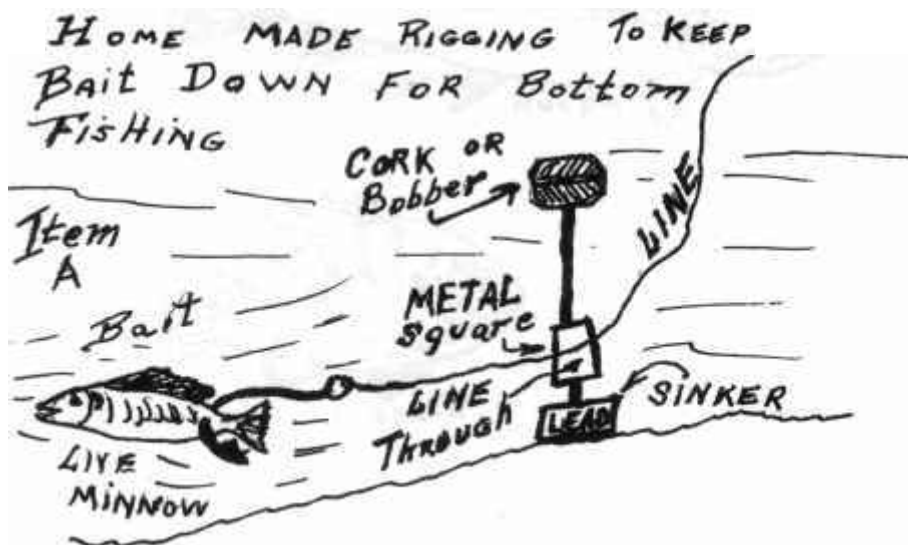


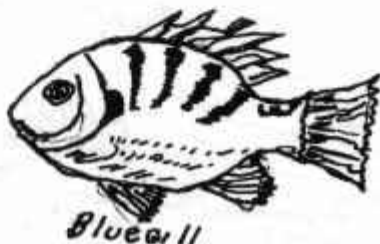
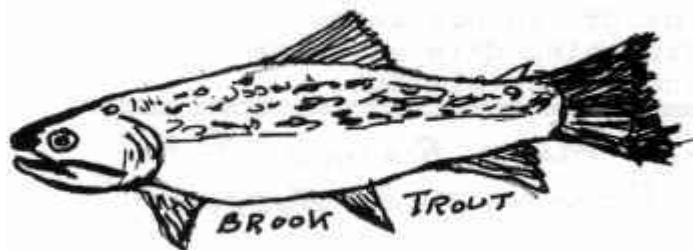
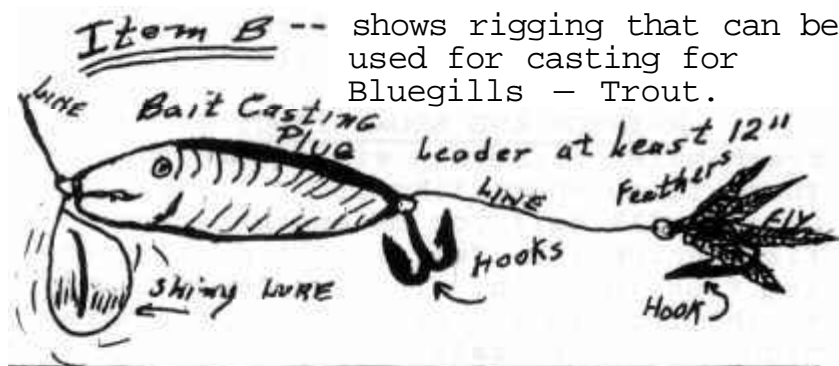
FRESH-WATER FISH

Catching them is a popular sport! There are many types of fresh-water fish and a large variety of baits, prepared lures, flies, rods and reels, secrets and know-how. We will deal briefly with the most popular type of fresh-water fish caught more or less in our Jersey and neighboring State lakes. We cannot go into detail as it would require a book in itself to compile all the knowledge available.

RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT - Most fresh-water fishermen will argue that there is no sport like trout fishing. Others will tell you of another type fish, which they feel is the most sporting fish to catch. This, we must leave to the individual for his own determination. In this State of New Jersey it has set aside certain dates that trout may be caught in our lakes and streams and a finishing date at which time it then becomes a violation.



In most cases, learning to cast properly is valuable to the new fisherman. If you watch an experienced angler, he makes a perfect cast and watch him reel in slow - even pauses slightly a few times - then casts again.



Upon checking our streams and lakes and when you see the large number of sportsmen of all ages, it would make one wonder if there would be enough fish left if by chance each man only caught one. (See Item "A" for home-made rigging)

I know tradesmen who would not work on opening date of Trout Season, and I know some companies can't have materials delivered as all the drivers take off. There are so many tricks -- like taking canned corn, the whole-kernel type, soaked in Cod Liver Oil -- put the kernel on the hook when fishing the streams for trout. Then the invention of shiny lures -- some bent, some with 3 or 4 hooks, some with small feathers secured -- special size hooks -- line, some of nylon, some a woven thread, some long, thin poles of bamboo, some of spun glass -- some spinning reels, some plain spool reels -- then certain fish can only be so long, if they are shorter they must be thrown back -- and then again only so many per man is permitted.

Then there is the Catfish, the Bluegills, Sunfish, Perch, the Big-mouth Bass -- let's try to describe the fish of our streams.

1. Brown Trout -- likes warm water, so the streams running through open fields make the streams warm with the sun.
2. Rainbow Trout -- likes dry fly and worms.
3. The greatest fight of the trout family is the Brook Trout -- about 5 to 12 inches long -- varies in weight according to length. Loves fly or worms.

Bluegill -- lives in ponds or lakes, caught on worms.

Walleye - found usually in clear lakes, caught mostly on lures - weigh from 6 to 14 pounds, also take minnows for bait. Some sportsmen approve of a bobber, known to some as a cork. See Item "A" for a good rigging to use with live minnow bait. The minnow swims about, the weight keeps the line at bottom .- the line passes through a metal ring or large plastic ring used to hold curtains onto rods - with the cork keeping the line and weight tight, prevents a tangle and too fast a strike. This word is used when the line is held tight and the pole snapped back towards you in an effort to set the baited hook into the fish. Allow him some running distance on your line so as to give him a chance to reach the part of his meal where the hook goes through. This plan is known to work for ice fishing also. Perch - usually inhabit lakes, large ponds where the waters have a chance to hold fish that grow from minnow size to a foot long. Lures, worms or minnows will attract a hard-fighting fish.

Pike - usually a long slender fish-- inhabits clean-water lakes, takes diet of lures or live minnows and for all efforts proves not to be enjoyable to persons who don't care for bones in fresh-water fish. Caution in eating is suggested.

All types of planning and experiments make fishing the sport it is. A bait basket to keep live bait alive is in the gear, as well as a prepared worm box to keep them alive and cool -- ice cubes can help. In some states, you are permitted to chum, a word used when you spread out a ground food and it floats over an area of water -- or a home food which in some cases have proven to attract fish. This usually draws small schools of fish, making the catch more easy. Lake chumming with cottage cheese or white uncooked bacon, cut into small bits, just cast onto the water has proven good.

With all this gear -- boxes of lures, hooks, etc. -- one must learn how to properly cast so as to get well away from the shore, dock or boat. If in a boat, sometimes a few lines secured to wires with bells attached to sides of boat while the boat floats or is rowed slowly, is called trolling and keeps the bait moving, even if it be dead or manufactured. Some fresh-water fish like surface eating of flies, which can be an art to cast and keep the fly jumping slightly on the surface to attract the fish. In many of our states, we have fish hatcheries where men employed as Game Wardens work to raise these fish. When fish are old enough to be put into our lakes or streams, they are taken by truck in tanks and dumped, which is called stocking the lake or stream. Of course, this writer has watched men with new and fancy poles, the best-known lures, well-made hip boots, new ball-bearing reels with drags, fancy bait

baskets, belts with a knife and pliers in leather sheath, put on the best of bait, make a professional cast - keeps trying, but no luck - but, it's funny, there is a kid that lives on the farm down the road. He has a long pliable stick about 6 or 8 feet long, he has some mason line, which also acts as his kite string when not fishing. He has an old tin can with some grass and worms he dug out of the ground behind the barn. The hook is one he uses for all types of fishing - size doesn't seem to affect him too much. He picks out a nice spot along the stream, walks along the banks easily, so as not to scare off the fish, puts on a worm, sets the hook with bait easily onto the surface of the water -- the worm starts to wiggle - and soon that same boy has two nice trout on a line, walking up the road towards home with his mouth-watering supper. While the real sportsman watches and wonders what charm this boy must have over the fish -- honestly none - this is what is called Fisherman's Luck.

We are informed that a freshwater fish, known as Catfish, not too pretty to look at and about ready to eat anything in the water, makes it easy for the younger sportsman - and inexpensive fishing equipment. From below his wide mouth are usually long barbels, or sometimes called feelers, that more or less hang like a beard from the lower jaw. These are covered with taste buds and as they skim through along the bottom, they continually taste

the muds for flavors. He selects his food through the taste - bugs, flies, snails, smaller fish, miscellaneous. The catfish does not have scales over his body and it is stated that he can taste food through his side muscles and his tail. It is stated they will eat just about everything. The fin that runs along the back which is barbed and sharp can cut one's skin easily and leave a sore. However, it is stated that the catfish, when properly cooked and prepared, is a tempting and tasty dish. It is recorded they can hear the sportsmen walking along the banks of the streams.

Salmon provides one of the most fascinating lessons in nature. Unlike so many other fish, he from an early age shows the urge to travel. Where he goes and what he does has offered a challenge for years as a study and only recently has its action been traced and studied. The life of a salmon starts from a small red globe (could be compared to the size of a B.B. of an air gun) and remains among the gravel bottom, usually in our Northern streams. As the egg grows, it soon looks like a small sac, from which he breaks through and remains among the bed of gravel for some time. Then for food to aid his growth, he starts to eat the yolk of the sac and when completed, he leaves the bed of gravel in the stream. He is still small and if not careful and alert, becomes the bait for trout, bass, eels, ducks, but then as he survives, he soon learns to live he must also have food and soon the small eggs

of other fish or newly-hatched fish satisfy his appetite. Salmon do not grow fast, and from tests made, they stay around the gravel bed for a year or more. Then that travel urge - his brothers too all soon get this urge - and then one morning they all ban together and start down stream. Oftentimes, the water travels so swift, he has little control over his travel and is swept over large stones, down waterfalls, into swift rapids, and tests show he travels hundreds of miles down stream until he reaches quiet water, and soon he is into the salty waters of the sea. Where he went, no one could determine -- until recently a study made show that some went many miles off shore, and others stayed close to shore. His food mainly is shrimp, minnows; pawns, and just goes about for a year or more. Not all survive this long travel as large fish use them as food. But those who survive start to retrack their travel, from the sea to the same river, and now he is a full-grown fish, in difference to his small size as he was washed along. He is now a strong fish, beautiful silver in color, 18 inches to 24 inches long, and his strength is needed for his trip home. Oftentimes, catches are made listing a salmon to 60 to 65 pounds. As he starts his journey back home, he must always keep going, no resting, for now as he would sleep many animals from the woods would see their food waiting to be caught. Usually the streams flow faster the nearer the source of supply, and he must swim steadily up over waterfalls,

up through rapids - no signs to tell him, but they return to the same location - that stream with the gravel bottom. The male and female salmon pair off and as they reach the old location, the female uses her tail to make a trench into which she lays her eggs. The male covers them with a layer of sperm and the female pushes the gravel back into the trench. This is repeated often, laying as many as 15,000 eggs - and then they start their journey back to the sea again, only to return at another time. Many, of course, don't make it. They are caught - some injured from travel - and so the life of a salmon goes on again and again.

Fishing for salmon in our northern streams provide the sportsman with a real challenge - oftentimes a good cast - and Wham! A bite - the fish takes the bait and makes a run - the hook must be set easily and tension applied properly to get the salmon to come in easily. He is a game fish and often leaps into the air from the water, tearing the hook loose or snapping the line.