

COASTLINES

New York Sea Grant Institute

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VOLUNTARY SEAFOOD QUALITY PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK



Twenty seafood retailers and twenty commercial fishing vessels from Long Island have volunteered to participate in a 15-week pilot program designed to develop and evaluate procedures that can be easily and effectively used to maintain product quality.

The voluntary program, which began in October 1990 and will run through mid-January 1991, was developed during the past year by a New York seafood industry marketing and promotion organization called the Marine Resources & Products Council (MRPC), with technical assistance from New York Sea Grant and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

While debate over how and when a national program for seafood inspection might be implemented continues, many seafood businesses here in New York have recognized that their commitment to quality does not have to wait for a national plan to be in place.

To initiate the retail demonstration project, each volunteer store was evaluated by a Sea Grant and MRPC site team. Based on this evaluation, specific suggestions for improvement were made. Each store was then given a plan outlining the sanitation and

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Seafood Quality Assurance Program Initiated

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quality maintenance procedures to be used. To help these businesses implement the program and document its use, a record book was developed to log display case temperatures twice a day and to verify daily, weekly and biweekly sanitation and handling procedures covering all parts of the retail operation.

Participating retailers display a blue rectangular MRPC Seafood Quality Assurance Program logo that announces to their customers that they are part of this quality improvement program. Also as part of the program, the retailers use product names officially designated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to minimize potential consumer confusion.

"This project is unique and exciting because 20 different independently owned seafood markets on Long Island who previously had little contact with one another are now working together to develop a practical program that will enable them to enhance the quality of the products that they sell," explains Ken Gall, the New York Sea Grant regional extension specialist who helped develop the program.



Paul Houghton, the owner of Miller Place Seafood, a Long Island retail store participating in this project, notes: "It's important that the seafood industry in New York is taking the lead in evaluating ways to assure the quality and wholesomeness of our products. I know that our customers appreciate our efforts and in the end everybody benefits."

Display case temperatures are a major concern in maintaining the freshness of seafood and are taken twice daily.

When the program is concluded, New York Sea Grant will analyze the records kept during the project and work with the

participants to refine a program that can be used on a continuing basis in retail stores.

A similar quality assurance program is also being undertaken by 20 commercial fishing vessels with assistance from the Suffolk County Marine Extension Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension. The program's guidelines include protecting, preserving and handling the catch, along with detailed sanitation procedures.

By working with vessels at the beginning of the seafood distribution chain and retailers at the end of it, these programs will provide an effective, real-world test of practical quality assurance concepts. The results will be beneficial to the industry and to the seafood-buying consumer as well.

For further information about the Seafood Quality Assurance Program as a whole, contact Roger Tollefsen, president of the Marine Resources & Products Council, at (516) 283-1525. For more information about the Retail Quality Assurance Program, contact Ken Gall, regional extension specialist, New York Sea Grant, at (516) 632-8730. For more information on the Commercial Vessel Quality Assurance Program, contact John Scotti, extension agent, Cornell Cooperative Extension, at (516) 727-3910.

Z-Mussel Scare Hits the Hudson: Impostor Zebra Mussel Found on the Lower Hudson River

A mussel first thought to be the dreaded zebra mussel, discovered in Haverstraw Bay in the lower Hudson River, has turned out to be a less threatening look-alike called the dark false mussel.

Sea Grant extension specialists first learned about the sighting at the end of November from staffers at the Museum of the Hudson Highlands, who discovered the juvenile mussels on a piece of wood that was collected about 25 miles north of New York City for use in a display about aquatic invertebrates.

Samples of the mussels were sent to NY Sea Grant's Zebra Mussel Information

Clearinghouse in Brockport, where external evidence seemed to confirm that this was the first sighting of zebra mussels in the United States outside of the Great Lakes drainage basin.

Concerned that these newfound mussels seemed to thrive in water 2 parts per thousand more saline or salty than usual, Charles O'Neill and Dave MacNeill, the Sea Grant extension specialists who have been following the spread of the zebra mussels for the past two years, consulted with several noted exotic species experts. Among them was Dr. James Carlton, director of Maritime Studies, Williams College, Connecticut. Carlton

confirmed that both mussel species were externally very similar, particularly in their early juvenile stage.

Carlton and the Clearinghouse both performed detailed internal microscopic examinations on the mussels, however, conclusively showing that they were in fact the dark false mussel. Like the zebra mussel, the dark false mussel can foul water intakes, but not to the same extent.

"This situation has prompted us to initiate development of an identification key for scientists, officials, water and power

Continued on Page

Don't Dump Your Gunk Into Storm Drains

When most people think of water pollution they usually think of a factory or plant churning out toxic waste into a nearby river or stream. The "point" (or place) where the pollution originates is clear and relatively easy to identify. Less easy to identify but of significant concern to researchers are pollutants such as gas, oil, antifreeze, pesticides, and yard waste and other household chemicals, that rainwater carries off roads, lawns and farms. The runoff ends up in nearby waters, and is called nonpoint source pollution. Every year, about 400 million gallons of used motor oil are dumped into New York state storm drains.

In an effort to reduce the disposal of materials down storm drains, a program of stenciling warnings on the drains is going to be initiated in the spring by Melissa Beristain, a regional extension specialist for New York Sea Grant. The program is partly funded by the New York Power Authority's Sound Cable Grant Program and a grant from the New York State Senate.

Enlisting the help of community and school groups, towns throughout Long Is-

land will be making an effort to paint the roadway near each drain with one of several messages: "Don't Dump, Drains to Long Island Sound," or "Drains to the Ocean," "Drains to the Bay," or "Drains to Drinking Water."

The stencils and some materials will be available from Sea Grant at no cost for anyone on Long Island, in New York City or in Westchester and Rockland counties who wants to participate. Highway departments from the towns of Babylon and Islip have already agreed to paint drains in their towns, using citizen volunteers in low-traffic areas and highway department personnel for the busier roads.

Stencils made specifically for town highway or public works departments will be available from the Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of Long Island. These stencils are specially designed to withstand the high-pressure painting equipment used by the towns.

"This project has tremendous potential to reduce the amount of contaminants that reach our waters," explained Beristain. "Not only will individuals and local groups par-



Sea Grant's Melissa Beristain and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli display the first storm drain stencil used. Photo courtesy Office of Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli.

ticipate, but they will also send a message that nothing but rainwater should enter the drains."

A free flyer describing the program and listing proper ways to dispose of contaminants will be available in January. Contact Melissa Beristain, Sea Grant regional extension specialist, at (516) 632-8737.

WALLEYE PROJECT NETS AWARD FOR SG SPECIALIST



Dave MacNeill received the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Marine Advisory Service Outstanding Program Award this past October for his work in developing the walleye culture program.

Walleye are a very popular sport fish throughout the northern United States and Canada. Since these fish have been in short supply on Lake Ontario, Dave MacNeill, a

regional extension specialist for NY Sea Grant, working with researchers at State University of New York College at Brockport, Cornell University, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and angling clubs, developed a plan to culture and stock walleye. Workshops were conducted for over 150 interested anglers and club representatives. Members of these angling clubs in turn raised and then stocked over 180,000 walleye in the Niagara River and into Lake Ontario embayments. The program was mentioned in such national magazines as *Field and Stream* and *Outdoor Life*.

A follow-up monitoring program funded by Cornell found that the walleye not only survived, but rivaled the growth rate of native Lake Erie walleye.

Because of his superior work with the walleye culture program, MacNeill received the Marine Advisory Service Outstanding Program Award during the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Conference in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. MacNeill has

been with New York Sea Grant's Brockport office for three years and his areas of expertise include sportfisheries, aquaculture and exotic species introductions.

He received his B.A. in biology and secondary education from the State University of New York College at Potsdam and an M.S. in environmental and forest biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY CESF) in Syracuse. He taught high school science, worked with DEC as a technician, and was a Sea Grant Scholar at SUNY CESF before joining the extension program.

The Great Lakes Sea Grant Network presents this award only once every 18 months to honor superior performance and accomplishment, and to promote professional development. The network goal is to preserve and enhance Great Lakes coastal and water resources. The network is comprised of six member states: Illinois/Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

COASTLINES BIO-FEATURE: Dr. Robert Malouf

For almost four years, Dr. Robert (Bob) Malouf has been the director of New York Sea Grant. Starting in 1987 when the Institute moved its headquarters from Albany to the SUNY Stony Brook campus on Long Island — without any staff, and for the most part without any office space — Malouf set about the task of rebuilding the organization from the ground up.

During his tenure as director, Malouf has been responsible for funding close to \$8 million in Atlantic coast and Great Lakes research covering such diverse subjects as decompression sickness, bacterial diseases of salmonids, identifying potentially useful marine substances that could have medical applications, the effects of trace metals on Long Island Sound, modeling Lake Ontario's nutrient cycling and food web interactions, and the health value of omega-3 fatty acids, to name just a few.

Malouf received his B.A. in zoology from the University of Montana, and both his master's and doctoral degrees from Oregon State University. In 1970 he worked as a resident biologist for shellfisheries at the University of Delaware. In 1972 he returned to Oregon State University as a research assistant in shellfisheries, where he stayed until 1977. That same year Malouf headed east once again, this time to become an assistant professor, and subsequently an associate professor, of shellfish biology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook. He became director of New York Sea Grant in 1987.

In December 1990, Bob Malouf will be heading back out west, leaving New York Sea Grant to take up the Oregon Sea Grant directorship at Oregon State University at Corvallis. Among all his friends, colleagues and associates, his wit, insight, intelligence and compassion will be sorely missed. New York will be losing one of the good ones. Our loss is Oregon's gain.

Interview:

Q. Tell me, Bob, just how far away from the Pacific Ocean is the greater metropolitan Missoula, Montana area?

A. Approximately 700 miles.

Q. Well, since Missoula is such a great coastal town, it's easy to see how your interest in clams developed during your

formative years there.

A. It is kind of interesting, isn't it. I had never seen the ocean until I was a teenager. And then it was only just a glimpse. I started work on a master's degree on marine bivalves having never seen a live clam. So why, you ask, did I get interested in this area?

Q. It does make you wonder where this curiosity and interest came from.

A. I think the main thing is that people who live on the water, by the ocean, don't appreciate it as much as people who come from inland, who stand on the beach and look at the ocean in awe. It didn't take me long to become attached to it and to know that was the place I wanted to go back to. There were people that I knew who were living in a coastal community in Oregon — just hundreds of yards from the ocean — who had never been to the beach. And I felt sorry for them. It's just like people who live close to New York City and have never been to the Statue of Liberty.

Actually I was a zoology major in college in Montana, and I had an instructor who was brand new, full of enthusiasm and new ideas. This was my senior year and his first year teaching. He was from Scripps Institute of Oceanography and he taught courses in invertebrate zoology, which is what I was specializing in from the perspective of marine science. He used marine examples, marine specimens to show us. After a year of getting deeper into the marine environment I probably had as good a background in an academic sense as most of the graduate students did. I think it was one of those situations where all it takes is one special instructor to get you started in a direction. Some of it was presented with such a fire it was just too hard to forget.

I guess I was lucky. I knew by the time I got my bachelor's degree just what I wanted to do, which was to go on for my Ph.D. in some aspect of marine sciences or marine biology.

Q. You have been at Stony Brook since 1977, as a researcher and as a Sea Grant professor, and then as director of New York Sea Grant. I would imagine that there would be some real differences in these positions. What was this like?

A. Well, the first thing is, the world gets bigger. As a researcher I was part of a

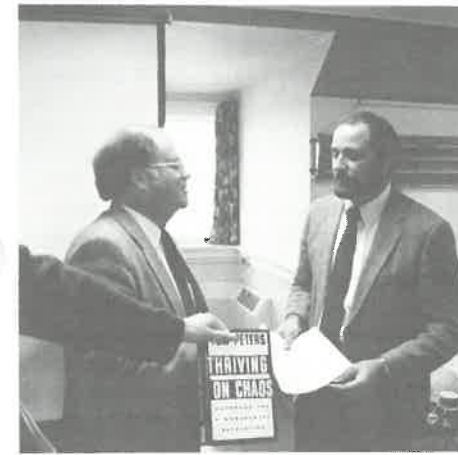


relatively small component of the marine world — that was bivalve mollusks, clams and scallops, which I dealt with in great depth. As a Sea Grant director I'm not just dealing with a single environment anymore. In fact it was the opportunity to broaden my view of the marine environment that drew me to the position. And while I did miss the daily contact with my students and the thrill of trolling for research grants, I gained a really exciting, broad program at Sea Grant that has introduced me to lots of different environments, and problems, and that's been great fun. It's really much more fun than I thought it would be. It's almost not fair it's like that.

Q. In looking back over the last four years, what would you say has been the upside for you as director? Where do you think you have been successful?

A. There are several things I have been very pleased with. One of them from my

New York Sea Grant Director A-Headin' West



perspective is that the process of scientific proposal selection and review has been significantly improved. And, by and large, the kinds of projects that we support are better justified, making our proposals stronger and making the work stronger. The process is more rigorous.

Also, it's important for people to realize that Sea Grant is different from other research support. It looks out and finds the need first and then builds a research program around it. At the same time it has the mechanism for transferring the research information to those that can use it, such as Sea Grant extension specialists. These are standard-issue Sea Grant words, but they really are true, which makes Sea Grant different from any other research organization in the marine environment and Great Lakes. I think that bringing research and extension closer together is the single thing that I'm most happy about. Because that's

what Sea Grant is.

Q. Over the last few years, what were some of the frustrations of being a Sea Grant director in New York?

A. Well, I underestimated just how hard it would be to turn down research projects. Maybe that's because of the past 10 years' experience I've had on the other side of this game. I had basically thought only about the good things that I would be doing as director. I guess it never really occurred to me that 80 percent of the projects had to be turned down. And maybe a fourth of those turned down were good projects with a lot of promise. So that's frustrating. That's annoying. There are a lot of good things that just haven't happened because of funding cutbacks.

Sea Grant has slipped a long way in real dollars. There has been no significant change in the funding for almost 10 years. Given inflation, that's a reduction. When people ask me why their proposals have been turned down, I don't have a good answer other than to say we don't have the money. That's not a good answer because we've funded somebody. People put their souls into a research proposal, usually. They really want to do these things. But it is a competitive process. And with the limited funds that are available it really is the best process based on the quality of the science and the relevance of the question.

Q. Lately, I guess in the last year or so, there has been a heavy emphasis on big science. Do you think that Sea Grant will be moving more in that direction? And is it a healthy thing? Is it necessary?

A. First of all, Sea Grant will be moving more in that direction. Like a lot of things, it's healthy to a degree. The reason it is healthy is it tends to create a multidisciplinary look at a question. Rather than having a fisheries biologist studying fluctuations and recruitment or some question like that, a big science project might involve physical oceanographers, atmospheric scientists and all sorts of people who might look at the same question from their own perspective. That's healthy for all the people who are involved, and it really is a good way to look at a question.

It's not so good if it's done to the extent that it precludes the involvement of the individual who has an idea that might not fit

into somebody's idea of what a big science project ought to be. If we ever reach the point where the person in the lab has no opportunity [for funding] then Sea Grant will lose and the country will lose, and we will have gone too far in that direction.

As with all things, in Sea Grant what you are really striving for is balance. Balance for applied research. Balance for basic research. Balance for big science, but with still enough room for some harebrained ideas that really ought to be pursued because some of them will pay off. There's still got to be room for the risk-takers.

Q. As you leave New York state, is there any particular message that you would like to pass along to the governor and to other leaders?

A. I don't think that I could just single out the governor for my comments but probably all our state elected officials. There are a lot of hard choices to make especially now with the budget situation the way it is. I'm convinced that reductions in higher education, in general, are false economy. You end up paying more in the future for what you should be doing now.

And I feel even more strongly about Sea Grant. Sea Grant's dollar return to both this state and the nation is many times the dollars invested. I recognize there are all sorts of people saying the same words. I'm troubled by across-the-board cuts. There are components of the state's budget that must be looked at in terms of the future. What's the impact on the future of one activity or another? And if Sea Grant fared well or not well in a review using that criteria, I could live with that.

It's hard to reach people with that kind of a view of things. It makes real demands on decisionmakers. But I think it could be done. And I think it really has to be done because we will be going through these cycles of good times and bad times in the economy and we have to be prepared for them. We've got to be prepared to deal with reductions in spending, ways that are different from the ways we do it now. It's just too expensive to catch up to do those things we should've done in the first place.

What this costs us is bright young people. It costs us opportunities lost, and that's

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BIO-FEATURE

Continued from Page 4



false economy. That's not the way to run a business.

Q. Crystal-ball gazing is always a hazardous undertaking. But if we could look five years into the future, what would you hope to see happen to the New York Sea Grant program?

A. There is a clear public awareness about the environment and — the fate of the recent bond issue notwithstanding — I am really optimistic about the future of Sea Grant in New York. I might not have said that in the mid-80s. I was very concerned about Sea Grant in general and where it was going. Sea Grant has evolved in a couple of ways that have strengthened it. It is responding to people's awareness of the environment, providing them with information and creating new information through research. What I would hope, is, obviously, sufficient support for Sea Grant in New York. Stability for it to build on the core program that it has now. To allow for the support to students to get back to the level it was 10 years ago, when we would support 50 students, rather than 25 at this point in time. To strengthen Sea Grant's coopera-

tive relationship with other state agencies, which is what we are doing. Now is not the time for competition among organizations doing similar work. It's the time for cooperation, and getting the most possible out of our resources. And I hope in five years that Sea Grant is in a position to co-fund half of its research with other entities like state agencies and private foundations, in order for us and those other entities to stretch whatever resources we have and to minimize or eliminate duplication of effort. I would like to see competition for state funding reduced, and see a greater emphasis placed on working together so the job can get done with the least amount of funding. Sea Grant will be around and will be even stronger five years from now.

Q. And, finally, Bob, how would you like to be remembered as the director of New York Sea Grant during the past four years?

A. If people remember my tenure as a time when scientifically, the program was enhanced, I would like that. If they remember this as a time when all components of the program — research, extension, communications and management, came together in a more meaningful and cohesive way, I would like that too. I know that people may look at these past four years in a much different way, but that's how I would like to be remembered.

Editor's Note: Dr. Bob Malouf is that rare person who has the capacity of seeing things from the other person's point of view. He has worked with and understood everyone on his staff, perhaps even better than we understood ourselves sometimes. He allowed each of us the opportunity to make a difference. He has been our teacher, mentor, leader, colleague and friend, and through his efforts he has helped to make us better people, more thoughtful people and more caring people in many ways. Thanks for everything, Bob. We wish you well.

Mussels in Hudson

Continued from Page 2

plant personnel and others to help differentiate between the two species," said O'Neill. "This key is necessary because the research literature indicates that the two species may have some overlapping salinity tolerances, which means they could be found growing together in certain brackish estuaries."

In spite of this false alarm, researchers believe that it is only a matter of time before zebra mussels are found in the Hudson River and other inland waters.

A mussel by any other stripe

So, what was feared to be an invasion of zebra mussels in the Hudson River turned out not to be.

The creatures found near Croton Point last week were actually a type of mussel that normally is not striped. Somehow, these were. So forget about those nasty zebra mussels that can clog intake pipes, mess up fishing nets and boat hulls. For now, anyway.

But cheer up, the killer bees are still coming.

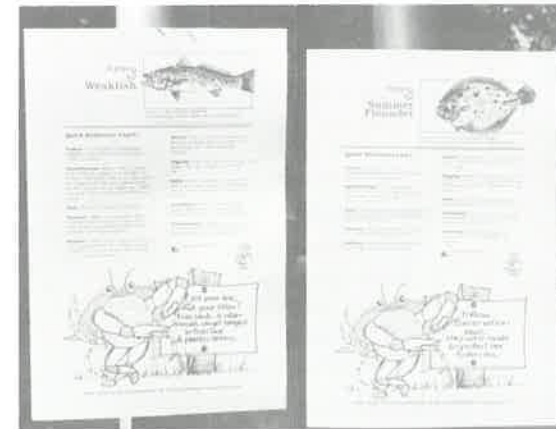
This editorial ran in the Gannett newspapers in Westchester, NY on Dec. 9, 1990.

BEACH CLEANUPS

An estimated 41 tons of debris were collected by some 2,800 volunteers from around New York state who took part in the eighth annual national Beach Cleanup Day. This is the fourth year that New York state has participated. The event is part of the national Coastweeks activities that run for the three weeks from mid-September to Columbus Day and include coastal tours, conferences, art shows, photo contests and educational exhibits.

In the Buffalo area, over 500 people fanned out along the shoreline of Lake Erie to clean the beaches. Downstate cleanups at Piermont Pier and Stony Point in Rockland County netted over 1,000 pounds of garbage and involved a record number of participants (125). Under warm temperatures and sunny skies, close to 550 volunteers trudged through the sands of Jones Beach and Smith Point Park on Long Island.

IDENTIFISH POSTERS COMING SOON TO YOUR FAVORITE FISHIN' HOLE



One of the six all-weather identifish posters that will appear at fishing locations in the downstate region.

By Robert Kent

Fishing can be a very frustrating experience for the novice angler. There is so much to learn—what types of hooks, lures and baits to use; what species of fish are around at any particular time; what regulations gov-

ern particular species; what habitat to find fish in. Unless someone learns these things firsthand from a friend or relative, the chances of having a successful fishing outing are slim. Lack of success (catching no fish) leads to people giving up on the sport in frustration.

To help the beginner, New York Sea Grant worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a series of educational posters designed to provide basic angling information. These will be displayed at fishing piers and boat launch ramps, and in bait and tackle stores on Long Island. The project was funded with Sport Fish Restoration program funds.

A series of six posters has been developed. Each poster covers a particular species of fish and includes the scientific and common names used for the fish, information on how to identify the fish, seasons the species is found locally, habitat preference of the species, tackle, rigging, baits and artificial lures used to catch the fish,

and presentation techniques. In the series are winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*), weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), snapper (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), scup or porgie (*Stenotomus chrysops*) and tautog or blackfish (*Tautoga onitis*). Since fishing regulations may change, the posters list the new Department of Environmental Conservation toll-free number (1-800-REGSDEC), which anglers may call to obtain fishing regulation information.

Each poster also contains an environmental ethics message delivered to the public by a cartoon character shaped like a crab. One message is: "Cast your line, not your litter! Fish, birds and other animals can get tangled in fish line and plastic debris."

The signs were printed on heavy plastic to withstand out-of-doors conditions. Parks department staff or bait and tackle store operators wanting to obtain a set of posters for public display may contact Robert Kent at New York Sea Grant, Cornell University Lab, 39 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901, telephone (516) 727-3910.

GAIN MOMENTUM STATEWIDE

This participation is a marked increase from last year's cleanup, which involved 685 volunteers and collected less than 10,000 pounds of debris.

People of every age could be found along the 3.5 miles of Smith Point Park beachfront. With bags in hand — one for recyclables and the other for just regular trash — they looked, to the unknowing observer, like participants in some strange kind of treasure hunt.

Youngsters with their bags dragging along the sand looked more like small

Hitting the beaches: on a near-perfect day this fall, hundreds of people—young and old alike—trekked across the sand at Smith Point Park, schlepping their bags and pails, sorting and listing their trash, and generally having a good time cleaning up a small but important part of our planet.

Santa's helpers than Coastbusters. Older folks chatted together quietly as they scoured the beach, stopping every couple of paces to pick up a cigarette butt or empty container. And groups of teens in a constant state of animated enthusiasm enlivened a task that otherwise could have become dull.

In the end, the Smith Point count was 1,148.5 pounds of debris, of which 318 pounds were recyclable cans, bottles and plastic containers. Cigarette butts, bottles, cans, straws and plastic bags led the list as most frequently found items.



SPORT FISHING ALIVE IN LAKE ERIE AND PRODUCING BIG \$

The old rumor that sport fishing has vanished from Lake Erie waters just ain't true. The walleye fishery in western New York is alive and well, if the number of anglers who competed in a walleye derby last summer is any indication. During the eight days of the 1990 Southtowns Walleye Derby, 2,584 anglers participated. This is two and a half times the number of anglers who competed in the 1986 derby.

David Greene, New York Sea Grant regional extension specialist, conducted a survey of the 1990 anglers to assess the growth of sport fishing as well as the economic impacts. According to Greene, almost 90 percent of the anglers participating were residents of either Erie or Chautauqua County. They spent three to four days in the area while

spending an average of \$216 per participant. It is estimated this derby generated over \$850,000 in revenues for Erie and Chautauqua Counties.

The survey also asked for anglers' opinions of facilities and services. Greene said, "The overwhelming answer was a need for improved access, such as more and better boat launches."



In 1986 the Lake Erie Walleye Derby generated over \$190,000 in revenue. By 1990 that figure had grown to more than \$850,000. *Photo by David White.*



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