

Can Local Rivers Be Trout Streams?

By TIM RICHARD
Sunday Editor

How much of the Middle Rouge and Huron Rivers can be brought up to trout stream standards? A few miles, says the staff of the State Water Resources Commission.

Many, many more miles, says the State Conservation director and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

THE MEN WHO must answer these questions—along with dozens of other questions about southeastern Michigan waters—are the members of the State Water Resources Commission.

They will have to weigh testimony taken at Ann Arbor last week and come up with answers under a program to establish water uses on a batch of area rivers—including the Raisin, Clinton, Belle and Pine.

A decision will take a few months, at least. The WRC has allowed another 30 days for additional written testimony, and its staff will need weeks beyond that for study and analysis.

An April decision appears to be the earliest. A WRC pamphlet, received by this newspaper in December, put the time of decision only "eventually."

A STAFF recommendation from within the WRC pointed to trout stream standards for the Johnson Drain from where it enters western Wayne County (Napier Rd. north of N. Territorial in Plymouth Township) for about a half-mile north-eastward.

But Ralph MacMullen, director of the Conservation Department, recommended trout standards not only for the entire length of that creek, which flows

northeast and joins the Middle Rouge River at Northville, but for all of the Middle Rouge above Phoenix Lake in Plymouth.

MacMullen also recommended protection of the Middle Rouge downstream from Phoenix Lake and at the Upper Rouge, to their confluence in the Dearborn area, at a level that would support smallmouth bass.

This level, which MacMullen dubbed "intermediate species," doesn't exist in WRC standards. The WRC standards have three categories: (1) intolerant cold-water fish, such as bass, pike and panfish; and (2) tolerant fish, such as carp and bullhead.

THE WRC STAFF recommendation would put most of the Middle Rouge, with the exception of the Johnson Drain trout section, into the second category of general sport fish.

The WRC has also pointed out that the Conservation Department discontinued operation of a trout hatchery at Northville in 1958 and ceased stocking the Middle Rouge because of the water's warmth.

Moreover, the Conservation Department last fall stocked the Middle Rouge at Phoenix Lake with 7,000 rainbow trout, not with the expectation that the trout would reproduce, but with the idea that the permanent fish population of that lake would be bass and bluegills.

Thus, MacMullen's recommendations last week seemed at variance with his department's previous activities.

MacMullen's recommendations were echoed by Lawrence Braun, district 1 chairman of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), who asked trout standards for the Middle Rouge above Phoenix Lake.

FROM THE STANDPOINT of popularity with fishermen, the WRC recommendation of trout standards for only a half-mile of the Johnson Drain seems likely to be less than popular. That segment of the creek is heavily posted with "no trespassing" signs where it crosses Napier Rd., this newspaper found.

Most of the property in the area designated by the WRC appears to belong to the West-

ern Wayne County Conservation Association ("Members Only") says the sign on its fenced entrance and the Detroit House of Correction.

A large part of the Middle Rouge above Phoenix Lake flows through public property—Edward N. Hines Park.

THE WRC and the Conservation director also differed on what standards should be placed on the Rouge from the point where the Middle and Upper branches meet to where

it flows into the Detroit River. Conservation Director MacMullen recommended the southernmost section be protected for "anadromous species"—that is, fish such as salmon which ascend a river to spawn.

A WRC staff member told this newspaper, however, that such a standard was not feasible because of the frequent dredgings of the Rouge that roll its waters. The WRC staff recommended a commercial standard, the lowest clean water standard.

OTHER DIFFERENCES arose over the Huron River. The WRC staff recommended was for trout standards only for the region north of Milford in the Proud Lake State Recreation Area. The rest of the Huron was recommended for a general sport fish (bass, pike, panfish) category.

MacMullen proposed his "intermediate" (smallmouth bass) standard for the Huron upstream from Ore Lake in Livingston County; a trout standard from Ore Lake to Dexter

in Washtenaw County; the intermediate standard from Dexter to Ford Lake in southwestern Wayne County; and the anadromous standard from Belle-ville Lake to Lake Erie.

The MUCC representative went even further. Spokesman Braun asked a trout standard north of Milford; a trout-bass standard from Milford to Ore Lake; a trout standard from Ore Lake to Dexter; and a continued trout standard for Hell Creek—"a real hot brownt trout stream."

MAD MONEY IF YOU'RE LAID UP

The State Farm hospital plan pays cash to you. Use for anything. Low cost. Phone for facts.

MEDICASH

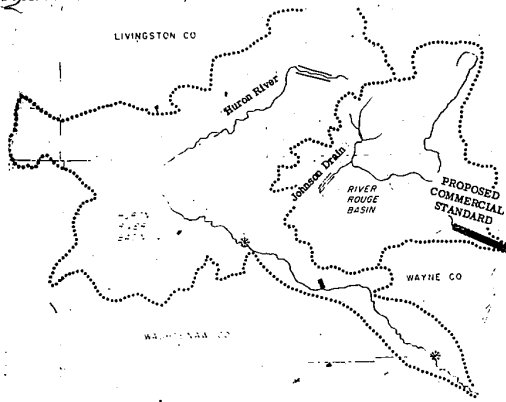
STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY
AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE COMPANY
DON WAGNER
8400 Middlebelt Rd.
48178-0000 - Office
RE 3-1388 - Home

ARLANS SUNDAY AND MONDAY ONLY CLIP 'N SAVE COUPONS

<p>BOYS' COTTON CREW SOCKS SAVE 24c</p> <p>With Coupon 3 for 75c</p> <p>Without Coupon 3 for 99c</p> <p>Striped crew socks in white, colors. 6-10Y.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>ALAN SCOTT PAJAMAS SAVE 50c</p> <p>With Coupon 2.49</p> <p>Without Coupon 2.99</p> <p>Arlans' own Sanforized cotton coat-style pajamas. A-B-C-D.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>GIRLS' COTTON ZODIAC POLOS SAVE 40c</p> <p>With Coupon 1.48</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.88</p> <p>Short sleeve polos in all 12 zodiac signs. Sizes 3-6X, 7-14.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>
<p>GINNY LYNN MESH NYLONS SAVE 25c</p> <p>With Coupon 2 pr. for 63c</p> <p>Without Coupon 2 pr. for 88c</p> <p>Arlans' own run-resistant seamless nylons in beige or cinnamon. 8Y-11.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>SAVE 16% TO 44% OFF OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES!</p>	
<p>LISTERINE MOUTHWASH SAVE 50c</p> <p>With Coupon 63c qt.</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.13</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>HEAD & SHOULDERS SHAMPOO SAVE 50c</p> <p>With Coupon 87c</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.37</p> <p>Net wt. 5 oz.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	
<p>52" x 52" VINYL TABLECLOTH SAVE 78c</p> <p>With Coupon 1.00</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.78</p> <p>Rose design on vinyl cloth that looks like linen. Many colors.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>RED LABEL DACRON BED PILLOW SAVE 1.02</p> <p>With Coupon 1.97</p> <p>Without Coupon 2.99</p> <p>Extra plump, Red Label non-mat, washable Dacron® polyester-filled pillow.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>PERMANENT PRESS NET PANELS SAVE 50c</p> <p>With Coupon 1.47 Ea.</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.97</p> <p>Extra wide—54" wide x 61" long! 65% polyester / 35% acetate. Colors.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>
<p>PHOTO FRAMES SAVE 26c</p> <p>With Coupon 74c</p> <p>Without Coupon 1.00</p> <p>Gold or Silver frame in 3 styles, 2 sizes—5" x 7" 8" x 10". Limit 5 per customer.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>WOMEN'S LINED BASIC FLAT SAVE 1.07</p> <p>With Coupon 2.22</p> <p>Without Coupon 3.29</p> <p>Manmade uppers are foam lined. White, black Sizes 5-10.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>	<p>BOYS' & MEN'S MOCCASIN SAVE 7.33-1.45</p> <p>With Coupon 4.44-4.66</p> <p>Without Coupon 5.89-5.99</p> <p>Boys'—black, 3 1/2-6. Men's—black, brown. Sizes 5 1/2-12.</p> <p>GOOD ONLY FEB. 25 & 26</p>



TO BE PROTECTED—This is the view of Johnson Drain from Napier Rd. in Plymouth Township. The state Water Resources Commission, Conservation director and sportsmen agree it should be protected as a trout water.



AREA TROUT STREAMS—This Water Resources Commission map shows staff recommendations for protection of two river segments in this area as trout streams. The two bars near the upper left designate the Huron River upstream from Milford. The two bars toward the center designate a half-mile of Johnson Drain on the west end of Plymouth Township. The dark area at the mouth of the Rouge (lower right) designates a commercial classification.



Your Lot ... Our House

The models are located in Hatherly Village on Fifteen Mile Road between Ryan and Mound. Open 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. each day. Sundays from noon. Prices range from \$35,000 to \$80,000. Phone 284-0500

Custom Site Division • Vineyard Homes

ARLANS DETROIT 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD SOUTHFIELD 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD AT WARREN 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD AT WARREN 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD ALLEN PARK 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD WEST WARREN AND LORRY AVENUE DEARBORN 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD METROPOLITAN PARK, YPSILANTI 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD WESTLAWN 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD HOPKINS CENTER 1535 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD REFORM TOWNSHIP CORNER PLYMOUTH RD. AND DEXTER RD.

OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 10 AM TO 10 PM OPEN SUNDAY 12 NOON TO 7 PM