

Last Wave

Ordering Publications

Go to www.nyseagrant.org, click on "Publications" > "Search & Request" and fill out our publications request form or email requests to: Leigh.Hubbard@stonybrook.edu. Sign up to become an on-line subscriber and receive E-mail alerts about future issues of *NY Coastlines*. Information provided to NYSG will not be shared with any third party.

Journal Reprints

Sagarese, S.R., R.M. Cerrato and M.G. Frisk. 2011. Diet composition and feeding habits of common fishes in Long Island Bays, New York. *Northeastern Naturalist* 18(3): 291-314.

Stasiewicz, M.J., M. Wiedmann and T.M. Bergholz. 2011. The transcriptional response of *Listeria monocytogenes* during adaptation to growth on lactate and diacetate includes synergistic changes that increase fermentative acetoin production. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 77(15): 5294-5306



Silver carp artwork by Joseph R. Tomelleri

New Fact Sheet on Asian Carp

A possible invasion into the Great Lakes of several of the seven species of carp found in North America, but not in the Great Lakes – the silver and bighead carp (known collectively as Asian carp) – has raised concerns. These concerns are detailed in *Asian carp: Threats to the lower Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River?*, a new fact sheet produced by NYSG Fisheries Specialist **David MacNeill** and NYSG's Coastal Education Specialist **Helen Domske**. Silver carp, noted for their high-flying jumping behavior, have seriously injured people aboard watercraft.

"This fish is a threat because it is very prolific – it breeds very readily, and there are places in its range along the Mississippi River and the Illinois River where it is now the dominant fish species," says Domske. "Asian carp are filter feeders. And like the mussels, these carp love to eat plankton. And when I say plankton, keep in mind that all fish start out as a type of plankton."

Adds MacNeill, "Plankton are the energy sources that drive much of the open water food web and are the only food for fish larvae and species like alewife." Alewife are the plankton-eating fish that are preferred prey for predatory fish like trout and salmon. The big question," says MacNeill is: "If the carp get into the Great Lakes, could they affect the multimillion dollar trout and salmon fisheries?"

Both Domske and MacNeill agree that if Asian carp get into one of the Great Lakes, there would be nothing to stop them from moving throughout all of the Great Lakes. "We may not be able to get rid of the invasive species that have already entered the system, but we need to make sure that we do all that we can to prevent the carp from getting in," says Domske.

The carp have been found in a ship canal that connects Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, which many people are calling to be blocked off so there is no way the water could flow in between the lake and the river. "Many scientists believe that hydrological separation would be a sure way to keep them out," says Domske. Economically, if the Asian carp did make its way into the Great Lakes it could create a negative impact: "The canal does move a lot of barges," says Domske. "But just speaking from a scientific standpoint, closing it certainly could be one of the most effective and attainable means to block that connection from Asian carp into the Great Lakes."

— Paul C. Focazio

Seafood Health Facts Web site

A new Web site aimed at helping consumers weigh the benefits against possible risks of eating seafood has just been launched. The site, <http://seafoodhealthfacts.org>, developed largely through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was created to help clear up many of the myths surrounding seafood. "The idea is for the site to serve as a credible resource to health care professionals and consumers," said New York Sea Grant Seafood Specialist **Ken Gall**, who was the primary developer of the new Web site and is the Cornell University Co-Investigator for this project.

Included on the site are resources for seafood nutrition and the benefits of seafood consumption, seafood safety and the risks associated with certain types of seafood, a comparison of the risks and benefits of seafood consumption, and the seafood supply in the United States. The site, which also features information aimed at specific population groups, will be enhanced in early spring so that consumers can customize the information they need based on the amount and source of seafood they eat.

Dose of Reality Campaign

New York Sea Grant's Coastal Education Specialist **Helen Domske** has been working with other specialists throughout Sea Grant's Great Lakes programs for the past year on the "Dose of Reality" campaign, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. She and others in the region have informed nearly 796,000 people about targeted ways to keep unused prescription drugs out of New York's waterways. As part of that effort, to date, nearly 2.5 million pills have been collected.

"When medications are no longer needed – whether they are expired, unwanted, or don't have to be taken any more – people used to think the best disposal was to flush them down the toilet," says Domske. Now we know this might have environmental impacts. "If people cannot use a take-back program, they should mix the medicine with something that's unattractive to pets or people, like used coffee grinds or kitty litter, put them in a plastic bag, tape it up and then place it in a non-recyclable plastic container and throw it out in the trash."

— Compiled by Paul C. Focazio

