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IOWA'S TROUT STREAMS

IOWA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
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Des Moines, Iowa

STATE TROUT HATCHERY
STRAWBERRY POINT, IOWA

FOREWORD

The Iowa Fish and Game Commission is giving a great deal of attention to Iowa's trout streams. A trout hatchery has been maintained by the State for some years, but a large proportion of the output has been in fry and results mediocre. Planting of fry has been discontinued and new rearing ponds are being developed to handle the trout of larger size. A program of stream improvement is now under way and several of the streams contained in this list have been improved.

Not all of Iowa's trout streams have been included in this list. Those listed here are the streams designated as trout streams by the Fish and Game Commission, and of which portions or the entire length are closed to all fishing except during the open season for trout. These streams have been inspected, recognized and approved as good trout streams by some of the best of the nation's fisheries experts. It is in these streams that the Commission will concentrate its effort to improve trout fishing. The new plan calls for distribution of only advanced fingerlings, yearlings, and a good proportion of adult trout seven to twelve inches in size. This, together with the program of stream improvement work should greatly improve the trout fishing facilities in Iowa. The program as outlined by the Iowa Fish and Game Commission will bring about an abundance of the sport, however, only if the fishermen will cooperate, particularly in these early stages of trout fishing development.

A stream, whether for trout or other fish, must contain both food and cover. When fishing, do not destroy snags, accumulations of brush or leaves. It is in this material that insects and minute animal life exist, and these, in turn, are good for trout. One should encourage such placing of this material, and while fishing, the angler in studying the stream can see many places where the conditions may be improved by the placing of brush, snags or rock. The program of stream improvement consists of just that kind of work, and the fisherman who interests himself in such activities is helping himself to better fishing.

The laws provide a daily bag limit and a legal length for fish only to assist in the control of deliberate violators who think not of the future. The wise angler, particularly the trout fisherman, will be guided in his "catch" by the thought of better fishing for the years to come and after one or two good "battles" will be content and devote the remainder of the day to improving the conditions for trout, particularly in these early stages of the program when great care and consideration must be combined with the cooperation between the Iowa Fish and Game Commission and the fisherman.

IOWA'S TROUT STREAMS

Compiled by

H. M. Sanderson, Director of Information

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY

FRENCH CREEK: Located north and east of Waukon and west of Lansing. Improved stream and contains several large deep pools. Large flow caused by a series of partly covered springs. This stream is popular with trout fishermen and while it produces Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout, it is noted for producing unusually large Browns. A tributary to the Iowa River. Several miles of trout water.

WATERLOO CREEK: Located in the northwest corner of Allamakee County, Waterloo Township. Northwest of the Town of Waukon, northeast of Decorah, and runs through Dorchester. Mostly an open stream with high soil banks. Has numerous side runs, which gush forth clear spring water. Noted for its large Rainbows but also carries Brown trout.

HICKORY CREEK: Located six and one-half miles east of Postville, Franklin Township, produces some good trout fishing. About four miles of cold water make it a good home for Rainbow and Brown trout. A tributary to the Yellow River.

STONE HOUSE SPRING RUN and LIVINGSGOOD SPRING BRANCH: These two streams as joined are tributaries to the Yellow River. They furnish about three miles of good trout fishing water and produce some unusually large Rainbow and Brown trout. The streams are located in Post Township north of Postville. Large flow of water.

WEXFORD CREEK: Located in Lafayette Township north of Harpers Ferry in Sections 25, 26, and 30. Good Brown trout fishing.

BIEBER SPRINGS and CAVER'S SPRING RUN: Tributaries to Village Creek. Located in Section 14, Center Township. This area has been made a trout preserve. The value of the streams and springs as a spawning area was recognized by the Fish and Game Commission and is protected for that reason.

VILLAGE CREEK: Widely known for its fly fishing adaptability. Produces good trout, mostly of the Brown variety. Bieber and Caver Spring Runs, having been named a spawning and rearing area, are tributaries to Village Creek and fishing is made good for this reason. The Bacon Branch of Village Creek has been improved and produces both Rainbow and Brown trout. Located in Center and Makee Townships. Originates east of the town of Waukon and flows east and north through the town of Village Creek into the Mississippi River.

CLEAR CREEK: A tributary to the Upper Iowa River, located in Union City Township. About three miles of trout fishing water. About four miles east of the town of Dorchester.

PATTERSON CREEK: A tributary to the Upper Iowa River and located in Hanover and Union Prairie Townships. Its source is about two miles northwest of the town of Waukon and flows northwest. Good Rainbow and Brown trout fishing.

PAINT and LITTLE PAINT CREEKS: These two streams comprise about ten miles of good Brown and Rainbow trout water. Located in Paint Creek and Taylor Townships, they flow through a valley of rock. These are improved streams and promise to live up to their reputation for the coming seasons as two of the best in the trout area. Originates near the town of Waterville and flows southeast to the Mississippi River. Little Paint Creek enters the larger stream below Waterville.

CLAYTON COUNTY

BLOODY RUN: Located west of McGregor. Flowing south and east through Giard and Mendon Townships, this improved trout stream lines up to the requirements of a perfect trout stream. To fish it without result would not be disappointing, for its scenic beauty would make one forget. But good trout fishing can always be had in Bloody Run and in variety. The headwaters or western portion of the stream carry Brook trout while the lower section provides an ideal environment for Rainbow and Brown trout.

A series of large springs provide the flow for the stream and with its wide, deep holes the angler is always found to be happy along this stream. Large boulders of several tons each may be found in the stream. Numerous springs (one falling from a high rock cliff) provide the flow. If you do not fish, visit this stream anyway and learn of Iowa's beauty.

SPRING CREEK: A tributary of the Volga River and located in Cass and Cox Townships. Furnishes about four miles of excellent Brook and Rainbow trout water. Originates at the old mill and brewery (old landmarks) north of Strawberry Point and south of Elkader. It is a fast water stream and the lower section contains several deep holes which are always ready to produce a trout by properly placing the fly. The banks are timbered and numerous riffles can be found between the blue clay banks.

ELK CREEK: Has its source in Delaware County, located in the Township of the same name. Brooks, Rainbows and Browns are to be had only for the fishing in these six miles of trout water. Lying north of Greeley and east of Edgewood and the O'Dell branch starting above the old mill as a tributary, the angler can find numerous deep holes. Elk Creek and its branches are known as and can be truly called good trout streams. A tributary to the Volga River.

PINE CREEK: Located in Mallory and Elk Townships, east of Edgewood and west of Colesburg. Two miles of trout water. The headwaters are located in a deep eroded gorge and the flow is enlarged by springs falling from the rock walls. Deep crevices in the solid rock are filled with water wherein good sized Brook trout may be found.

BUCK CREEK: Five miles of good Brook trout fishing are provided by this stream located two miles east of the town of Garnavillo. A stream of many springs, banked high on either side by rock ledges and flows mostly over solid rock. Three old mill sites enhance the beauty of the stream as well as to add to its ability to produce good sized Brook trout.

PEDERSON CREEK: A tributary to the famous Sny Magill Creek which every trout fisherman learns about at some time during his career. Located in Clayton Township and with about two miles of fishing water, Brook trout predominate. The stream is south of McGregor about three miles.

CEDAR HOLLOW CREEK: A tributary to the famous Sny Magill and comprises about three miles of good fishing water for Brown and Rainbow trout. From here the fisherman may continue on down the Sny Magill to complete a successful day for trout.

HEWITT'S CREEK: Located about four and one-half miles northwest of Strawberry Point in Sperry Township. Three miles of fast fishing water have produced more than one large Brook trout.

MAQUOKETA RIVER: About three miles of this beautiful trout stream located in Cass Township has been designated as an official trout stream. Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout inhabit the stream with the Brown trout often attaining twenty inches and better. (See Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY

MAQUOKETA RIVER: Flowing through Iowa's largest State Park, the Backbone, this well improved stream of large flow is known to all Iowa trout fishermen. Fed by a series of springs along its beautiful timbered, rock cliff course and by Richmond Spring Branch (which flows through the State Trout Hatchery located in the Park,) the Maquoketa is undoubtedly the most popular of all Iowa trout streams. The length of the stream through the park and west to and including the portion described in Clayton County furnishes a large territory for trout fishermen. Brook, Rainbow, and Browns may be taken, with the Browns often attaining the weight of four pounds. From Strawberry Point the Backbone State Park is two miles south and one west.

SPRING BRANCH: A tributary of the Maquoketa River and located in Milo Township east of Manchester, this stream flows past the Federal trout hatchery. Large flow, partly timbered banks, rock bed and good deep holes make this stream unusual. It is known as a good trout producer and for the particular angler who admires the spectacular fight of a Rainbow, it will fulfill his desire. About three miles of fishing water.

RICHMOND SPRING BRANCH: Flows from the State trout hatchery to the Maquoketa River in the Backbone State Park. About one mile of good trout water. Three species of trout.

WAGNER SPRING BRANCH: East of Hopkinton in Northfork Township. About one mile of Brook trout stream.

ELK CREEK: A good trout stream that will furnish good trout fishing. Located north of Greeley and east of Edgewood, the O'Dell branch of Elk Creek starts above an old mill, has a large flow and contains numerous deep holes inhabited by Brooks, Rainbow and Brown trout.

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DUBUQUE COUNTY

SWISS VALLEY CREEK: In Table Mound and Vernon Townships, this stream located south and west of Dubuque is furnishing good Rainbow and Brown trout fishing. About three miles of good fishing water is made up of several large deep pools and numerous side streams caused by springs which also contain trout. A large flow of water and with its timbered banks and rough area at the headwaters not only is a good trout stream but to walk along its course and absorb the landscape will make anyone say that this stream has an ideal setting for a typical trout stream.

WHITE WATER CREEK: Dubuque County boasts of another popular trout stream. White Water Creek, with its many side streams or tributaries, has supplied a great number of trout fishermen with smashing "strikes" from Brown trout. Located in Vernon and Taylor Townships and west and south of the town of Peosta. About three miles of excellent trout water.

MICHELL'S CREEK: Located south of Dubuque. Originates in Moslem Township, Dubuque County, and flows through Prairie Spring Township in Jackson County. The portion of this stream located in Dubuque County is open with very crooked, high soil banks but becomes timbered as it flows in Jackson County. Brown trout seem to be the most numerous.

FAYETTE COUNTY

GLOVERS CREEK: This trout stream located east and near West Union, is a highly improved stream. Fair depth, wide and with several good pools, this stream flows through rock ledges and partly timbered banks. Considered an excellent fly fishing stream and has been noted as a good trout stream for years. Rainbow and Brown trout can be caught from the large flow of the stream with the Browns attaining large size. A very scenic stream and comprises approximately two miles of excellent fishing water.

DUTTON CAVE CREEK: Located in Dover Township and north of West Union, this stream is made by a large spring flowing from a cave in the rocks. The stream is mostly "riffles" and pools and is a typical Brook trout stream. About two miles of fishing water are available and without taking one Brook trout, fishing this stream is good for the soul. A tributary to the Turkey River.

FROG HOLLOW CREEK: Good Brook trout streams are apparently centered around the town of West Union for southeast of the town in Westfield Township flows two miles of fast Brook trout water. The fast water has produced many a battle with a Brook trout not to be forgotten. Has numerous smaller trout runs and is a tributary to the Volga River.

MAQUOKETA RIVER: (See Delaware and Clayton Counties.)

GRANNIS HOLLOW: Located west of Wadena and east of Fayette in Illyria Township. Good fishing for Brook trout. Contains several pools and deep holes. Medium large flow and a tributary to the Volga River.

FALLING SPRINGS CREEK: A tributary to the Turkey River. This odd but small trout stream is located in Auburn Township west and north of West Union. Inhabited with Brook trout.

HOWE'S SPRING OR TORSON CREEK: Located in Auburn Township and north of West Union. Has a small flow but with good holes. Inhabited by Brown trout. Considered a fair stream. A tributary to the Turkey River.

SWALE'S CREEK: A prairie trout stream of about two miles of fishing water located in Union Township, south of West Union and north of Fayette. Partially covered with prairie grass, this small stream produces some good Brook trout.

MINK CREEK: A tributary to the Volga River and about three miles of winding, timbered stream noted for its Rainbow and Brown trout fishing. Located north of Wadena in Illyria Township.

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HOWARD COUNTY

CHEHAK CREEK: Located south of Cresco in Vernon Springs and New Oregon Townships, this stream is known to most all trout fishermen. It has good cover and good holes which rarely fail to produce a Rainbow or Brown trout to the proper fly at the proper time placed in the proper manner. An improved stream and promises to become one of the most popular. A medium sized stream and empties into the Turkey River.

BIGALK CREEK: Located north of Cresco in Albion Township in Howard County and Fremont Township in Winneshiek County. Two miles of medium sized stream with numerous good holes. Carries many Rainbow and Brown trout.

BIG and LITTLE MILL CREEKS: West of Bellevue and south of Dubuque in Bellevue wnship. Considerable flow, contains deep holes in certain sections. A good sized pring run on Big Mill Creek is inhabited by Brook trout. In other parts of the streams Rainbows and Browns are to be found. About six miles of good fishing waters are furnished by these streams which have proved very popular.

MITCHELL'S CREEK: Located in Jackson County is Mitchell Creek, which originates in Dubuque County. Noted for its large Brown trout caught in the lower regions of the stream. (See also Dubuque County.)

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JONES COUNTY

FARM CREEK: South of Cascade in Washington Township. Contains numerous springs and deep holes. High, overhanging banks almost hide the stream from view because of the narrow channel. Rainbow and Brown trout fishing has been good for years for num-erous trout fishermen in this vicinity and because of the type of stream it is ex-tremely popular with fishermen who want to "sneak up" to the edge and drop a fly or worm without the trout seeing him. A tributary to the Maquoketa River.

OZARK SPRING RUN: About one mile of good Brook trout water. Southeast of Cas-cade in Butler Township. A large spring provides the flow and fishing is good. A tributary to the Maquoketa River.

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MITCHELL COUNTY

SPRING CREEK: In West Lincoln Township. Two miles of trout water. Fair holes, timbered banks and numerous springs make this good sized stream inhabitable for Rain-bow and Brown trout and they are there. Stream located at Orchard.

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WINNESHEK COUNTY

BEAR CREEK (North Branch): An open stream in the headwaters with a large flow. Several good holes with abundant cover in the lower waters. A good stream for Rain-bow and Brown trout and noted for its ability to produce large ones. Located in Highland Township near Highlandville. The north and south branches of Bear Creek junction in Allamakee County.

COLD WATER CREEK: An interesting stream with a large flow and deep holes. Rif-fles are to be found over the flat limestone rocks in places and the banks are formed by high rock ledges. Located northwest of Decorah and east of Cresco in Burr Oak Township. About three miles of fishing water inhabited with Rainbow and Brown trout.

BOHEMIAN CREEK: West of Spillville and south of Cresco in Sumner Township. Three miles of trout water. The number of Rainbow and Brown trout of all sizes taken from this stream make it one of the most popular in Iowa. Partly an open stream with good holes and many springs. A tributary to the Turkey River and a good stream to fish the fly.

TROUT RUN: Located near the new hatchery site and just east of Decorah. Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout may be caught in this one and one-half miles of fishing water.

COON CREEK: East of Decorah and west of Waukon. This stream of two miles pro-duces some good Rainbow and Brook trout.

SOUTH CREEK: East of Decorah, this small flowing stream will give the angler an opportunity to battle it out with either Rainbow or Brown trout. Located in Glenwood and Frankville Townships. A tributary to the Turkey River.

CANOE CREEK and SPRING CREEK: In Pleasant Township north of Decorah, these fair sized streams contain Rainbow and Brown trout.