

THEY FISH FOR SCIENCE



Scientists cast a fine mesh net to collect fish and small organisms in pollution control study conducted on the Guadalupe River in Texas.



Algae and diatoms are collected by spoonfuls from stumps and stones along Guadalupe River. They provide food for fish and other organisms and are an important means of oxygenating the water.

Fishermen with gear that Izaak Walton would never recognize appear from time to time on streams throughout the country.

They're scientists who are using an array of tweezers, test tubes, microscopes, scrapers, diatometers, chemicals and butterfly nets to make biological studies of rivers on which industrial plants are located.

The studies are designed to insure that proper protective measures are being taken to dispose of the plants' trade waste without destroying the delicate natural balance of the plant and animal life of the river. They also work to prevent pollution from the outset in new plant construction.

Pictured here are the scientists from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia who are carrying out this anti-pollution program for the Du Pont plants across the country.

The team spends about two weeks at the site collecting data and samples of fish, clams, oysters, mussels, snails, bugs, insects, plants and microscopic organisms that dwell in and along the river. The "catch" is then shipped to the academy's Philadelphia laboratories for evaluation. Analyzed and correlated, it establishes a permanent yardstick and a guide for future operations of the plant.



Hoop net handled here by Gordon Chaplin, field assistant, and Selwyn Roback, is used for obtaining various forms of aquatic life for laboratory tests.



Mud is collected in dredge, then washed in trays so scientists can study worms and snails living in the bed of the stream. They are important in showing effects of pollution.



Scientists use set of graduated screens to catch worms, clams, insects and other marine species brought up from waters of Wateree River at Camden, S. C.



Water is collected with use of big brass cylinder. It's then analyzed for its oxygen content.



Some of laboratory work is done at site of survey. Chemist-bacteriologist Nancy Hess tests water samples taken from Wateree River.



Anatomy and health of fish are checked by protozoologist in Philadelphia laboratory. Fish, while important, represent only about one-tenth of the entire field study.

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