

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana
October 26, 1939

Dr. E. J. Crossman, Ph.D.
Assistant Curator, Dept. of Fishes
The Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park
Toronto 5, Ontario

Dear Dr. Crossman:

The northern pike (*Esox lucius*) is the only species of the family Esocidae which occurs in Montana. They may be native to Glacier National Park, particularly in St. Mary's Lake and may also be native in Pike Lake on the Canadian Border near Babb, Montana. Northern pike for planting have been obtained from Lac LaRonge in Canada by way of the Regina, Saskatchewan fish hatchery, and have also been obtained from the Minnesota Conservation Department.

Lakes into which they have been successfully introduced include Split Rock Lake near Augusta, Montana, Nelson Reservoir near Malta, and Aard Lakes near Conrad. They have been planted in several ponds in eastern Montana, and reproducing populations are now present in Shumacker's Pond near Ismay, Clark's Reservoir near Terry, and Johnson's Reservoir near Glendive. Northern pike have not been introduced, nor were they native, on the west side of the Continental Divide.

We take northern pike spawn from Nelson Reservoir each spring, and it would be relatively easy for us to collect 50 specimens for you if they would be of value. They are of both Canadian and Minnesota origin. Please advise us whether or not you would be interested in these.

Dr. C. J. D. Brown, Zoology and Entomology Department, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana is studying the distribution of all Montana fishes in preparation of a book "Fishes of Montana". This is in cooperation with our department. I would suggest you write him as he very likely can give you additional information.

Very truly yours,

WALTER H. ALLEN
SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES

WHA/eb
c.c. Dr. Brown