so much. We are now seated on the location of an early settler's homestead. Although long abandoned as an agriculture site, I'm sure the original owner, if here today, would be proud to see this magnificant hatchery utilizing the pure spring water that flows from the hillside for such a worthwhile effort that affects us all.

And in conclusion, may I say how much I've enjoyed being here. I've met many wonderful people, and had another look at the natural beauty of this great section of our country.

I'm sure many of you heard of the recent White House Conference on Natural Beauty. President and Mrs. Johnson took an active part of this conference, and when the President takes his valuable time to be concerned with natural beauty, we can understand how serious he is about this subject. Our Great Lakes offer almost unlimited opportunities for recreation and relaxation and the President recognizes that these are among the needs of our expanding population.

You may know that President Johnson has referred to Secretary Udall as the Secretary of Conservation, and conservation of our natural resources is indeed one of the primary missions of the Department of the Interior. There are few men in the world today more dedicated to conservation than Secretary Udall, and I can assure you that he knows the problems as well as the assets of the Great Lakes area. I can also assure you that he knows that the warm, friendly, hardworking people of this area are its most important asset.

Thank you very much.

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