

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Region II
1001 Jedsmith Drive
Sacramento, California 95819



June 19, 1972

Mr. William H. Gault
P. O. Box 505
Georgetown, California 95634

Dear Mr. Gault:

Your recent letter to Mr. B. E. Faist of the Wildlife Protection Branch has been forwarded to this region for reply.

Unfortunately, "No Trespassing" signs are appearing more frequently along streams and lakes bordered by private property that were formerly open to the public. This is largely caused by the public's attitude on leaving trash behind them and their carelessness or vandalism of private property. The trend will probably increase.

As you mentioned in your letter, the new road has attracted more anglers to Edson Lake. The Department is planting more trout to keep up with the increased angler pressure at Edson Lake and all other roadside waters, but probably will never raise enough trout to meet the demand. In 1970 the Department introduced 25,000 kokanee salmon fingerlings to help fill the void. Some of these are entering the catch, now, as 10 to 11-inch fish.

As man-made lakes become "aged", they tend to become less productive. Edson Lake at this point in time has stabilized. It still produces many nice brown and rainbow trout, but the catch is less than when it was new. A recent sampling of the lake with gill nets showed that brown trout are fairly abundant. Numerous rainbow and brown trout fingerlings were observed along the shoreline, indicating natural reproduction is occurring in the tributaries. The gill nets were set for 18 hours and caught:

22 brown trout ranging from 9.5 to 15.0 inches
5 rainbow trout ranging from 9.8 to 10.5 inches
1 kokanee at 10 inches

In comparing the gill net catch with creel censuses, the two methods of sampling produce similarly, about 0.4 to 0.5 fish per hour of effort.

There are lots of fish remaining in Edson Lake, but in order to catch the larger fish, people will have to fish at a depth of 25 to 50 feet. The gill net-caught browns had been feeding on crayfish and other bottom living organisms. The kokanee

were caught at a depth of about 35 feet. Many of the anglers observed at Edson were trolling the surface or still fishing in shallow water. They will catch the "catchables" by these methods but not the lunkers.

During the early 1960's, Mysis shrimp were introduced to Lake Tahoe, Donner Lake, and Echo Lake from Waterton Lake in Alberta, Canada. Last year the shrimp were found abundantly in Tahoe, and the lake trout were feeding heavily on them. However, very few have yet been found in rainbow trout and kokanee stomachs. It has taken about ten years for the shrimp to become abundant in Tahoe and the same time would probably be required in any other lake. Consideration has been given to transplanting them to other suitable deep, cold lakes, but little is known as to the shrimp's requirements for survival. Whether they would survive in Edson Lake is unknown at this time. It may be worthwhile to try an introduction and see what happens. If this shrimp succeeds in establishing itself in Edson Lake, it would increase the amount of food available but would not increase the natural reproduction of the rainbow and brown trout fingerlings. This is controlled by the amount of spawning gravel available in the tributary streams, water flows and temperatures at the time spawning takes place.

The article you enclosed on the golden trout of West Virginia is very interesting. Thank you for sending it.

Sincerely,

COPY ORIG. SIGNED BY
R. W. LASSEN

Robert W. Lassen
Regional Manager

cc: B. E. Faist

bcc: Warden Kastner
Captain Childs
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