



STATE OF FLORIDA

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

TALLAHASSEE

32304

A. D. Aldrich, DIRECTOR

O. E. Frye, ASS'T. DIRECTOR

P. O. Box 569
Leesburg, Florida
June 11, 1962

Dr. O. E. Frye
Assistant Director
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Dr. Frye:

On Saturday, May 19, 1962 a fish kill was reported to Mr. Harold Moody, a fishery biologist, by Bob Sherman, a fish camp operator on Lake Apopka, Orange County. It was reported that dead fish were found floating on the southern and west shore of the lake. It was concluded that this kill had begun in the north end of the lake on or about Wednesday, May 16. Several fishermen reported that a spray plane allowed its spray to enter the lake in this area. The wind was blowing from north and northwest directions during this spraying. A short time later fishermen reported dead and dying fish at the surface.

On Saturday, Mr. Moody found freshly killed fish in the central areas of the lake. But he saw the largest concentrations of dead fish at its north end. Many dead fishes, of all species, had been washed and blown by the winds to the northern and western shores. They were present in such large numbers that some property owners were obliged to haul them away. Water samples were taken and analyzed, and it was decided the dissolved oxygen content was low during the time of the kill in all areas of the lake. However, the area of concentrated dead fish during the days immediately following continued to be in the northern end of the lake. Also, found during the time of the kill were numbers of turtles, frogs, and snakes not to be associated with a normal oxygen deficiency fish kill. It was determined that the insecticide used during the week of May 16th fish kill was parathion and D. D. T.

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During the past few weeks several fish kills have occurred in Lake Apopka and throughout Central Florida because of extreme fluctuations in water quality, which were produced by low water conditions, in association with high temperatures. Fish kills have also been traced to sudden rainfalls under the above conditions. However, the fish kill reported in this letter was estimated at 50,000 pounds, and was far greater than any natural kill observed in Lake Apopka this year.

There is a definite need for regulations governing the use of dangerous insecticides on farm lands adjacent to water bodies. Misuse of such chemicals can cause inestimable damage to our freshwater sportfishing resources.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Moody
Fisheries Biologist

W. R. Peavy, Jr.
Fisheries Biologist

HLM:WRPjr/sjs

Cc: John Sutton
Don McAllister
Tom Denmark
Joe Jacobs
Bob Sherman
Col. Bill Turk
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