



STATE OF FLORIDA

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

TALLAHASSEE

32304

February 9, 1967

Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., DIRECTOR

H. E. Wallace, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

File Lake Apopka

Mr. Arthur W. Sinclair
Executive Secretary - Manager
City of Winter Garden
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 522
Winter Garden, Florida

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

This is in regard to your recent letter concerning the problems of fish and fishing in Lake Apopka. We certainly recognize the importance of this lake and its economic effect on the entire area surrounding Lake Apopka. Our own reports document the good fishing of the past and the lack of fishermen at this time.

We have reviewed our reports concerning this problem with members of our fisheries staff and our Commissioners. We are not in complete agreement concerning certain statements made by the Lake Improvement Association concerning the fish population of Lake Griffin or the effect of a seining program in Lake Apopka. We have not released our final report on the Lake Griffin program since we feel we must complete the sample hauls now underway and evaluate all the facts and factors before a final recommendation.

I think it should be emphasized that the Lake Griffin program was a combination program of selective treatment and haul seines. We feel that water quality is the real problem in Lake Apopka and Lake Griffin. Unless we can develop a long range plan to alleviate this problem any other program will be temporary.

Seining is a fish management tool that probably can be properly applied in certain bodies of water when accompanied by other fish management techniques. Generally, it is such an inefficient method of removing sufficiently large quantities of fish from large bodies of water that its cost is prohibitive. The big problem in attempting to affect the fish population in a body of water the size of Lake Apopka is that it is possible to spend a tremendous amount of money and not even get ahead of the daily production of the fish we are trying to remove. This has been demonstrated in Newnan's Lake and several other bodies of water in the state.

We are not closing the door on the seining or some other type of rough fish removal if some practical means can be developed to let the fish removal pay for itself-such as by developing an economically sound method of capturing and utilizing rough fish for fish meal and oil.


Mr. Arthur Sinclair

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We agree that all of us must ban together to establish a long range overall plan to improve the water quality of Lake Apopka. If this program can be established, bringing the numerous state and federal agencies together in agreement, then our tools available for short range results could accelerate the return of Lake Apopka to its once famous position as one of the finest fresh water fishing lakes in Florida.

Sincerely,


O. E. Frye, Jr.,
Director

OEF/W/br

cc: Mr. Harold Ashley