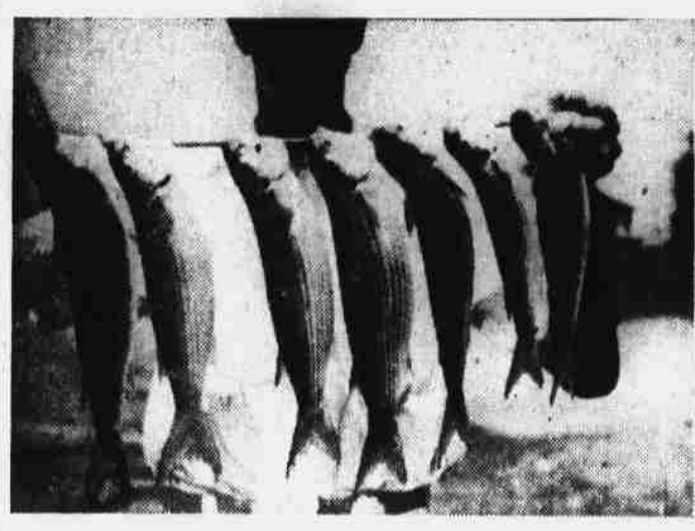


# Salt Water Jumping Mullet Fatten in Fresh Water Pond

**By John Havas**  
 (This is the first of two articles on the United States Fishery Biological station, Beaufort).  
 An important experiment being conducted at the United States Fishery Biological laboratory on Piver's island, just west of Beaufort, is the transplanting of the salt water jumping mullet. Mugil cephalus, to fresh water lakes and ponds, where, it has been found through experiments, that the mullet actually thrives.



The mullets pictured above were the result of Dr. H. F. Prytherch's fresh water experiment conducted on Piver's Island. The two on the right were two-year-old mullets, while the rest were three years old, weighing from 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 pounds each. Mullet that were put back in salt water were later found to be longer but much thinner than those pictured above. Holding the prize mullets is Capt. Charles Hattel, Beaufort.

Dr. H. F. Prytherch, aquatic biologist at the lab, has been conducting experiments with mullets for several years, and the results of his activities have been met with both acclaim and skepticism.

Back in 1941, Dr. Prytherch transplanted a number of one-year-old mullets to a shallow pond on the island and later changed the salt water to fresh water by use of an artesian well. The fish fed on plant life on the bottom of the pond, and a flock of mallard ducks provided fertilizer by excrement.

Two years later, the experiment was interrupted because the Navy wanted to use the pond for special sound experiments, and in seining out the fish, everyone was amazed to find a crop of over 300 mullets, weighing from 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds each and in excellent condition.

The pond covered an area of 1/10 of an acre, and a conservative estimate of the yield put the production at 3,000 pounds per acre in two years or 1,500 pounds per year. Dr. Prytherch says 2,000 pounds per acre is a yield that can be reached very easily.

Dr. Prytherch still keeps a school of mullet on the island but refers to his present activity with the fish as a hobby. In the same pond, he keeps goldfish and green turtles, and the scientist says the mullet can live safely with bass also.

Dr. Prytherch states that in transplanting the mullets from salt to fresh water, over 95 per cent survive and thrive. Once he threw a number of mullets that had been fattened in fresh water back into salt water, and although the fish became longer, they became much thinner. Comments the biologist, "They were in bad shape."

The mullet is the South's number one food fish and is fished extensively from North Carolina to Texas. Important as the mullet is to the United States, it is, how-

ever, found in warm waters all over the world.

Although he expresses pride in his work, the Piver's Island biologist is quick to point out that he was not the first to experiment with mullets in fresh water. He states, "I'm doing something the Egyptians discovered many years ago."

Additional experiments along this line will be conducted when the pond being constructed on Harvey Smith's property on Front street extension, east of Beaufort, is completed. The pond will be stocked with both bass and mullets.

### BAY VIEW

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Graham and Mrs. Owen Cole returned home Monday evening from Falcon where they attended the conference of the P. H. church.

Miss Louise Jones spent last week at Morehead City with Mrs. Cal Whaley.

Eugene Lilly, U.S.N., spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Lilly.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskett and little daughter, Brenda Joyce, of Havelock, are spending a few days here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Brown, of Wire

Grass, spent a while Sunday in the community with relatives.

Joseph Williams returned home Monday evening from Newport where he had been visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Small, Miss Bertie Small and Ardell Small spent a while Sunday evening at Harlowe.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Jones, Mrs. Allen Graham, Mrs. Ellery Hardesty and Mr. Owen Cottle attended the Union meeting at Holly Springs Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Billie G. Lewis and little daughter, Darlene, spent a while Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Small.

Mrs. Bill Mason and Mrs. Clarence Mason spent Tuesday with Mrs. Thomas Haskett and Mrs. Polie Haskett.

Dr. Moore and Mrs. Heslip were in the community Saturday evening to see Mrs. James Skinner.

Miss Pearl Small, who has been spending the summer with Mrs. Bill Lewis, spent the weekend at home.

Mrs. Emma Oglesby, of Harlowe, spent a while Saturday evening in the community.

Mr. Cuddell and Mr. Wickizer were in the community Wednesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Small at-

tended the Union meeting at Holly Springs Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wade spent a while Sunday in the community.

Mr. Vernon Lilly spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Lilly and family.

Mr. Vincent Lilly spent the weekend here with relatives.

Misses Bertie and Pearl Small spent Sunday with Mrs. Winfield Lewis.

Mrs. Earl Taylor spent a while Thursday evening with Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Graham.

Miss Blanche Saunders, of Beaufort, spent a while Sunday evening in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. George Newkirk and daughter, who have been spending a while with his parents at Beaufort, have returned home.

### LENNOXVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Daniels and daughter of New Bern spent the weekend here with Mr. and Mrs. James Willis.

Mr. and Mrs. Valvert Garner of Newport spent the weekend here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Daniels.

Mrs. Roy Goodwin returned from Atlantic City, N. J., Monday.

Mrs. Julia Pake, Mrs. Gus Meden and Mrs. Dallas Willis motored to Rocky Mount last Tuesday night to meet Mr. Meden who is spending his vacation here.

Mrs. William Willis and children of Beaufort spent Monday here.

Mrs. Nancy Barker and children who spent the past week here with her mother, Mrs. Luther Pittman returned to her home at Oriental Saturday.

Mr. Luther Pittman spent the weekend here with his family.

Miss Mary Sue Lynch of Beaufort spent Sunday here with Misses Julia and Letitia Simpson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Willis and mother, Mrs. James Willis shopped in New Bern Saturday.

Mrs. A. Lawrence and Mrs. Wilbert Lawrence and daughter of Otway visited Mrs. Frank McIntosh last Friday.

Miss Giulia Daniels who is a patient at Dukes hospital is improving.

Mrs. Sophia Lupton, Mrs. Charlie Ferrier and daughter, Beverly, spent Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dickinson at their home at New Bern Road.

Mrs. Randolph Willis and children of Morehead City spent last Thursday with relatives.

Mrs. Frank McIntosh and son, Jamie, visited his grandparents at Otway Tuesday.

Eleven men who played big ten football are members of the Baltimore Colts of the All-America Conference.

Herb St. John, former Georgia guard now with the Brooklyn foot-

ball Dodgers of the All-America pro football Conference, is the

smallest man on the Brooklyn squad. He stands five ten, but

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