

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. John W. Woods, Chief of Fish Management
FROM: L. E. Crosswell, Fish Management Specialist
SUBJECT: Lake Apopka - Fish kill - May 16, 1963
DATE: May 20, 1963

Weather: Calm and warm.

Surface water samples were collected at the following places:

- sample (1) Haystack - not many fish in this area
Water temperature at surface 82° F Bottom 78°
Bottom type - mud Depth 4'
Water color - coffee green
Time sample collected - 1450
- sample (2) Ontar Cove - not many fish in this area
Water temperature at surface 84° F Bottom 82°
Bottom type - mud Depth 5' 2' of water
Water color - green
Time sample collected - 1512
- sample (3) Pine Island - many fish in this area
Water temperature at surface 84° F Bottom 82°
Bottom type - sand Depth 3'
Water color - coffee green
Time sample collected - 1545
- sample (4) Winter Garden Ramp - main area of kill
Water temperature at surface 86° F Bottom 84°
Bottom type - mud Depth 5'
Water color - red green
Time sample collected - 1620
Strong odor of area and water - similar to orange peel.

Comments: Runs were made counter-clockwise around the shoreline and mid-lake to determine the area and extent of the fish kill.

Heavy concentrations of fish were in the Winter Garden area, around to Johnson Fish Camp, to Smith Island, around and up into the Gord Neck and back to Winter Garden. The remainder of the lake and the Apopka Canal had fish floating, but not quite as heavy.

The species consisted of gizzard shad (all size groups), approximately 98%; game species (5" - 7" groups) bluegill, shelleracker and crappie, approximately 1%; (12" - 18") groups, speckled bullhead, catfish, approximately 1%

Shad were dying in the Hull Point Area and bluegill at the Canal Locks.

Notice was also made of a reddish scum 6 to 10 feet from shoreline all around the lake.

The water samples collected were given to Mr. Joe Burgess with the State Board of Health, Winter Haven.

EC/sjs