

the covers of the cans unless the outside atmosphere be very warm. Cans of fish should never stand in the hot rays of the sun: but a cover or sheet should be so placed as to shield them. Cans should also be thoroughly rinsed and cooled with water before fry are placed in them. Fish frequently become sick before leaving the hatchery because this rule has not been observed and the fry placed in cans which have been warmed by the sun or nearness to a stove.

It is a good principle to find out where the fish naturally spawn in the waters to be planted, or if no fish of the same species occur, to ascertain where the best natural conditions exist. Thus whitefish should always be planted on clean gravelly ground in fairly shallow water, or where reefs of honeycomb rock extend. Brook trout and salmon should be placed near the head of streams or as far up tributaries of large rivers as possible, avoiding, however, those which dry up in summer.

Lake trout do best if distributed over rocky shoals such as are selected by the parent fish. In such places as those specified there is abundance of shelter, and the small fish, as a rule, make at once for niches in the rocks, or the protection of pebbles and stones. As pike, pickerel and other predaceous fish are in the spring occupied in spawning, there is less danger from these fish than is commonly supposed, especially as the first-named are then in weedy, marshy localities engaged in depositing their eggs. If sunfish, shiners, small suckers and pike appear to abound, it is best to select some other areas which are free from these destructive pests, or if that is not possible drive these fish away by disturbing the water, sweeping a net over the ground or some such method.

It is often the case that neither time or circumstances will admit of reaching the best and most appropriate localities, and the planting must be done where it is apparent the young fry would not have been under natural conditions found. After much experience with young fry, I am bound to confess that planting fry upon what may not appear the most suitable grounds results in better success than might have been anticipated. The charge often made against officials of merely dumping in the fry at the most convenient rather than the most suitable places is less grave than might be imagined by the inexperienced. A man standing on shore with one foot, encased in a fisherman's boot, in the water, can pour the fry gently into a deep part near the edge, and the fry will immediately seek shelter. A better plan is to gently empty the fry from a boat and the fry disperse before they reach the bottom. For a few minutes the mass of young fish appear to crowd together and then spread themselves and disappear from sight. That they survive, and do well admits of no doubt as the remark, already made, applies in this case, viz., that the chief enemies of the young fish are in swampy shallows engaged in depositing their spawn. In thus favouring the planting of fry in deep water where it is a matter of difficulty to plant them in small batches in shallow water, I have the support of the late Sir Gibson Maitland who wrote: "At first we used to place the fry in the shallowest water near the inlet of the ponds; but they were so frightened that they used to be huddled together in masses.....when poured into deep water they instantly disperse, and in a few minutes have spread all over the pond in a lively and inquisitive spirit."

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