REPORT ON THE AUSABLE RIVER
By
P. G. Salsman. Grayling.

Department of Conservation
F. A. Westerman. Supt

Dear sir:

In reply to your letter of Aug 8th, requesting a report on the AuSable river survey by Prof Carl L. Hubbs. and associates, wish to say, The AuSable river is more of a matter as to how you think, If you think it should be filled with Brook. Brown. or Rainbo. but the majority want Brook.

If the Department or the Old Fish Commission had sent the Grayling Hatchery better brook trout eggs a few years ago there would have been no need of putting Brown and Rainbow in the AuSable system in Crawford County,

But you can not stop with the report, you must take in the Card Survey with the report to get at their recommendations, for as I see it the have recommended Brown and Rainbow in this stream regardless of what damage they were doing the Brook Trout

The AuSable river system as a whole is a good brook trout stream, and you can catch Brook trout in any part of the stream in Crawford County

Main Stream

The report calls for brook trout only above the Electric light dam in Grayling, this is Okey

From Grayling down they recommend Brook. Brown and Rainbow this is all right in a way, but the people at large would rather have brook trout,

They have based their report as you will note on the back of the survey cards by what they caught in a seine, this I think is wrong, as it depends on what time of the year you examin the river as to what you will catch,

During the Month of May you will catch mostly brook trout, but in July and August they catch mostly brown and rainbow Why? Because they do not know how to catch the brook, the fisherman paddle down the center of the stream where the brown and rainbow are, but if they will cast to the side of the stream where the cool springs are, and the outlet of some creek , they will catch mostly brook, they have caught brook trout at the still water this year, and below the still water to Redheads they are catching more brook then any thing else, and the report says plant no brook,

On Aug 15th some parties stopped at the hatchery on their way home to Detroit, I asked them how fishing was, and they said good, they said they were fishing in the main stream near Redheads the day before and they caught 40, 37 brook, 2 brown and 1 rainbow, ,I asked them if they were joking, and the said no, these fellows knew how to catch brook trout, and the report says no brook trout, only brown and rainbow.

East Branch AuSable River

This is the best stream of the AuSable system. and field nomber 9769 calls for Rainbow trout,

Why put in rainbow trout, give a reason.

I say Brook trout only.

North Branch AuSable

This is the most peculiar stream of the system, I will not try to explain it, as to water conditions. etc,

Every body along this stream wants Brook Trout,

Field No 0029 by Hubbs and Walsman, this card is wrong, I never recommended rainbows in this stream, we went up there at spawning time, or rather they were through spawning, we dug up some 25 beds or more, and I think we got 12 eggs, we were below Dam 2 in Otsego County, and the fish can not get up any further then this Dam, and there were hundreds of spawning beds, but I doubt if there are many of these eggs ever hatch, the bed of the river is to hard, and the fish have to lay their eggs on the surface, and are soon distroyed by other fish,

Field No 0630 I think is wrong, as corrected in 1928, I consider it a crime to put Brown trout in this part of the stream at the bridge above Lovells, or any other part of this stream

They recommend only Brown and Rainbows below Dam 4 I wander why, every man along the river at this point want brook trout, there is enough brown and rainbow in it now, and they are catching some nice Brook trout in this stretch of the river, Prof Metzelaar. is a brown trout man, and recommends them every where, and he says public opinion are for Brown, I think he is wrong,

South Branch AuSable

No Brook trout are recommended in this stream, and they tell me that 50% of the fish caught in this stream are brook trout, why not plant brook trout in it,

Manistee River

The~~re~~ recommendations on this river are Okey, and I am planting Brook. Brown. and Rainbow in this stream.

MY RECOMMENDATIONS

Main Stream

To plant the main stream above the Electric Light Dam to Brook Trout only.

All creeks and tributaries to the Main Stream AuSable to Brook Trout only. Brown and Rainbow to be planted on the edge of the stream~~s~~ where ever we can get to it and if it suitable for planting, next year we expect to plant more by boat.

North Branch

To plant only Brook Trout from Kellogs up, Why plant Brown and Rainbow, you make trouble when you do, and their are enough of them in the river now,

East Branch

Brook Trout only, why plant Rainbows, the parties that live on the main stream now go to the East Branch when they want brook trout,

South Branch

Brook, Brown, and Rainbows, all creeks and tributaries to brook trout,

Suggestion

You leave all the streams in Crawford County to the Grayling Fish Hatchery, and if their an any complaint refer~~s~~ them to me,

Respectfully Yours

Phil. G. Salsman.

R. C. Haas % F. G. Van Dyke Co Detroit

Shuble Foster % Ma Cumber Smith Co

P. H. Ma Cumber % " " "

B M Short % C G Spring Co

Ed Brady % " " " "

We dont want the North Branch or the East Branch Spoiled with Brown or Rainbow then streams or Tipical "Brook" trout stream

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Statement made in my Office Aug 21 - 1929

P G Galseman