

Region WCR County Vernon Report Date no report Classification cw

Water Body: Coon Creek

Discharger: Chaseburg WWTP

**If stream is classified as Limited Forage Fish (LFF) or Limited Aquatic Life (LAL), check any of the following Use Attainability Analysis factors that are identified in the classification report:**

- Naturally occurring pollutant concentrations prevent the attainment of use
- Natural, ephemeral, intermittent or low flow conditions or water levels prevent the attainment of the use, unless these conditions may be compensated for by the discharge of sufficient volume of effluent discharges without violating State water conservation requirements to enable uses to be met
- Human caused conditions or sources of pollution prevent the attainment of the use and cannot be remedied or would cause more environmental damage to correct than to leave in place
- Dams, diversions or other types of hydrologic modifications preclude the attainment of the use, and it is not feasible to restore the water body to its original condition or operate such modification in a way that would result in the attainment of the use
- Physical conditions related to the natural features of the water body, such as the lack of a proper substrate, cover, flow, depth, pools, riffles, and the like, unrelated to water quality, preclude attainment of aquatic life protection uses
- Controls more stringent than those required by sections 301(b) and 306 of the Act would result in substantial and widespread economic and social impact

**Supporting Evidence in the report (include comments on how complete/thorough data is)**

- Biological Data (fish/invert) \_\_\_\_\_
- Chemical Data (temp, D.O., etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Physical Data (flow, depth, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Habitat Description \_\_\_\_\_
- Site Description/Map \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historical Reports in file:**

none

**Additional Comments/How to improve report:**

- cw stream - no documentation

LaCrosse Area

COON CREEK - VERNON COUNTY

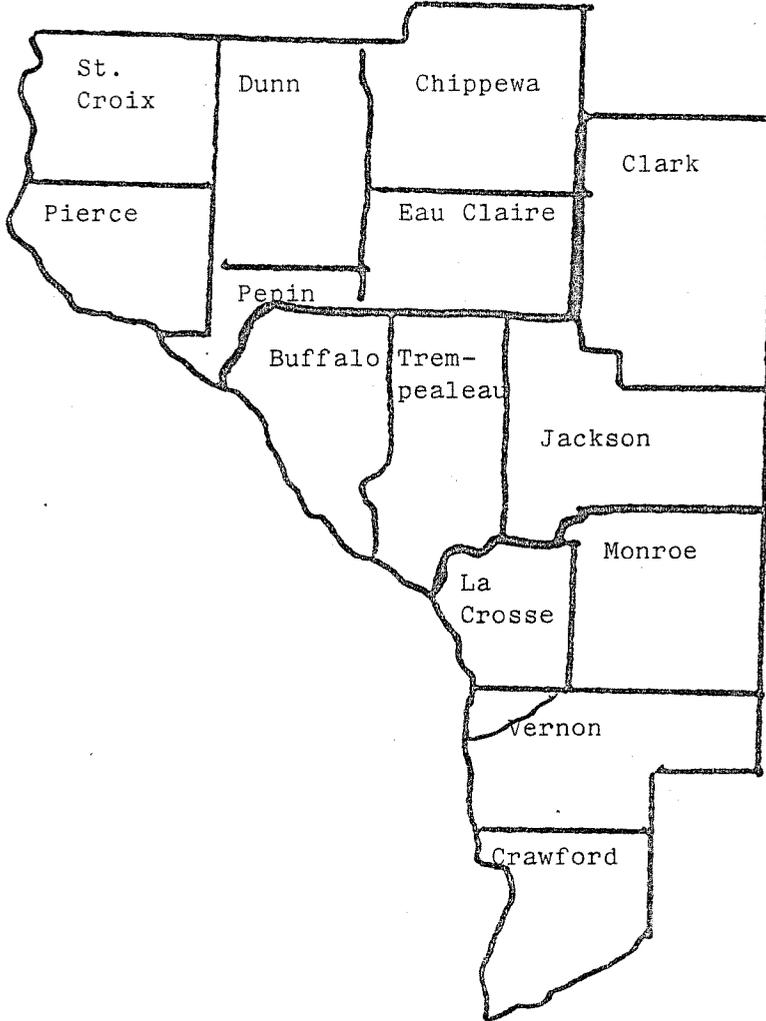
INVESTIGATION REPORT

RECEIVED  
FEB 16 1988  
DNR LaCrosse Area

RECEIVED

FEB 15 1988

DNR-WCD



*mm*  
*MLB*

Area Fish Manager:  
Kenneth J. Wright

Data Collection and Analysis:  
Gregory R. Mathson

NOTED:

Willis B. Fernholz  
Willis B. Fernholz

2-10-88

DATE SUBMITTED

APPROVED BY:

Terry A. Moe  
Terry A. Moe, Area Director

FEB 12 88

Approval Date

J. L. Lissack  
James L. Lissack, District Director

2-15-88

Approval Date

## SUMMARY SECTION

Project: Stream inventory and classification of Coon Creek,  
Vernon County.

Period: May, 1985 - December, 1985

Data Collection: June 4-10, 1985

## WORK PURPOSE

Coon Creek was the first watershed to be studied and improved in the nation. Through flood protection, extensive habitat improvement, and good conservation practices on the watershed, an excellent brown trout fishery is present on the upper Coon Creek system. The headwater streams have been studied extensively, giving the manager a good idea of the quality of the fishery and what can be done to maintain or improve it. The mainstream of Coon Creek has had little research. Little is known of the fishery, and intensive management of this water has been a low priority.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eleven stations were set up from the Mississippi River upstream to the junction of Bohemian Valley and Timber Coulee Creeks. Approximately 42,900 feet of Coon Creek was surveyed. Trout were found at every station. A total of 965 brown trout were captured. The trout ranged in size from 2.5 inches to 20.4 inches. An estimate of 119 fish per mile for the entire stream was calculated. All figures are minimal because they are based on a single run estimate with a mini-boom shocker yielding poor to fair gear efficiency depending on the station.

Coon Creek is presently classified as a Class III trout water, with the remaining area between Chaseburg and the Mississippi River classified as non-trout water. This classification was determined from findings in a 1974 stream survey. Gear efficiency at that time was poor.

Using the mini-boom shocker and the stream shocker for the 1985 survey yielded an estimated minimum population of 151 fish per mile in the Class II section, 163 fish per mile in the Class III portion, and 49.3 fish in the non-trout area of the stream.

Habitat, flooding, siltation, and water temperatures have a large influence on the trout population. Whenever there are log tangles, undercut banks, rock and gravel bottom, and coldwater sources, trout can be found. A heavy silt load limits or prohibits natural reproduction from Chaseburg downstream.

Trout have been stocked from Chaseburg upstream from the Chaseburg Rod and Gun Club's co-op pond. Most of the trout found below Chaseburg are likely downstream drift from the Chaseburg stockings. The majority of these trout are in the 9"-13" size range.

## CONCLUSIONS

With a flow of 56 c.f.s. in Coon Valley increasing to 90 c.f.s. at Stoddard, an average width of 17 feet increasing to 38 feet, and the depth increasing slightly, Coon Creek has the potential to produce a trophy brown trout fishery. Habitat, siltation, and flooding are the major factors limiting a good fishery.

With Natural Resource Board approval of the Coon creek Master Plan, land acquisition has been initiated between Coon Valley and Chaseburg. Habitat improvement should be initiated once the land is under Department control.

This survey indicates Coon Creek should be Class II trout water from the junction of Timber Coulee and Bohemian Valley downstream to CTH "K". From CTH "K" downstream to STH 35, Coon Creek should be Class III trout water. With subsequent land control and habitat improvement above Chaseburg, the lower section will likely become a trophy Class II stream in the future.

## ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The trout population in Coon Creek has increased dramatically since the 1974 stream survey. This increase is due mainly to instream habitat development in the headwater tributaries of Coon Creek. Improved water conditions have also occurred downstream due to these improved headwater conditions.

Trout stocking between Coon Valley and Chaseburg has increase and carryover of these fish was indicated in the survey. Many of those captured fish had been in the system for at least two years.

Habitat appears to be the factor limiting a good trout population in the lower reaches. This fact was evident where a fallen tree, undercut banks, or rock riprap was found, trout were also found.

### Recommendations

1. Reclassify Coon Creek Class II trout water from Coon Valley downstream to CTH "K", and Class III from CTH "K" to STH 35.
2. Continue stocking trout from Coon Valley to Chaseburg and initiate planning for habitat development in the future.
3. Conduct another survey approximately 5 years after habitat development to determine the status of the fishery from Chaseburg downstream as a result of habitat development and land use improvement upstream.

GM:jd  
1/25/88

**A SUMMARY**

59

DEPARTMENT

METHOD OF SAMPLING		AREA SAMPLED		NO. MARKED FISH STOCKED		STOCKING DATES									
mini boom shocker - stream shocker - 3 electrodes 150 Volts D.C.		25.82 acres		-----		-----									
SPECIES		STATION NUMBERS											TOTAL		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Brown Trout	Fingerling									1					1
	Yearling														843
	Adults	1	18	18	34	40	123	141	39	181	152	96			121
	Marked Fish	2	5	12	6	11	17	10	7	27	10	14			
	TOTAL	3	23	30	40	51	140	151	46	209	162	110			965
Brook Trout	Fingerling														3
	Yearling		1	1	1							3			11
	Adults				2	3	3								
	Marked Fish														14
	TOTAL		1	1	3	3	3					3			3
Rainbow Trout	Fingerling														
	Yearling				3										
	Adults														
	Marked Fish														3
	TOTAL				3										3
White Sucker	Fingerling														
	Yearling														
	Adults														
	Marked Fish														
	TOTAL	21	42	76	60	88	76	106	C	61+	53+	A			583+
OTHER SPECIES															
Carp		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P
Shorthead	Redhorse	P	P	P					P				A		P
Northern	Hogsucker														P
Smallmouth	Bass		P	P											P
Walleye		P	P	P											
TOTAL															

**GRAND TOTAL**

MODAL SIZES OF THE PRIMARY SPECIES			
Brown Trout - Fgl. - 2.9"		Yrl. - 10.0"	
		Adt. - 13.5	
TROUT	Brown	37.4	ESTIMATED POUNDAGE PER ACRE OTHER SPECIES
	Brook	0.5	
	Rainbow	.1	
		21.00	

EVALUATION Coon Creek is presently classed a Class II from S.T.H. "14" upstream to the junction of Timber Coulee and Bohemian Valley Creeks, Class III from Coon Valley to Chaseburg and non-trout water from Chaseburg to the Mississippi River. This classification should be changed to Class II trout water from the junction of Timber Coulee and Bohemian Valley Creeks to Chaseburg and Class III from Chaseburg to STH 35.

INVESTIGATOR	DATE
Greg Mathson	1-21-86

MOD OF SAMPLING		AREA SAMPLED		NO. MARKED FISH STOCKED		STOCKING DATES								
-----		-----		-----		-----								
SPECIES		STATION NUMBERS											TOTAL	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
-----	Fingerling													
-----	Yearling													
-----	Adults													
-----	Marked Fish													
-----	TOTAL													
-----	Fingerling													
-----	Yearling													
-----	Adults													
-----	Marked Fish													
-----	Log Perch								P					P
-----	Johnny Darter								C			P		P
-----	Northern Pike										P			P
-----	Longnose Dace										P			P
-----	Bluntnose Minnow											P		P
-----	Pirate Perch				P									P
-----	Bigmouth Shiner				P	P								P
-----	Green Sunfish					P					P			P
-----	Creek Chub								C			C		P
-----	Blacknose Dace								A					P
-----	Brook Stickleback											P		P
-----	Fantail Darter											C		P
-----	Bullhead Minnow		P											P
-----	Sauger		P			P								P
-----	Largemouth Bass		P											P
-----	Golden Redhorse		P											P
-----	Bowfin		P											P
-----	Chestnut Lamprey				P									P
-----	TOTAL													
GRAND TOTAL														

MODAL SIZES OF THE PRIMARY SPECIES

NUMBER PER ACRE		ESTIMATED POUNDAGE PER ACRE	
TROUT	OTHER SPECIES	TROUT	OTHER SPECIES
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EVALUATION

Coon Creek

INVESTIGATOR	DATE
Greg Mathson	1-21-86