

**FISH AND FISHING  
IN LEON AND GADS DEN  
COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

**LAKE BRADFORD**

**LAKE MUNSON**

**LAKE JACKSON**

**LAKE TALQUIN**

**LAKE IAMON IA**

**and**

**THE OCHLOCKONEE RIVER**

**By**

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**FISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION**

**TALLAHASSEE**

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# PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

**T**HE FLORIDA LAKE and Stream Survey was initiated by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Fish Management Division, on July 1, 1954. This project is a cooperative federal-state study, and is financed through the provisions of the Dingell-Johnson Act.

The purpose of the Survey is to inventory the lakes and streams of importance that are open to public use; to obtain basic physical and biological information concerning them; to evaluate the fisheries they contain as to type of fish, their abundance, and the quantity and quality of the fishing provided; to determine the importance of the individual body of water on the state and local level; and to formulate management plans.

Most important, when the Survey is completed the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will, for the first time, have basic statewide information of the very important inland fisheries of Florida. With this data, the formulation of policies and procedures for the proper utilization and conservation of the fresh water fisheries may have a more substantial basis from the standpoint of long range and state-wide fishery management.

The need for the Survey is clear. Any business manager of any company has at his fingertips the annual or even monthly inventory of what stocks or raw materials his plant has on hand. He knows what his production figures are, including the last piece of goods manufactured. He has a fairly accurate idea of what the market conditions are now, and what they will probably be in the future. More important, the business manager is keenly aware of any problems his business may have in the production and marketing of the company product, and is constantly improving and expanding his management procedures to meet changing conditions. Without the basic information to manage correctly, either the business manager or his company is soon defunct.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, charged with the responsibility of managing one of the state's most important resources—her fresh water fisheries—has never had a complete inventory of the lakes and streams that supply the fishing. No one knows the number of lakes in the state open to public fishing, much less the amount and kinds of fish present, or the production, or fishing pressure. Due

to a lack of funds, and numerous and important immediate problems that had to be resolved, such fact gathering had to be delayed until the present. It is hoped that the information gained from this Survey will assist the administrators and technicians so that Florida may continue to provide top-notch fishing for her residents and the nation for many years to come.

This Survey has several limitations, as all such projects must. Only those lakes open to the public and over 150 acres in size will normally be surveyed. It would be obviously impossible to include all of Florida's lakes in the three years allocated to the study. The 150-acre limitation was used because generally, but not always, lakes over this size are public waters while those of lesser size frequently are not. For much the same reasons, only the more important and larger rivers will be studied.

Secondly, the Survey is by no means a comprehensive study of any individual lake or stream. Bodies of water are complex and individual units which require years of study to acquire all the facts and answers, rather than the short periods that they are investigated by this project. Some information may have been overlooked, and some of the findings possibly in error. Enough basic information has been collected, however, to provide the blueprint for future management.

It should be emphasized that the Lake and Stream Survey is a research unit, and not a management arm, of the Commission. In other words, this project attempts to obtain the facts, and make recommendations based on them. With the publication of this bulletin, and the filing of much more detailed data in the Tallahassee office, the work of the Survey in Leon and Gadsden counties is completed. The recommendations contained herein will be considered and put into effect, as time and funds permit, by other branches of the Fish Management Division.

## **About this Bulletin**

This report is designed to provide:

1. A capsule summary of the Survey findings in this area for the use of Commission members and interested sportsmen.
2. A semi-official guide to the fishing and accommodations for fishermen in the area surveyed.

Similar bulletins will be published about the fish and fishing in other areas as the Survey progresses.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

**L**EON AND GADSDEN Counties are located in Northwest Florida on the Georgia line, and separated by the Ochlockonee River drainage system. Resident population (at the time of this survey) is 51,590 and 36,457 for Leon and Gadsden respectively. In addition to the fishing pressure exerted by the local people, the position of these counties in close proximity to the states of Georgia and Alabama result in the heavy utilization of the available fishing waters by non-resident fishermen. Fishing by non-residents is

believed to be at least as much as that conducted by Floridians.

These counties lie on the dividing line between the pine and swamp land of the Lower Coastal Plain and the rolling farm lands and plantations of the Middle Coastal Plain. This line of separation is roughly the latitude of the capital city, Tallahassee. With the exception of Lake Talquin, all of the lakes surveyed are located in troughs between the Tallahassee Hills. The underlying geological formations in both counties are

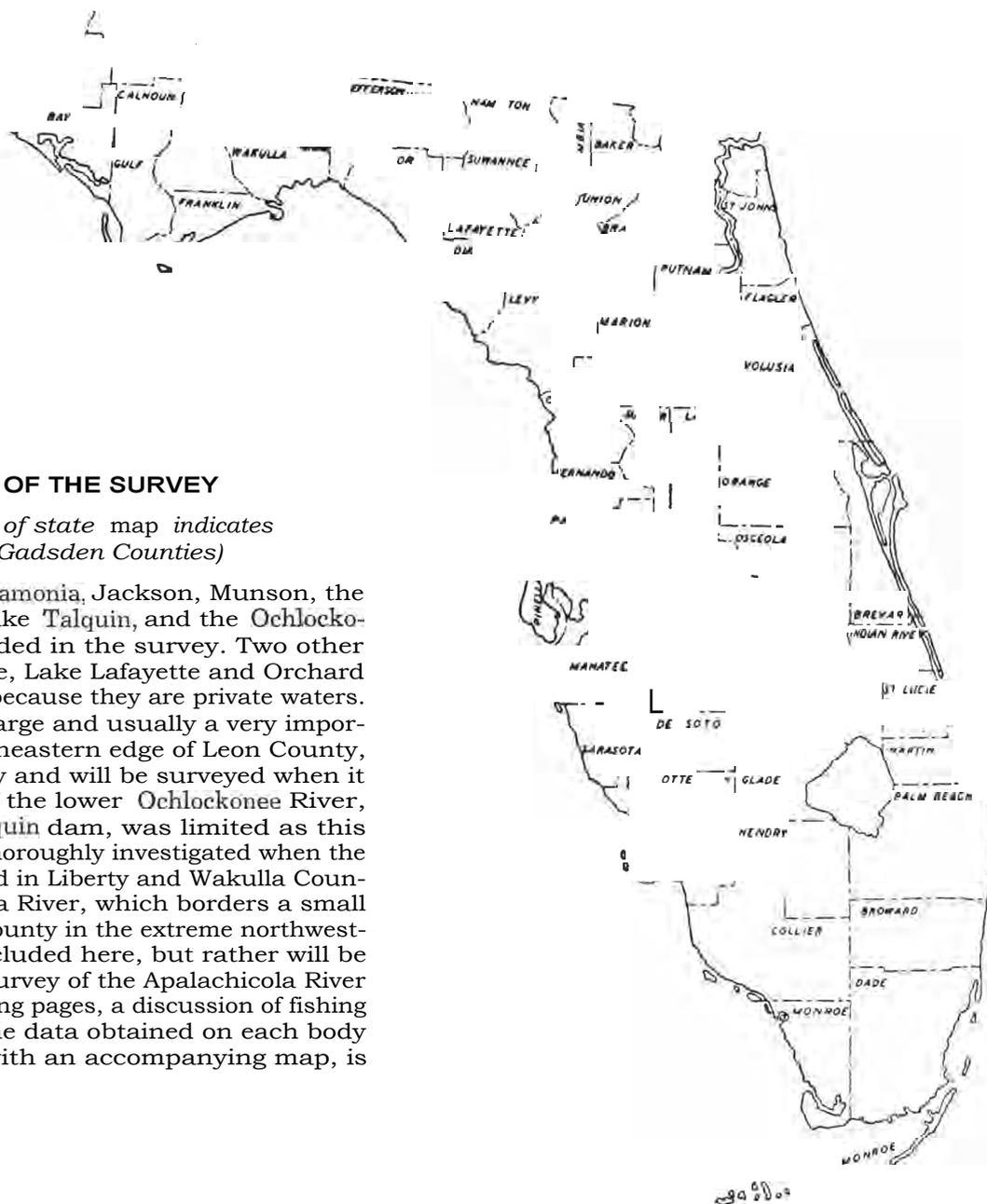
limestone. In Leon County, these limestone beds are generally overlaid by a sandy soil formed by the weathering of the limestone hardpan.

This basic geology of the region holds the key to both the excellence of the local fishing waters and many of the problems associated with them. Most of the lakes, such as Jackson and Iamonia, were formed in part by solutions in the underlying limestone, resulting in a slumping land surface. Numerous sinks are found in these areas which penetrate into the subterranean caverns and which result in periodic severe drying up of a lake, such as is now being experienced in Lake Miccosukee. This is one of the major problems relating to the fishery of the area. On the other hand,

the rich nutrient mineral material, gained as the water seeps through the limestone soil, is undoubtedly the basic reason for the high fertility of local water.

It should be remembered that almost all of these lakes are interconnected by a subterranean drainage system, and that increased water levels will depend upon increased rainfall in South Georgia and Alabama, perhaps as much or more than upon local rainfall conditions. It is believed that the water supply for these lakes is mostly ground water which originates in our neighboring states, and which is forced up through the sinks by hydrostatic pressure as the ground water slowly seeps toward the coast

# EXTENT OF LAKE AND STREAM SURVEY PART I



## EXTENT OF THE SURVEY

*(Shaded area of state map indicates Leon and Gadsden Counties)*

**L**AKES BRADFORD, Iamonia, Jackson, Munson, the large reservoir Lake Talquin, and the Ochlockonee River were included in the survey. Two other lakes of sufficient size, Lake Lafayette and Orchard Pond, were excluded because they are private waters. Lake Miccosukee, a large and usually a very important lake on the northeastern edge of Leon County, is now completely dry and will be surveyed when it refills. The survey of the lower Ochlockonee River, below the Lake Talquin dam, was limited as this stream will be more thoroughly investigated when the inventory is conducted in Liberty and Wakulla Counties. The Apalachicola River, which borders a small portion of Gadsden County in the extreme northwestern corner, is not included here, but rather will be incorporated in the survey of the Apalachicola River system. On the following pages, a discussion of fishing and a summary of the data obtained on each body of water surveyed, with an accompanying map, is presented.



# LAKE MUNSON

**I**N MANY WAYS, this cypress pond symbolizes what most northern people think Florida should look like. A lake with rich and fertile water, surrounded by a broad band of tall cypress trees, heavily draped with Spanish moss. A good waterfowl area in the fall and winter months, Lake Munson is also an excellent summer - time rookery for egrets, ibis, herons, anhingas, and similar swamp birds. These large, showy birds make a visit to the area a pleasant experience, even without the fishing.

The fishing in Lake Munson is mainly of one type: cracker fishing in the best Southern style. The ingredients are simple: a small skiff or swamp bateau with a paddle to scull it, a light cane pole, and a box of crickets. The objective—a limit of bream, mainly bluegills and shellcrackers. The favorite and most productive method of fishing is to scull along the outer edges of the cypress trees, plunking a bobber down beside a cypress stump here, a lily pad there, or a brush pile over yonder. When they are hitting, a limit of bream running from one-half to one pound or more is run-of-the-mill.

Bass fishing is only fair at best, but during the winter months the lake is noted for its black crappie

(speckled perch) fishing. A pail of minnows and the old cane pole will put meat on the table.

There is one major drawback to Lake Munson's fishing picture. The waters are the recipient of the municipal sewage from the City of Tallahassee. The sewage is treated, however, and enters a tributary of the lake several miles distant from the main body of water. This sewage problem has an adverse effect upon the esthetics of the area, and many local people will not fish the lake because of it. There is no evidence, however, that this pollution has ever harmed fish, fishing, or fishermen.

## DATA SUMMARY

**Date of Survey:** July 1954

**Area:** 235 Acres

**Location:** Leon Co. Sec. 26 & 27 T-1-S R-1-W app. 6 mi. south of Tallahassee via SR 369.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Maiden cane and hyacinth are rather abundant around shore. Small patches of duckweed, pickerelweed, and cattails. Heavy algae bloom.

**Bottom Type:** Ooze and detritus 80%; Sand 20%

**Accessibility and Availability:** Excellent

**Fluctuation Characteristics:** Lake at present time is at normal level. From past history, and from old water marks on the trees, it does not seem to vary over three feet.

## Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance:

### Game

1. Bluegill — Abundant
2. Black Crappie — Abundant
3. Warmouth — Common
4. Shellcracker — Common
5. Bass — Few

### Non-Game

1. Mosquito Fish — Extremely Abundant
2. Short Nose Gar — Very Abundant
3. Brown Bullhead — Common
4. Channel Catfish & Bowfin — Reported but not observed

**Estimated Catch:** 10,000 lbs. per year.

**Estimated Fishing Pressure:** 3,000 Fishermen days per year.

**Fishing History:** Good bluegill — shellcracker lake.

**Evaluation:** Very good pole fishing for bluegills.

**Recommendations:** The lake is the recipient of treated sewage from the Tallahassee sewerage disposal plant. There is no evidence that this has hurt the fish but the esthetics of the area are adverse.

**Contour Lines:** Contour lines are used to show the depth of the water. These are lines which join points of equal depth. For example a line showing the figure 3 means that the depth all along the line is three feet. It should be noted that contour lines never cross each other. The contour interval on the map is merely the difference in depth between each contour line. A contour interval of 3 feet would mean there is a difference of 3 feet in depth between successive line. Depth of water between shoreline and first contour line is generally three feet or less.

## KEY

Robert's Fish Camp, Nine Boats

Marsh

Swamp



Maximum Depth of Eight Feet



Public Landing

Paved Road



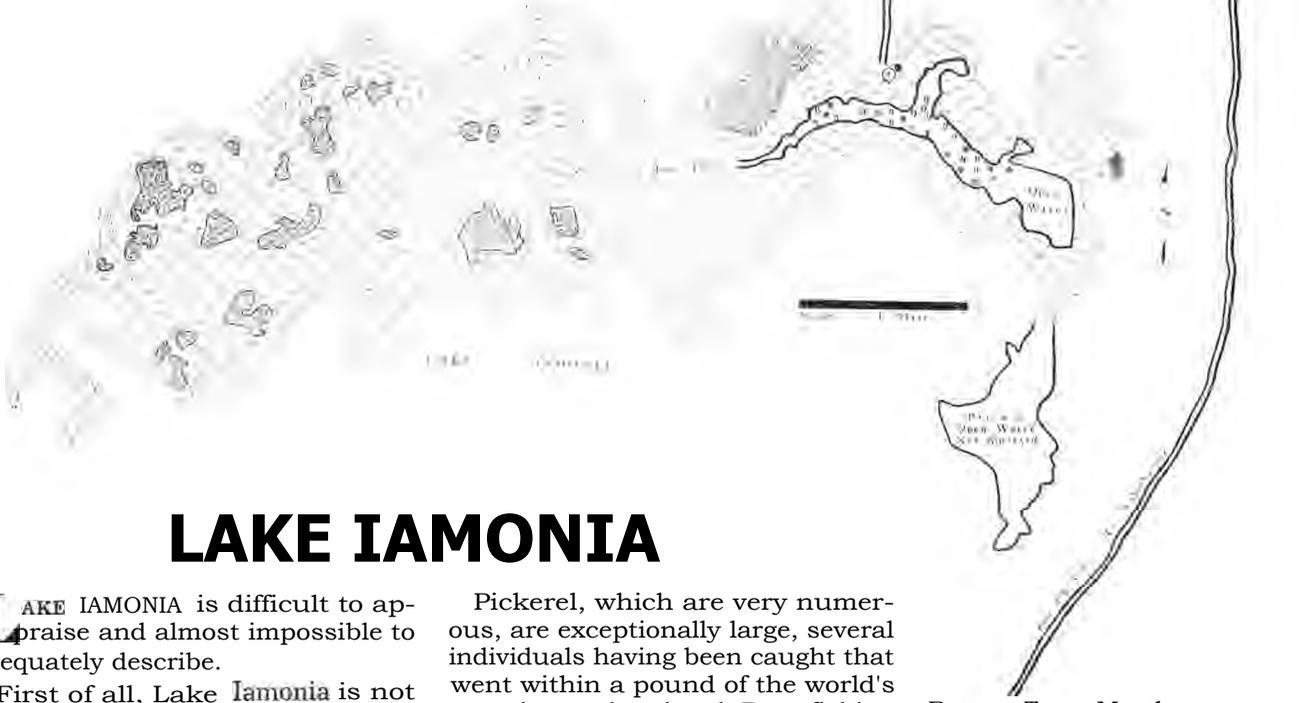
Unpaved Road

Contour Interval—Three Feet

Numbers Denote Depth of Water in Feet

## KEY

-  Lake Iamonia Lodge, 35 Boats, Bait, Tackle, Guides, Refreshments, General Store
  -  Island
  -  Marsh
  -  Public Landing
  -  Paved Road
  -  Boat Trails
- Numbers Denote Depth of Water in Feet



# LAKE IAMONIA

**L**AKE IAMONIA is difficult to appraise and almost impossible to adequately describe.

First of all, Lake Iamonia is not really a lake, particularly at present. Of the approximately 5,000 acres which the lake basin contains, less than 200 acres are open water enclosed by an extensive marsh. It is thought so lightly of by most Florida residents that every other lake of the area outdraws it in terms of resident fishermen. It is thought so highly of by South Georgia people that several thousand buy out-of-state licenses annually in order to fish it.

Fishing is sporadic, with one day producing tremendous catches when the fish are in open water and thus available, and the next day producing little or nothing when the fish are back in the marsh and unavailable. There is one thing about which there can be no argument: all species of fish reach an extra large size in Lake Iamonia. A creel census, run in September of 1954, yielded the following average sizes on the stringer: bluegill — slightly less than a pound; crappie — one pound; the flyer or coon bream — almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound; chain pickerel or jacks — two pounds. These averages were confirmed and verified by a population sample taken at a later date.

Pickerel, which are very numerous, are exceptionally large, several individuals having been caught that went within a pound of the world's record on rod and reel. Bass fishing ranges from poor to excellent. An occasional fish in the ten to fifteen pound bracket is taken. Plugging with surface bugs for these lunkers amid the bonnets and lily pads is an art of its own.

Most fish are taken in deep water, pole fishing or casting along the edge of the marsh. But if you have the muscle and the skill to pole stealthily back into the small pockets and 'gator holes, the results will probably be even more rewarding.

It would seem to boil down to this — if you like a big Southern marsh, with its full complement of alligators, waterfowl, myriad species of aquatic birdlife, and lily pad fishing for lunker fish, Lake Iamonia should satisfy all the requirements.

## DATA SUMMARY

Date of Survey: September 1954

Area: 5,344 Acres

Location: Leon Co. Sec. 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 & 30. Parts of Sec. 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26. Twelve miles north of Tallahassee via US 319 and SR 61 to Thomasville. Aquatic Vegetation: American lotus, water lily, spatterdock, and water shield are very abundant. Some maiden cane.

Bottom Type: Mostly ooze several feet thick. Occasional patches of sand.  
 Accessibility and Availability: Good  
 Fluctuation Characteristics: The lake has a past history of going dry frequently. Since the construction of the dam around the sink hole, fluctuation has been less than three feet per year.  
 Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance:

### GAME

1. Bass — Abundant
2. Bluegill — Abundant
3. Black Crappie — Abundant
4. Chain Pickerel — Abundant
5. Warmouth — Common

### NON-GAME

1. Chub Sucker — Very Abundant
2. Brown Bullhead — Generally Abundant
3. Bowfin — Common
4. Short-Nose Gar — Common
5. Golden Shiner — Common

Estimated Catch: 40,000 lbs. per year.  
 Estimated Fishing Pressure: 12,000 Fishermen days per year.

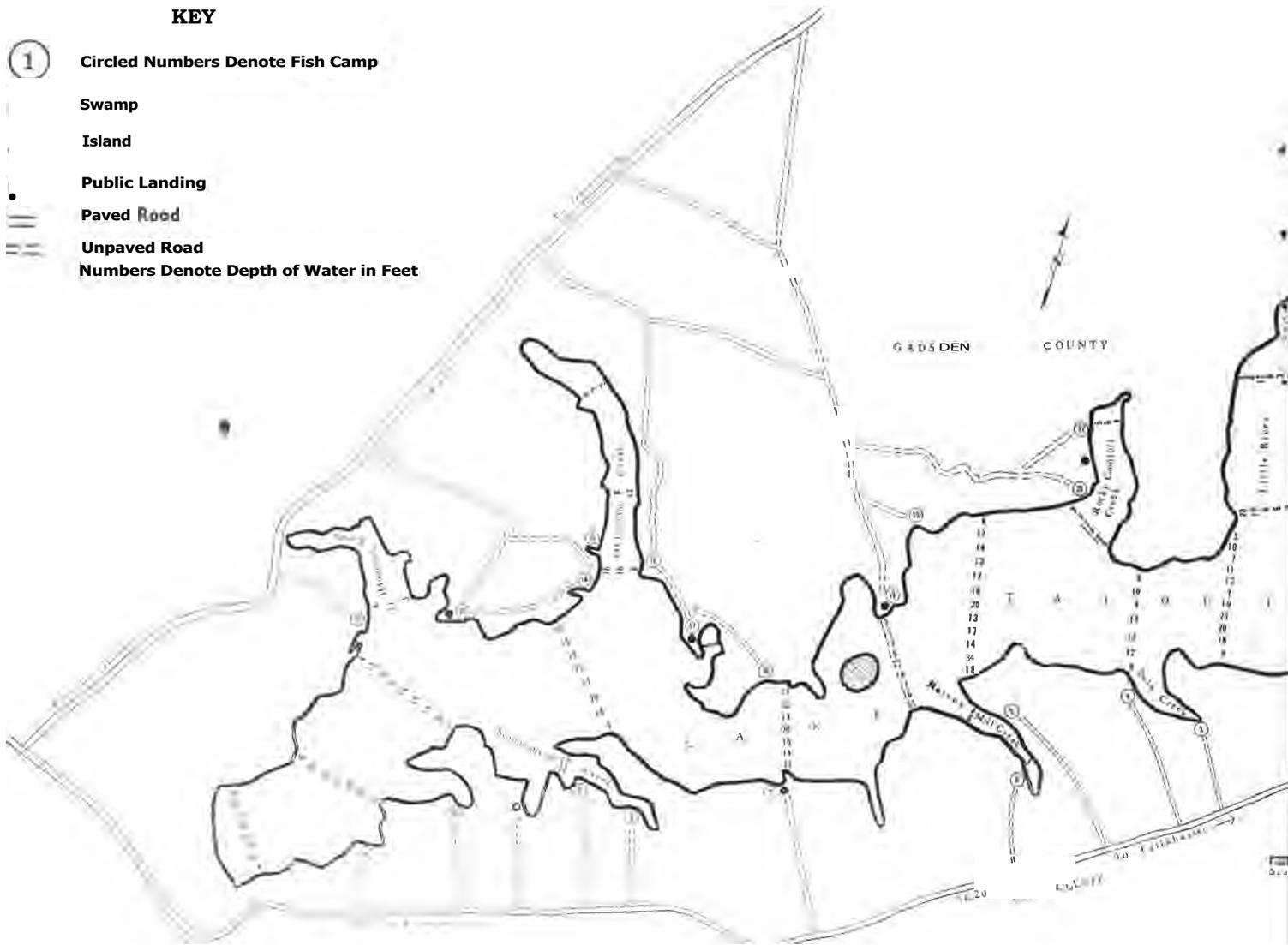
Fishing History: This lake has had a consistent history of excellent fishing and extra large size fish.

Evaluation: Excellent. All species of fish are unusually large, but fishing is somewhat sporadic. Both fishing and associated esthetics are outstanding.

Recommendations: 1. Lake Iamonia be closed to alligator hunting in order that the species be preserved and increased as an aid to maintaining open water in the boat trails. 2. Any and all possibilities for increasing the open water areas, particularly boat trails and small open holes in the marsh, should be investigated.

## KEY

-  Circled Numbers Denote Fish Camp
-  Swamp
-  Island
-  Public Landing
-  Paved Road
-  Unpaved Road
-  Numbers Denote Depth of Water in Feet



# LAKE TALQUIN

The best compliment that could be paid to Lake Talquin is that most local people go there when they really want to catch a mess of fish. The twenty-four fishing camps operating on the reservoir attest to its popularity.

Located in Northwest Florida, within easy driving range of Tallahassee, Quincy and Blountstown, Florida, as well as Dothan, Alabama, and Bainbridge, Georgia, Talquin has long been one of Florida's finest fishing lakes.

Most of the fishing in this lake is spot fishing—fishing for any of the numerous species present when they are congregated in one spot for spawning or other reasons. The best

advice as to how to find the "hot spots" is to look for a tight group of boats ranging from five to fifty.

Talquin bass fishing is usually good, and occasionally very good throughout the reservoir during the spring months. In the spring-time, plug-casting along the shoreline generally turns the trick. In late summer, the bass school up, generally in the upper end of the reservoir where they feed on shad minnows. The usual method at this time is to cruise around until a school of slashing, splashing bass is located, and then run the boat for the spot as rapidly as possible.

The wide range of accommodations available at the twenty-four camps

is a decided asset. A rental boat at a dollar a day, "and bring your own kicker", is usually the general practice, but, for those who wish it, there are several excellent lodges providing boats, motors, experienced guides, meals and lodging.

It is interesting to note that Talquin was badly infested with hyacinths—an estimated 3,000 acres of the lake was covered with hyacinths in 1948. A group of interested citizens formed the "Talquin Hyacinth Eradication, Inc." With the aid of public donations, and the technical assistance of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the hyacinths were gradually brought under control—freeing the lake for finer fishing.

## DATA SUMMARY

**Date of Survey:** August 1954

**Area:** 6,700 Acres

**Location:** Leon—Gadsden Co. line, app. 23. mi. from Tallahassee via SR 20.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Filamentous algae common in shoal areas. Spatterdock, water shield, water lily, and duckweed are predominant in the upper end of bays. The lake was once choked with hyacinth, which, now are under control.

**Bottom Type:** Shallows are generally firm sand.

**Fluctuation Characteristics:** Relatively stable, average annual fluctuation less than two feet.

**Accessibility and Availability:** Excellent

## Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance:

### Game Fish

1. Shellcracker — Extremely Abundant
2. Black Crappie — Very Abundant
3. Bass — Abundant
4. Bluegill — Abundant
5. Warmouth — Common

### Non-Game Fish

1. Bowfin — Common
2. Brown Bullhead — Common
3. Channel Catfish — Common
4. Short Nose Gar — Common

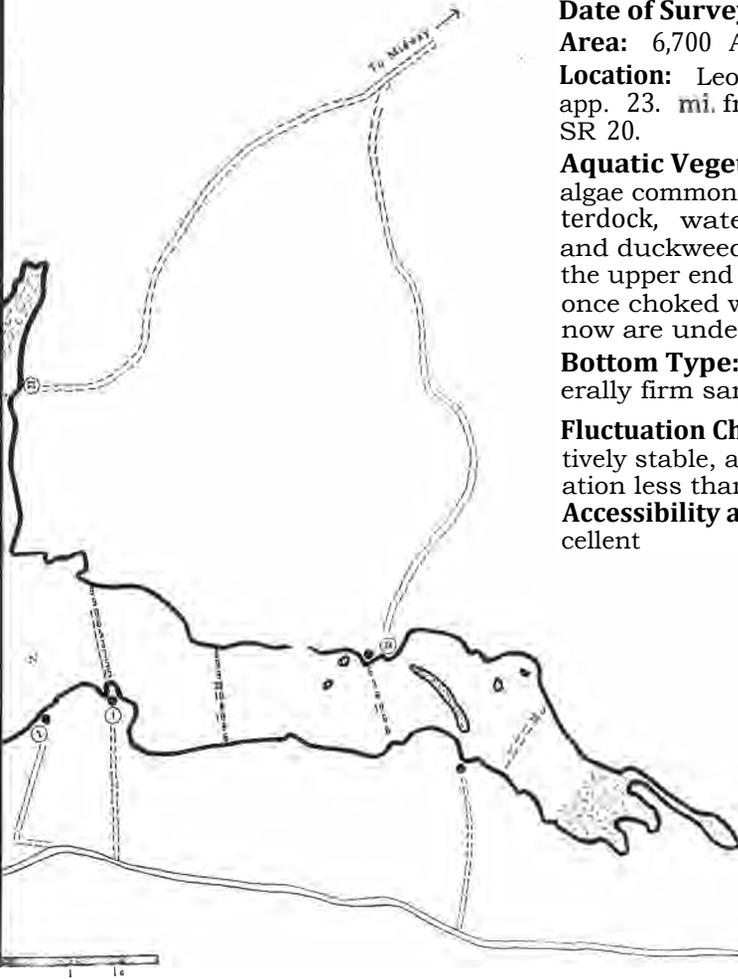
**Estimated Catch:**  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs.

**Estimated Fishing Pressure:** 100,000 Fishermen days per year.

**Fishing History:** In the late 20's, the reservoir provided good crappie, bass, and bream fishing. As the fishery grew older, the average size of most species gradually decreased. Fishing was drastically curtailed during the period of hyacinth infestation. Following the hyacinth control program, fishing intensity increased. Recently the decline in sizes of fish again has become apparent.

**Evaluation:** Very good fishery.

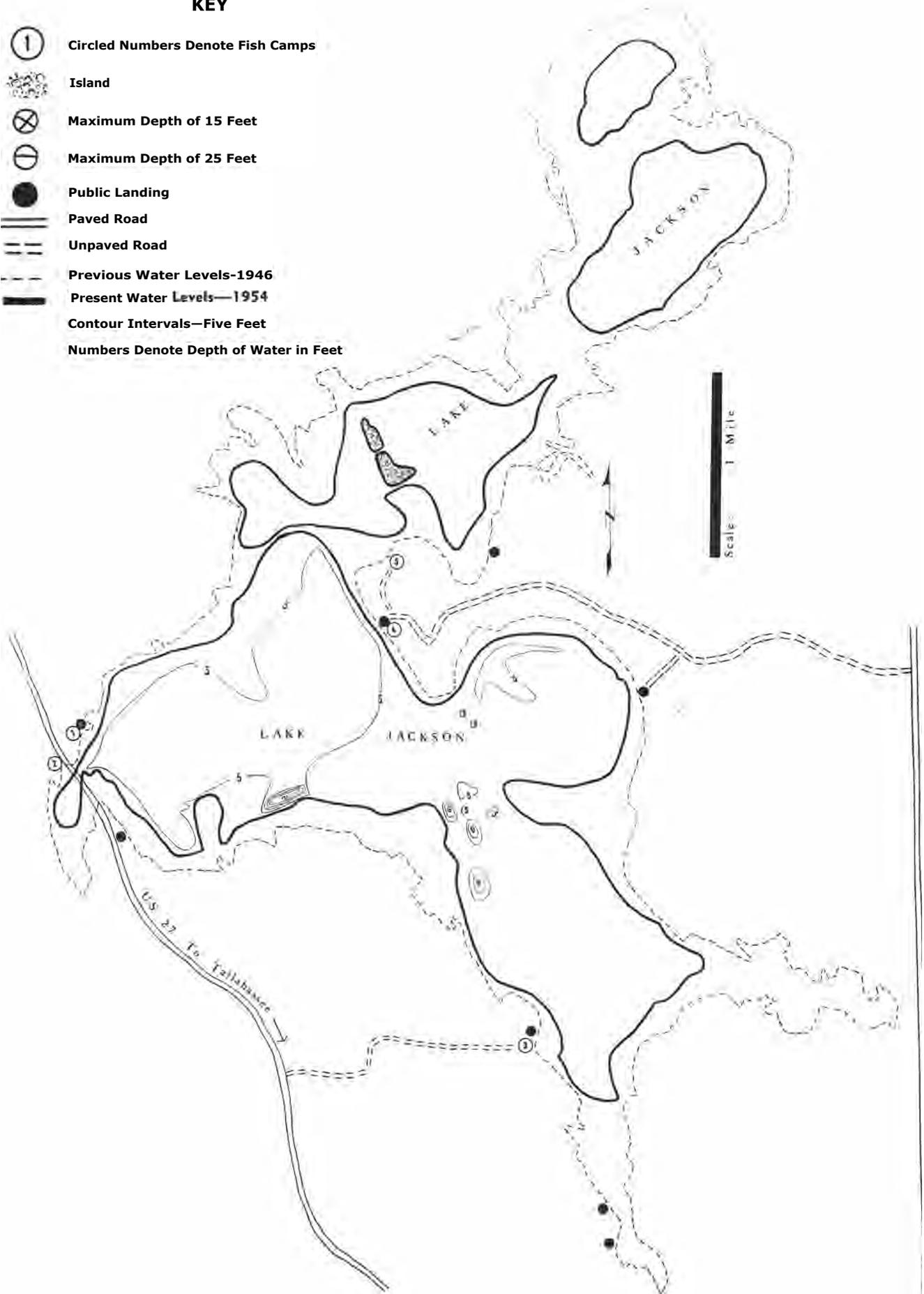
**Recommendations:** The findings of the survey indicate that the present creel limits (Day's bag limit-25, no more than 8 of which can be black bass) may be an undue and unwise restriction, and may safely be increased.



<i>Fish Camp Number</i>	<i>Name of Camp and Accommodations</i>		
1	Williams' Boat Landing, 27 Boats, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments	13	Cook's Camp, 32 Boats, Refreshments, Bait, Tackle, 6 Cabins
2	Vause's Landing, 15 Boats	14	Clatt's Landing, 15 Boats, Bait, Refreshments
3	White's Camp, 17 Boats, Bait	15	Tex Davidson's Fish Camp, 25 Boats, Bait, Refreshments, 4 Cabins
4	Harvey's Boat Landing, 14 Boats	16	Bushwacker's Fish Camp, 19 Boats
5	Harvey's Mill Creek Camp, 4 Boats	17	Lakeview Point, 4 Boats
6	Collins' Boat Landing, 12 Boats	18	Brown's Landing, 17 Boats
7	L. T. Hall's Landing, 11 Boats, Bait, Refreshments, 2 Cabins, Grocery	19	Boozer's Lodge, 85 Boats, Motors, Guides, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments, 13 Cabins
8	Giddens' Camp, 29 Boats, Motors, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments	20	Bill's Camp, 38 Boats, Refreshments, 4 Cabins
9	L. C. Stoutamire's Camp, 27 Boats, Bait, 1 Cabin, Rooms	21	Lake Talquin Beach, 10 Boats, Bait, Refreshments
10	Blount's Camp, 10 Boats, Bait, Refreshments, 7 Cabins, Grocery	22	Rocky Comfort Camp, 36 Boats, 8 Cabins
11	Lake Talquin Camp, 6 Boats	23	Joe Bud's Camp, 7 Boats
12	Hopkins' Camp, 32 Boats, Refreshments	24	High Bluff Fish Camp, 41 Boats, Guides, Bait, Refreshments, 8 Cabins

# KEY

-  **Circled Numbers Denote Fish Camps**
-  **Island**
-  **Maximum Depth of 15 Feet**
-  **Maximum Depth of 25 Feet**
-  **Public Landing**
-  **Paved Road**
-  **Unpaved Road**
-  **Previous Water Levels—1946**
-  **Present Water Levels—1954**
-  **Contour Intervals—Five Feet**
- Numbers Denote Depth of Water in Feet**



# LAKE JACKSON

**T**HIS LARGE LAKE, lying on the outskirts of Tallahassee, is a very popular fishing lake for residents of that city and also a large segment of South Georgia people. The recent drought has reduced the fishable waters to about one-third of the acreage present in 1948. Despite this gradual drying up, fishing has remained remarkably good.

Trolling for bass is a popular and productive pastime throughout the year, and an excellent spawn in 1953 should foretell good bass fishing for several years to come. Lake Jackson is primarily noted, however, for the number of "plate-size" bluegills taken from April through October. In the spring and early sum-

mer months, bluegills are on their spawning beds, the location of which will be clearly shown by a cluster of boats surrounding the site. In late summer and early fall, the fish tend to congregate around the edges of the deep sinks. (See Map)

The lake bottom is a firm white sand, free of vegetation, and the waters are clean and clear. These factors, coupled with the high hills surrounding the lake, with their verdant pastures and clumps of ancient live oaks, somehow go together to make the big bluegills look bigger, fight more pugnaciously and taste better in the skillet than is perhaps warranted by an objective analysis.

## DATA SUMMARY

**Date of Survey:** September 1954

**Area:** 3,520 Acres

**Location:** N.W. of Tallahassee app. 7 mi. on highway SR 63 and US 27. Also may be reached by SR 155 north. R-1-W T-2-N T-1-N.

**Bottom Type:** Mostly hard sand.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** A narrow fringe of maiden cane and a few rushes.

**Fluctuation Characteristics:** Drastic history of changes. Dry in 1933, the lake became abnormally full in 1948, about twenty feet above the present level. The lake has been gradually falling since, but the decline has increased in the last year with a drop of about one inch a week.

**Accessibility and Availability:** Excellent

**Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance:**

### Game

1. Bass — Abundant
2. Bluegill — Abundant
3. Black Crappie — Abundant
4. Shellcracker — Abundant
5. Chain Pickerel — Common

### Non-Game

1. Threadfin Shad — Very Abundant
2. Chub Sucker — Abundant
3. Brown Bullhead — Common

**Estimated Catch:** 100,000 lbs. per year.

**Estimated Fishing Pressure:** 30,000 Fishermen days per year.

**Fishing History:** Excellent bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish lake. Fishing has been quite consistent over the past years with the exception of the present extreme drought condition which has resulted in some curtailment.

**Evaluation:** Excellent bass-bream lake. Beautiful surroundings and very accessible.

**Recommendations:** None

**Contour Lines:** Contour lines are used to show the depth of the water. These are lines which join equal depth. For example a line showing the figure 5 means that the depth all along the line is five feet. It should be noted that contour lines never cross each other. The contour interval on the map is merely the difference in depth between each contour line. A contour interval of 5 feet would mean there is a difference of 5 feet in depth between each successive line. Depth between shoreline and first contour line is five feet or less.

### Fish Camp Number

	<i>Name of Camp and Accommodations</i>
1	Tradewinds Camp, 35 Boats, Motors, Bait, Tackle
2	Giddens' Fish Camp, 15 Boats, Motors, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments, Grocery
3	Giddens' Fish Camp, 45 Boats, Motors, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments
4	Miller's Camp, 40 Boats, Bait, Refreshments, 2 Cabins
5	Rollins' Camp — Not Operating

## KEY



Circled Numbers Denote Fish Camps

**Paved Road**

**Unpaved Road**

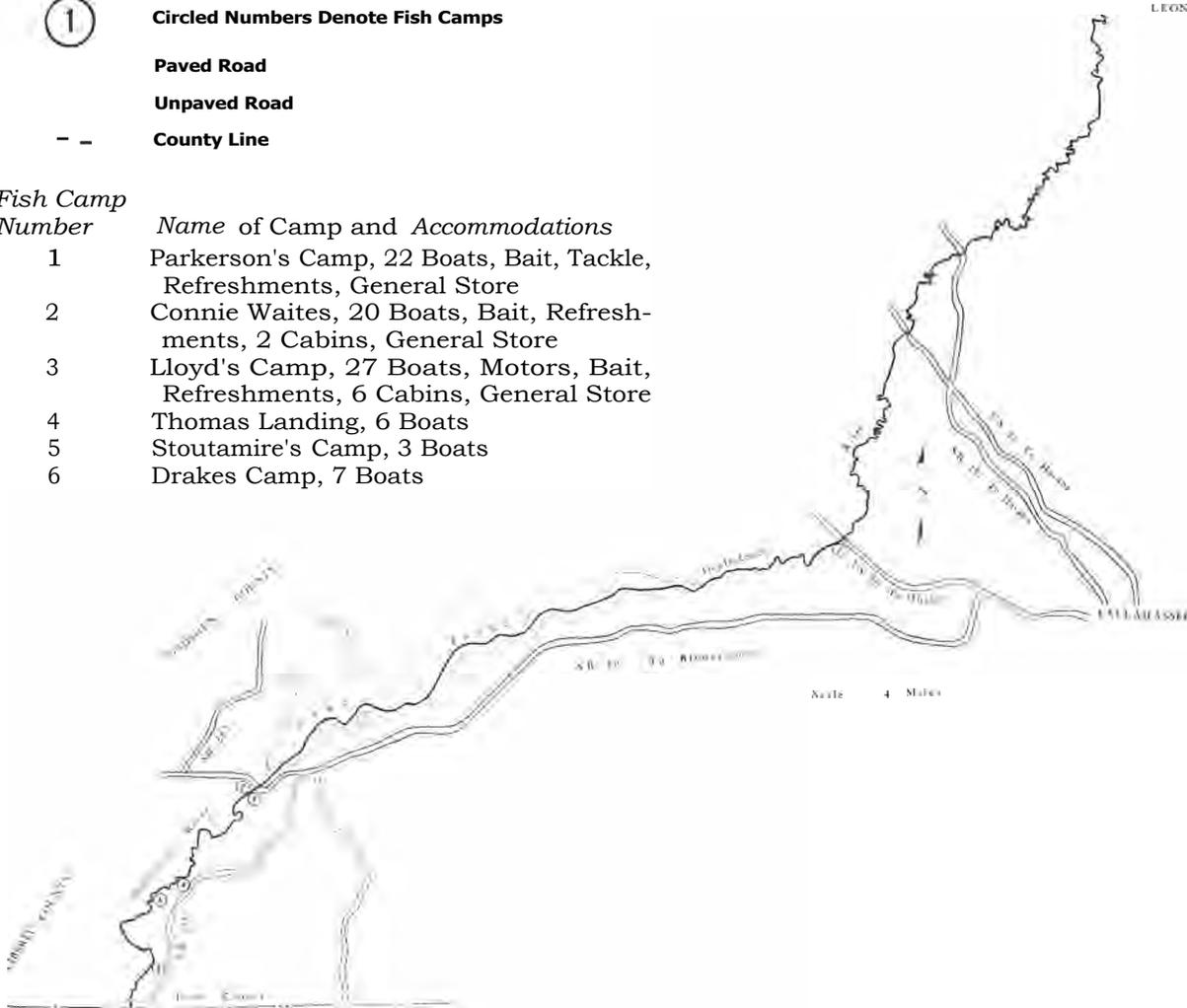
- - **County Line**

*Fish Camp  
Number*

*Name of Camp and Accommodations*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Parkerson's Camp, 22 Boats, Bait, Tackle, Refreshments, General Store       |
| 2 | Connie Waites, 20 Boats, Bait, Refreshments, 2 Cabins, General Store        |
| 3 | Lloyd's Camp, 27 Boats, Motors, Bait, Refreshments, 6 Cabins, General Store |
| 4 | Thomas Landing, 6 Boats   |
| 5 | Stoutamire's Camp, 3 Boats  |
| 6 | Drakes Camp, 7 Boats  |

LEON COUNTY



# THE OCHLOCKONEE RIVER

**T**HERE ARE LAKE fishermen, and there are river fishermen, and seldom do the twain agree. If you belong to the latter group, the Ochlockonee River is a good stream.

In the area from the Georgia line to the Lake Talquin reservoir, the river provides good bass, bream, and catfish fishing. Numerous logjams and brush piles impede boat travel, but it is in the pools adjacent to such areas that most fish are caught.

Fishing in the tail waters below the reservoir is sometimes excellent, and the entire lower river provides good pole fishing for various pan fish and bass. Drift fishing, occasionally stopping to fish likely looking holes via the cane pole method, is most popular. Fly fishing under the same conditions is rapidly increasing.

Below the dam, the river is generally readily navigable, and there are several convenient landings.

### DATA SUMMARY

Date of Survey: September 1954

Length: 48.5 miles from Georgia line to Leon Co. line.

Location: Georgia line to headwaters of Lake Talquin reservoir.

Aquatic Vegetation: Narrow fringe of mixed marsh along edge.

Bottom Type: Above the new Quincy Highway Bridge, mostly sand and some silt. Below the new Quincy Highway Bridge, mud and silt predominate.

Accessibility and Availability: Excellent at camps, but inaccessible at other places.

Fluctuation Characteristics: Flooded in 1948. At present time the river is several feet below normal.

Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance: No population sample was obtained, but from interviews it would seem that a good bream, bass, crappie, and catfish fishery exists.

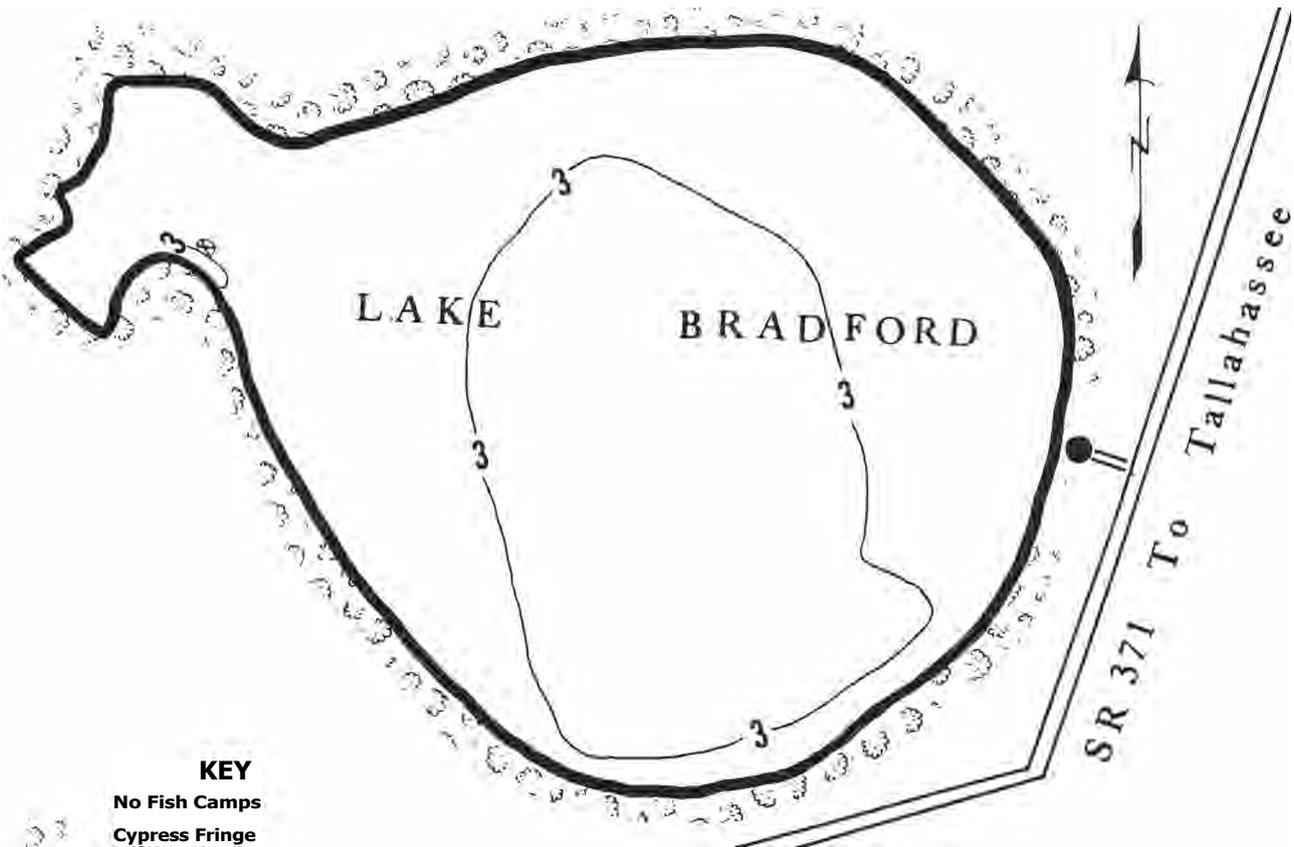
Estimated Catch: 20,000 lbs. per year.

Estimated Fishing Pressure: 8,000 Fishermen days per year.

Fishing History: Fishing was excellent following the first two years after hyacinth control.

Evaluation: Very good bream—catfish stream.

Recommendations: None



**KEY**  
 No Fish Camps  
 Cypress Fringe  
 Maximum Depth of 5.5 Feet  
 Public Landing  
 Paved Road  
 Contour Interval—Three Feet  
 Numbers Denote Depth of Water in Feet

**Scale :** 1 Mile  
 3

# LAKE BRADFORD

**T**HIS PLEASANT, small lake, located in the suburbs of Tallahassee, is primarily important as an all-around recreation site for the people living around its shores. It has a history of being a good bass-bluegill lake, but is suffering from extreme drawdown due to the present drought. (Note: As of August, 1955, Lake Bradford has decreased in size to about one-third of its area when surveyed, as the result of drought conditions.)

## DATA SUMMARY

**Date of Survey:** July 1954

**Area:** 115 Acres

**Location:** Leon Co. Sec. 8, 9, 16, & 17, R-1-W T-1-S App. 4 mi. SW of Tallahassee via SR 371.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Sparse stand of spike rush in shallows. Narrow band of cypress and maiden cane around the edge.

**Bottom Type:**.. Muck 80%; Sand 20%

**Accessibility and Availability:** Excellent

**Fluctuation Characteristics:** Normally minor fluctuation, but, at time of survey, lowest level on record. Approximately fifteen feet below normal levels.

**Species of Fish Present and Relative Abundance:**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
|    | Game  |
| 1. | Bluegill — Abundant   |
| 2. | Bass — Common   |
| 3. | Chain Pickerel — Few  |
|    | Non-Game  |
| 1. | Brook Silverside — Abundant   |
| 2. | Mosquito Fish — Common  |
| 3. | Brown Bullhead, Channel Catfish, Suckers, & Gar. — Reported but not observed. |

**Estimated Catch:** 6,000 lbs. per year.

**Estimated Fishing Pressure:** 2,500 Fishermen days per year.

**Fishing History:** Good bass — bluegill lake. Rough fish have never been a problem.

**Evaluation:** Good fishery, mainly for bluegills.

**Recommendations:** None

**Contour Lines:** Contour lines are used to show the depth of the water. These are lines which join points of equal depth. For example a line showing the figure 3 means that the depth all along the line is three feet. It should be noted that contour lines never cross each other. The contour interval on the map is merely the difference in depth between each contour line. A contour interval of 3 feet would mean there is a difference of 3 feet in depth between each successive line.



**Details regarding the fish population are of importance in formulating management plans. Biologists Barkuloo (left above) and Crittenden record weights and measurements of fish taken in a sampling net.**



**The chemical characteristics of the water have an important bearing on fish production. In the photo above right, biologist Jim Barkuloo is running a chemical analysis of a water sample taken from one of west Florida's lakes.**



**Biologist Pete Crittenden watches the tape on the Bendix Electronic Depth Recorder in photo at right. This device is being used in plotting depths of waters covered by the Lake and Stream survey crew and will supply information of much interest and value to Florida fishermen.**

**Fisheries Management Technicians Jim Barkuloo (left) and Pete Crittenden check a fish population sampling gill net. Sample netting is conducted during both daylight and after-dark hours to obtain a more complete picture of fish populations.**



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# DISCUSSION

**I**<sup>N</sup> GENERAL the lakes and streams of Leon and Gadsden Counties provide an excellent fishery, predominantly pole fishing for pan fish.

Rough fish are a problem in this area, as in most others, to a varying degree. It is not believed that this problem is too serious.

One of the most often-heard remarks made by fishing camp operators in this area is that not enough attention is being paid to the problems and desires of the many out of state fishermen who visit these counties annually. With 11,341 fishermen buying non-resident licenses worth \$56,912.00 annually, this may be a point worth considering.

Our findings during the Survey would indicate that some relaxation of restrictions, particularly in regard to pan fish, could be made. Lakes Munson and Talquin are believed to be overstocked with various species of pan fish. A rather high percentage of fishermen are now making limit catches, and therefore a relaxation of the present limits might aid in fuller utilization. In Lakes ~~I~~amonia and Jackson, pan fish are of excellent size, and there ~~is~~ no indication that they are either overstocked or overfished. Relaxation of regulations would not adversely affect these lakes as there would probably be little change in the total harvest, for few fishermen now catch the present limit.

Other than the suggestions given above, it would appear that we must await a more bountiful supply of rainfall to further improve the already good fishing in this area.

