

STATE TEXAS

PROJECT NO. F-3-R-2, Job B-3

PERIOD Nov. 1, 1953--Oct. 31, 1954

Job Completion Report

by

Charles E. Gray  
Assistant Project Leader

**FILE**

TITLE

Check on Commercial Catch of Rough Fish from Caddo Lake.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the effectiveness of commercial fishing on the control of rough and predacious species and the value of the local commercial fishery as well as the relative abundance and seasonal variation by species in the commercial catch.

METHODS

Commercial fishermen were contacted once each month and were provided with forms on which to record their catch.

DISCUSSION

Due to the itineracy of some of the commercial fishermen, complete data were difficult to obtain. However, one of the public camp operators, who buys and sells fish, states that he buys most of the commercial fish caught in Caddo Lake. This man has been on the lake for a number of years and is in frequent contact with the commercial fisherman. He has been very cooperative in keeping accurate records of fish he has bought. His information, supplemented by information obtained from the more cooperative fishermen, should be a fairly accurate estimate of the total commercial catch.

Those fish which have no commercial value in this area were killed on the spot and returned to the lake so no record was kept.

Table #1 shows the commercial catch by species for the 12-month period. Attempts have been made to obtain data on numbers of fish as well as weight, but commercial fisherman are reluctant to do this, especially when large numbers of smaller fish are taken.

SUMMARY

Complete records were difficult to obtain from commercial fishermen because some are itinerant and could not be depended upon to keep records or could not be located again after being provided with data forms. One commercial fisherman who buys wholesale fish from other fishermen kept accurate records which were supplemented by data from other commercial fishermen. The figures in this report are no doubt below the actual value, but it is believed that they are as accurate as could be obtained under existing circumstances.

A total of 19,782 pounds of rough fish were taken which have a market value of \$6,533.03 at the present price. Buffalo were the most abundant by weight, making up 1.7% of the total catch.

Since commercial fishermen return inedible species such as gar and shad to the lake as they are taken from the nets, they were reluctant to keep records on those species. Therefore, it was impossible to obtain an accurate estimate of the value of commercial fishing on rough and predacious species.

TABLE #1.

Weights of Fish Taken by Commercial Fishermen by Month and Species Nov. 1, 1953 through Oct. 31, 1954. \*

SPECIES	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	TOTALS
Paddle fish	62.0						18.0	34.0	18.5	37.0		112.0	281.5
Buffalo	925.5	97.0	870.0	916.5	593.0	1087.5	1317.0	531.0	692.0	728.5	20.0	486.0	8264.0
Bullheads	1338.0	684.5	874.5	1043.0	412.0							294.0	4646.0
Blue Catfish				9.0	98.5	101.5	107.5	16.0	12.0	15.5			360.0
Flathead	64.5		45.0	64.0	208.0	709.5	480.0	144.0	126.5	19.0			1860.5
Channel Catfish	381.0	326.0	543.0	451.5	338.5	601.0	477.5	477.0	333.0	93.0			4021.5
Freshwater drum			73.0	85.0	79.5	94.0	85.5	32.0	26.0	9.0			484.0
TOTALS	2771.0	1107.5	2205.5	2569.0	1629.5	2593.0	2485.5	1234.0	1208.0	902.0	20.0	985.0	19782.0

\* Weight in Pounds

TABLE # 2.

Market Value of Fish Caught by Commercial Fishermen, Caddo Lake, November 1, 1953  
through Oct. 31, 1954

SPECIES	TOTAL CATCH (POUNDS)	AVERAGE RETAIL MARKET PRICE PER POUND NOT DRESSED	TOTAL VALUE
PADDLE FISH	281.5	\$0.15	\$ 42.23
BUFFALO	8,264.0	0.30	2,479.20
BULLHEAD CATFISH	4,646.0	0.30	1,393.80
BLUE CATFISH	360.0	0.40	144.00
FLATHEAD CATFISH	1,860.5	0.40	744.20
CHANNEL CATFISH	4,021.5	0.40	1,608.60
FRESHWATER DRUM	484.0	0.25	121.00
TOTALS OF ALL	19,782.0		\$6,533.03

