

May 14, 1942 #1

WJK42-05-15-01

A. M., Taos Co., Two Pecos, La Junta Creek.

Fred W. Johnson and I scimed La Junta to tag and fin clip fish for census studies. Snow banks occurred along the stream at frequent intervals. The stream was very high but not nearly as turbid as last year when the high waters were largely due to rain instead of snow. Temperatures: A. 48° W. 36° T. 8:05 AM; A 48° W 38° T. 9:25 AM; A 42° W 39 T 10:15; A - W. 46 T. 3:40 PM.

The trout ^{were} taken almost entirely from quiet waters, such as in beaver dams, behind stumps, trees etc. While no effort was made to seine in the main channel, which was too deep and swift for us to work, most of the hauls made in strong current were blanks. We gained the definite impression that the fish were restricted to the quiet waters and that there was a lack of there ^{places} in the stream. There are several beaver dams along the stream, but there are not in the best of repair probably because a great many animals have been trapped here during the past weeks in order to reduce the population. There also appear to be a lack of places for small fish. The growth appears to be slow especially in the first year, judging from the size of the fish that

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133 - F.C.
133 - F.C.
136 - F.C.

193
132
90
88
1033

96
136 - F.C.

187 - #1438
150 - #1439
185 - #1440

88
147 - F.C.
156 - #1429
169 - #1430
171 - #1431
88
128 - F.C.
192 - #1432

114
170 - #1433
145 - F.C.
147 - F.C.

137 - F.C.
132 - F.C.
150 - #1434
188 - #1435
97

95
87

May 15, 1942 #3

99-
94

146 - F.C.
165 - #1422

135 - F.C.
122.
140 - F.C.

130
161 - #1423
98

114
156 - #1424
137 - F.C.
178 #1427
95
137
133 - F.C.
191 - #1428

121
96
129 - F.C.
125

116
120
142 - F.C. - rt. V. clipped last year (F.W.V.)

98
106

From side stream

93 -

From side channel

94
168 - #1416
122
114

128 - F.C.
130 - F.C.

205 - # 1418

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162 - #1445

132 - F.C.

174 - #1446

173

139

127

125

148 - F.C.

— #1844 - previous tagging

195 - F.C. #1449

155 - #1448

244 - #1632 - previous tagging

130 - F.C.

99

94

142 - F.C.

116

144 - F.C.

98

173 - #1450

90

93

178 - #1441

109

131 - F.C.

123

82

128

91

151

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128 - F.C.

154 - #1442

135 - F.C.

127 - F.C.

230 - #1442

153 - #1443

or ripe

The following were preserved immediately. (Numbers in stomachs).

1 - 128

2 - 142

3 - 143

4 - 111

5 - 97

6 - 96

7 - 98

8 - 49

9 - 43

10 - 35

11 - 78

12 - 92

13 - 102

14 - 90

Taken from ^{two} backwaters off
main stream. Water high but
just slightly turbid. Bottom
subtle gravel, silt. Current moderate
to strong. A. 58 W 41. T. 10:45

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213 - # 1401
188 - # 1402
187 - # 1403
173 - # 1404
155 - # 1405
176 - # 1406
167 - # 1407
156 - # 1408
151 - # 1409
153 - # 1410
152 - # 1411
149 - F.C.
149 - F.C.
146 - F.C.
143 - F.C.
132 - F.C.
145 - F.C.
134 - F.C.
144 - F.C.
141 - F.C.
133 - F.C.
135 - F.C.
125 - F.C.
99
143 - F.C.
138 - F.C.
121
89
189 - # 1412
145 - F.C.
82

Taken from a silty pool,
mostly from under some
overhanging tree roots. Current
moderate.

224 - # 1415
156 - F.C.
141 - F.C.
92
87
95

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223 - #1417

131 - f.c.

181 - #1419

170 - #1420

211 - #1421

99

94

146 - f.c.

165 - #1422

135 - f.c.

122 -

140 - f.c.

130

161 - #1423

98

114

156 - #1424

137 - f.c.

158 - #1427

95

137

133 - f.c.

191 - #1428

148 - f.c.

128

153 - f.c.

185 - #1436

133 - f.c.

145 - f.c.

89

99

42

191 - #1437 - 07 ipe

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The following were captured about one half mile above the mouth of Rio La Santa. They were measured, numbered (numbers are mostly in their stomachs) and preserved immediately. W. 46°F. 3:40 P.M., R.M.S.T.; W.V.K. Fred Wobason. Current moderately strong; bottom rubble and silt, no vegetation. Cones fair. Fish captured in quiet backwaters. The main stream was too high to reeve.

No. T.L. in mm.

1	-	143
2	-	143
3	-	134
4	-	83
5	-	93
6	-	93
7	-	91
8	-	85
9	-	137
10	-	83
11	-	101
12	-	153
13	-	146
14	-	147
15	-	101
16	-	99
17	-	86
18	-	89
19	-	97
23	-	128

21	-	95
22	-	124
23	-	126
24	-	115
25	-	146
26	-	100
27	-	102
28	-	98
29	-	99
30	-	88
31	-	83
32	-	211

out of water

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162 - #1474

137

104

98

From below lower dam.
in or near strong current.

May 14, 1942 #6

49
141 - f.c.
97
83
104
89
113
86
87

93
129
106
86
88

109
99
90

156 - # 1527
190 - # 1526

182 - # 1501
147 - f.c.
155 - # 1502
138 - f.c.
158 - # 1576
141

101

197 - # 1413
146 - f.c.
163 - # 1414
101
99
89
95

117

In a large "pot hole"
similar to preceding. Current
moderate.

Under stump in side
pool, current moderate.

From beneath log, next to
strong current.

From beneath log, a deep
hole, current moderate.

Current slow

May 14, 1942 #5

90

95

253 - #1599 or just barely ripe

current moderately strong, under stumps.

203 - #1426

130 - f.c.

64

182 - #1476

162 - #1477

148 - f.c.

137 - f.c.

141 - f.c.

129 - f.c.

144 - a rainbow trout

39

101

88

93

96

95

82

77

85

83

43

44

44

53

42

92

current strong

62

in a little "pothole" - an eroded place in sod in a side channel.

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total length in mm. & tag nos. if any
111

By spume in water
current moderately strong

150

135

189 - #1475

202 - #1550

130 - F.C. -

83

155 - #1600

142 - F.C.

80

130 - F.C.

119 - F.C.

142 - F.C.

176 - #3556

230 - #1710

193 - #1451

165 - #1452

(= fin clipped - here and elsewhere stands for adipose & left ventral removed)

In pool off main stream where a side channel reenters main stream.

tagged in previous years, fish slim

From deep hole between logs, close to very strong current. Current moderately strong

202 - #1471

103

245 - #1668

143 - F.C.

153 - F.C.

136 - F.C.

95 -

- previously tagged, fish slim

From Beaver dam, current moderate.

124

107

231 - #1623

150 - F.C. -

had right ventral missing. Adipose clipped by F.W.V.

From under stump

138 - F.C.

131 - F.C.

From side pool
Current moderately strong

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Several tagged fish were taken. They all appeared to be much more slender than untagged fish of similar size. One fish was recognized as being tagged by its appearance alone before the tag was seen. Fin clipping appeared to be without bad aftereffects.

Two hybrid fish were taken. At first glance, they resemble rainbows more than cutthroats but they had the "cut-throat".

In the following lists are given the total length of the fish in millimeters. All fish captured were measured. If the fish was tagged or fin-clipped, this is indicated. The horizontal lines separate groups of fish taken from different "holes". One or several seine hauls may be represented in each lot. When convenient, a few brief remarks ^{were} ~~are~~ made concerning the various sets.

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undoubtedly represent last year's young.

A few of the males were just beginning to ripen. None were fully ripe. The females were all "green". The fishing season opens tomorrow ~~the~~ except in Rio La Junta which is closed until July 1. Since there is no reason to believe that the trout are any more advanced in the other streams, it means that the early season catch which is usually heavy will consist largely of fish ^{that are} full of spawn and a little later in the season of fish ^{taken} from spawning beds. Last year the legal limit was raised from six inches to seven inches. At the time, I ~~was~~ questioned the advisability of this move because many of the higher streams ^{stunted} have ^{of} populations with very few individuals over seven inches and this would discourage angling pressure where it is needed and increase it where it is not needed. However, since the season opens before the trout have finished spawning, this move leaves the adults that are less than seven inches long to spawn in relative safety. According to Johnson, the resort owners apply pressure to maintain an early season-opening. A seven inch limit may help to a certain extent to counteract the evil effects.