

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FISHERIES
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 16, 1924.

Eagle Lake Property Owners' Ass'n.,

Eagle Lake, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the information contained in your application for fish small-mouth black bass will be assigned for the waters which you desire to stock.

The distribution of this species occurs July - October, 1924, and if there are sufficient fish your consignment will be forwarded when shipments are made to your vicinity during that period.

Applications are filled in the order in which received.

You will be given advance notice of the exact time and date of delivery as soon as that is determined upon. Full directions for the preparations necessary for the receipt and care of the fish until planted in the waters to which destined are printed on the reverse side of this sheet.

Should it be impossible to deliver the fish as indicated above, you will be duly notified and your application will be continued on file and will, at the next distribution, receive prior attention over applications of more recent date.

Very truly yours,

HENRY O'MALLEY,
Commissioner.

PRESERVE THIS LETTER AND REREAD IT AND THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE
CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING INQUIRY IN REGARD TO THE ASSIGNMENT.

11-5758

INSTRUCTIONS.

Receiving the shipment.—The fish will be shipped to the railroad station that has been designated by the applicant, and will arrive either in the baggage car, under care of an agent of the Bureau, or in one of the Bureau's special fish cars attached to a passenger train. The applicant will be advised in which car to expect his fish. Fish cars are hauled at either end of a train, but usually at the rear.

Any clean vessels of the required capacity may be used for receiving the shipment; the ordinary 10-gallon milk can, thoroughly cleaned, is suitable, provided the cover is not air-tight; or a barrel will serve in place of several smaller vessels. Sacking or cheese cloth may be used over receptacles ~~having no covers, or in place of covers that are air-tight.~~

The receptacles should be in readiness, uncovered and empty, on the platform where the car of this Bureau or baggage car is expected to stop, for the fish must be transferred to the vessels quickly, without delaying the train beyond the time it ordinarily stops. If no receptacles have been provided, the fish will not be delivered; nor will they be delivered, though the receptacles are in readiness, unless the applicant or his representative is on hand to care for them and sign the required receipt. *Unless due provision shall have been made to receive and properly care for the fish, they will not be taken from the train.*

Transporting from railroad station to point of deposit.—Fish breathe air, and a large number confined in a receptacle soon exhaust the oxygen when the water is not in motion. For this reason they should be hurried immediately to the waters in which they are to be planted. The jolting of the cans in a moving wagon will ordinarily cause sufficient splashing to aerate the water, and a rough road is not objectionable if the cans contain enough water to prevent the fish from being bruised. Should delay be unavoidable, however, the fish must not be allowed to stand without attention. In such a case, and likewise in travel over a smooth road, if the fish give evidence of suffering by rising frequently to the surface, the water must be aerated by dipping and letting it fall from a height of about two feet, this process being repeated three or four times every few minutes. A long-handled dipper should be provided for this purpose. *The applicant is cautioned not to allow the fish to stand on the depot platform; at all times to shelter them from the sun; and not to attempt to hold them over night.*

If several hours elapse before the fish reach their final destination, and there is probability that the water in the cans will become considerably warmer than it was at the time of the transfer from the train, it is advisable to put in a small quantity of ice. The temperature may in all cases be kept more even by wrapping the cans in wet sacking.

Planting the fish.—On arrival at the point of deposit, some of the water in the cans should be poured off and replaced with water from the stream or lake that is to receive the fish, this process being repeated at intervals until the water in the cans is of the same temperature as that in which the fish are to be planted. The change should be gradual, not less than half an hour being consumed in modifying the temperature 10 degrees.

In a stream it is best to deposit a few fish in a place as near as possible to the headwaters or in small tributaries. In a pond the fish should be scattered in shallow places where the water is not stagnant, or near the source of the water supply. It is well to choose surroundings where there are water plants.