

October 11, 1956

Ref. No. 56-25

Mr. Helmuth M. Heise
Will O' the Wisp Motel
Star Route
Oakland, Maryland

Dear Mr. Heise:

As per your request, I have assembled some data relative to the importance of Deep Creek Lake in regard to fishing pressure and economics. I present it in the form of a semi-formal report.

**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF DEEP CREEK LAKE TO OTHER AREAS IN RESPECT TO
CERTAIN RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS**

Introduction

There is enough data available from most of Maryland's major fresh-water fishing areas to allow the making of certain comparisons. This report presents only those figures which were obtained during a quick search of the files in this agency's office. It is hoped that it eventually may be enlarged and presented as a study of the recreational values and economics of Maryland fishing waters.

1. NUMBER OF ANGLING TRIPS

Available data indicates that Deep Creek Lake is the most or next-most important Maryland reservoir as far as fishing trips are concerned. However, it falls to a poor third if rivers are included in the comparison.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Dates covered by survey</u>	<u>Estimated angling trips</u>
Potomac River from Oldtown to D. C. line.	1954. June 1-Oct 31	89,000
Conowingo-Susquehanna area from Penn. line to tidewater. Includes reservoir, dam and river.	1955. June 1-Sep 12	74,700

Area	Dates covered by survey	Estimated angling trips
Deep Creek Lake	1951. July 1-Sept 23	18,400
" " "	1952. June 15-Sept 1	16,800
" " "	1953. June 1-Sept 7	13,200
" " "	1954. May 30-Sept 6	10,100
" " "	1955. June 1-Sept 6	13,900
" " "	1956. June 1-Sept 3	15,800
Conowingo Reservoir	1955. June 1-Sept 12	14,900
Loch Raven	1950. May 27-Oct 29	9,400
" "	1951. May 19-Oct 28	10,300
" "	1952. May 3-Nov 2	10,600
" "	1953. May 2-Nov 1	8,700
Triadelphia Reservoir	1951. Apr 2-Nov 2	10,100
" "	1952. May 19-Oct 30	11,800
Savage River and tributaries	Opening day of trout season, '50-'52	930
Bear Creek	" " " " " '51-'52	400
		Total 1,330

Best informed guesses place opening day pressure as from one-third to one-half the season's total. At this rate the Savage system and Bear Creek support, using the maximum estimate, a total of about 4,000 trips per year.

Savage River system and Bear Creek	Average (?) season	4,000
Other Garrett County trout streams	" "	1,500
Total		5,500

The estimate of 1500 anglers for "other" Garrett County trout streams is made in this manner: The 1952 stocking schedule shows that 73 percent of Garrett County's quota (streams only) was placed in the Savage River system and Bear Creek. Assuming that the stocking schedule proportions the fish roughly as the fishing pressure applied, then these two streams support roughly three quarters of the season's anglers. This calculates to 1,500 fishing trips for "other" Garrett County streams.

New Germany Lake	These Garrett County lakes support an unestimated amount of fishing pressure each year. New Germany and Piney are the only ones at present in which trout are stocked.	Unknown
Piney Reservoir		
Herrington Manor		
Cunningham Lake		
Mountain Lake		
Allegany County trout streams	Using the same line of reasoning as was used to estimate the trout-stream pressure in Garrett County, the estimate for Allegany County trout streams for an average (?) season is	2,000

2. RANK IN LICENSE SALES AND REVENUE FROM. (Fiscal year ending June 30, 1955).

<u>Resident Licenses</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>		<u>3-day Tourist</u>		<u>Total Revenue</u>	
Balto. City	14,468	Cecil Co.	1101	Garrett Co.	4327	Wash. Co.	\$21,861
Mont. Co.	12,772	Wash. Co.	507	Cecil Co.	1503	Balto. City	18,878
Wash. Co.	11,450	Harf. Co.	493	Harf. Co.	1457	Mont. Co.	17,956
Balto. Co.	11,414	Garrett Co.	373	Wash. Co.	1041	Balto. Co.	17,261
Fred. Co.	9,084	Balto. Co.	279	All. Co.	460	Cecil Co.	16,582
All. Co.	8,488	Wash., D. C.	166	Fredd. Co.	357	Garrett Co.	14,858
Pr. Geo. Co.	5,912	Carroll Co.	163	Mont. Co.	353	Harf. Co.	13,715
Harf. Co.	5,378	Fred. Co.	159	Balto. City	204	Fred. Co.	13,682
Carroll Co.	4,861	Mont. Co.	103	Wash., D. C.	186	All. Co.	11,994
Garrett Co.	3,780	Balto. City	50	Kent Co.	161	Pr. Geo. Co.	8,078

3. RANK OF TEN TOP LICENSE-SELLERS IN PER CAPITA SALES OF RESIDENT LICENSES.

<u>County</u>	<u>Population (1950)</u>	<u>Resident licenses sold</u>	<u>Sales per 100 Residents</u>
Garrett	21,259	3,780	17.6
Washington	78,886	11,450	14.5
Frederick	62,287	9,084	14.4
Carroll	44,907	4,861	10.8
Allegany	89,556	8,488	10.6
Harford	51,782	5,378	10.3
Montgomery	164,401	12,772	7.8
Baltimore	270,273	11,414	4.2
Prince George	194,182	5,912	3.0
Baltimore City	949,708	14,468	1.5

4. AREA OF LARGER MARYLAND RESERVOIRS.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area</u>
Liberty Reservoir	Carroll and Baltimore Counties	5000 acres
Deep Creek Lake	Garrett County	3900 "
Conowingo Reservoir	Cecil and Harford Counties	3100 "
Loch Raven	Baltimore County	2500 "
Prettyboy Reservoir	Baltimore County	
Triadelphia Reservoir	Montgomery and Howard Counties	870 "
Rocky Gorge	" " " "	

5. PRIVATE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

As of 1956, according to the Oakland Republican, there were about 1500 private cottages at Deep Creek Lake. There are no figures available for other areas, but an informed guess would be that Deep Creek Lake has over half the summer cottages of the entire State, excluding salt water areas. It is quite certain that no other single lake or river has more than a small fraction of the number at Deep Creek.

Allowing \$3000 as an average value for these cottages, the total development at Deep Creek Lake is worth \$4,500,000.

6. BOATS AND BOATING.

There were 1282 boat licenses issued for Deep Creek Lake for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955. Most of these licenses were issued for boats which were used exclusively or primarily on the lake. Exact figures are lacking but it seems safe to assume that a thousand motor boats operated mostly on Deep Creek Lake during the year. About a third of the licenses were issued for inboard motor cruisers: if an average value of \$2500 is assigned them, their total value becomes \$830,000. The other two-thirds of the licenses were for outboard motor boats: an average value of \$200 (boat and motor) enlarges to a figure of \$120,000. The total value of all motor boats operated primarily on Deep Creek Lake therefore is estimated at almost a million dollars.

It is safe to say that all the boats on all the other lakes and rivers in Maryland would be but a small fraction of those on Deep Creek Lake. Only Chesapeake Bay supports more boating.

7. TOURIST BUSINESS.

The exact number of out-of-state visitors who fish on any body of water can not be reckoned from the data available. This is because some visitors fish more than once at any one place. However, some indication of relative importance can be gathered from the following table (dates are the same as those given on pages 1 and 2):

Year	Place	Total fishing trips	Percent out-of-state
1954	Potomac River	89,000	13
1955	Conowingo-Susquehanna area	74,700	24
1956	Deep Creek Lake	15,600	43
1955	Conowingo Reservoir	14,900	9
1952	Loch Raven	10,600	1
1952	Triadelphia Reservoir	11,800	1

The bass ponds on the Eastern Shore attract many visitors, but no figures are at hand upon which an estimate may be based.

Further indication of relative importance in the tourist business can be gleaned from the figures for license sales. Most, but not all, of the non-resident license sales in Garrett County are for Deep Creek Lake fishing. Most, but not all, of the licenses sold in Cecil and Harford Counties are used in the Conowingo-Susquehanna area, and most of those sold in Montgomery, Frederick and Washington Counties are used on the Potomac. The following table shows the 1954-'55 non-resident licenses sales according to the place where they were probably used:

<u>Probable Fishing Place</u>	<u>Where issued</u>	<u>Non-resident licenses</u>	<u>3-day tourist</u>	<u>Special Potomac license</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Deep Creek Lake	Garrett Co.	373	4,327		4,700
Conowingo- Susquehanna	Cecil Co.	1,101	1,503		2,604
	Harford Co.	493	1,457		1,950
	Totals	<u>1,594</u>	<u>2,960</u>		<u>4,554</u>
Potomac River	Montgomery Co.	103	353	305	761
	Frederick Co.	159	357	161	677
	Washington Co.	507	1,041	696	2,244
	Allegany Co.			170	170
	Washington, D. C.			1,707	1,707
	Prince George Co. Virginia			63	63
	West Virginia			3,183	3,183
Totals		<u>769</u>	<u>1,751</u>	<u>8,316</u>	<u>10,869</u>

Sincerely,

Harold J. Elser
Fisheries Biologist

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