

July 2, 1954

FIELD NOTES

The subject water was seined today with the assistance of I.E. McLaurin. The seining operation was conducted to determine if the yellow perch plant of October 1953 had succeeded in establishing a yellow perch population in this water. Four seine hauls were made, two hauls with a 200' 1 1/2" stretched mesh beach seine, and two hauls with a 40' straight wall nylon beach seine, 1/8" woven webbing. No yellow perch were netted. However, the following species of fish were collected: 33 cottoids sp., 1 brown bullhead approximately 15" long, 1 RT-SH 10-12"; numerous salamanders were netted during each seine haul.

Aquatic vegetation, emergents, submergents, and floating plants have taken over the entire margin of the lake. The most dominant species were the submerged potamogetons which covered at least 40% of the surface area of the lake. The water geranium which was found to be very dominant at the time of Evans' inspection in 1953 still dominates large parts of the margin of the lake. In some places, the geraniums are extending as far as 20' from shore into the lake. A First Lieutenant, the Adjutant at Ft. Cronkhite, reported that the Army had used some 2 1/2 ton trucks to remove the water geraniums from the southern and part of the western margin of the lake. However, these trucks were found not strong enough to pull these weeds from the lake. They sprayed the aquatics with 2-4-D and other weedicides, but the only results they had was ~~is~~ that the plants ~~have~~ turned yellow after the spraying and then within a matter of months recovered. Large patches of cattails and bullrushes dominate the area where the creek feeds the lagoon. It was noted while rowing over the area infested with the potamogetons that myriads of fresh water shrimp could be observed swimming in amongst the vegetation. The turbidity is less than 18". As a whole, this lake is as rich or richer than Lake Merced, San Francisco County.

The water temperature was 72°; the air temperature 64°. It was a bright, clear day with a westerly wind blowing.

The Adjutant with whom I talked reported that if our Department writes a letter to the Army that the removal of the aquatic vegetation from Rodeo Lagoon will benefit fishing and the fishlife, action will then be taken by the military authorities by having bulldozers go down and pull the weeds out from the entire lake for a field maneuver. This Lieutenant reported that there are more high ranking officers on the post interested in fishing than there were last year and that it will be very easy to get the weed removal project under way if we give them some justification for it.

WCJ:fo

Sept. 24, 1954

RODEO LAGOON
Marin County

FIELD NOTES

On this date, the lake was inspected with Major Wertz, who is stationed at Fort Cronkhite. The aquatic plant situation at the lake was examined. At the present time, the masses of sego pond weed previously present have all but disappeared, and the lake is clear and in good condition. The water geranium forming a slight margin around the edge is of minor concern. It was my suggestion that they concentrate on use of the open water areas and avoid an extensive weed control program of the sego pond weed, if possible. At the same time, it would not be difficult to remove the water geranium around the margin by mechanical means, using rakes. This program was decided upon. The establishment of piers in the open water areas for fishing purposes were also encouraged. Regarding the stocking of the lake, I explained to Major Werts our inability to find any of the yellow perch previously planted in the lake, and our current reluctance to bring any more yellow perch into the area at the present time. He informed me that the post has now been declared open to the public. It is, therefore, eligible for a stocking of trout. Water condition and general richness is believed to be quite similar to Lake Merced. Arrangements were made for the stocking of catchable trout in the latter part of September in this small lake. Subsequently, it was learned that the public are required to obtain their permits at the Presidio in San Francisco. However, these permits are issued at no charge and may be obtained, on a full season basis. A few days after this discussion, Major Wertz and Post personnel had cleared out the aquatic vegetation along the margin, had constructed a roadway or ramp for fish planting purposes and had built and installed a pier for fishing purposes. It is anticipated that this lake can be carried on a fingerling stocking program in the future. Some field studies would be desirable to determine foods available.

WAE:fo