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MUSKELLUNGE USED TO CONTROL FISH POPULATIONS

Muskellunge, which are described as a voracious and violent northern game fish, have been introduced into Pomme de Terre Lake in Missouri by that State's Conservation Department. Biologists said 51,000 tiny muskies were released into the lake with the hope they will help control the populations of carp and shad and keep fish populations in better balance. The inch-long muskies were raised from eggs obtained in Pennsylvania and Michigan. About 1,000 will be kept in an attempt to raise brood stock for future experimental work and 8,000 more will be released at Pomme de Terre at a larger size.



Muskellunge

Muskies eat a lot of carp and shad and there are more of these species in the lake than the bass population can handle. An inch-long muskellunge can eat 10 minnows a day. If he can't find a minnow, he will eat another muskellunge.

The violent nature of the muskie is normally exhibited only to other fish. Man appreciates this side of the muskie's character only when he and the fish are at opposite ends of a fishing line. There have been anglers who preferred not to boat a muskie after a long battle unless they first left the boat. The fact that muskellunge can reach weights of more than 100 pounds may explain some of this reluctance to tangle with them on a man-to-fish basis. The current record for rod and reel is 69 pounds, 15 ounces, but the record by any method stands at 102 pounds. (All Outdoors, Missouri Conservation Commission.)