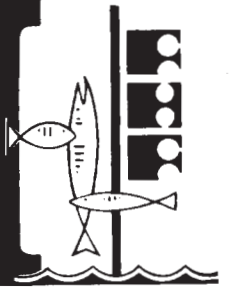


# THE SPLASH



The Official  
Publication of the  
National Fresh  
Water Fishing  
Hall of Fame

VOL. 31  
NO. 2  
Spring 2007

## World Record Brook Trout

### Inside:

- Awards Presented to Inductees
- World Record Brook Trout
- Major Restoration to Begin at Hall
- Large Blue Catfish Caught
- Records Update



Tim Matheson, Brook Trout, Catch & Release. 10 lb. and All Tackle. 29 inches long. Barbe Lake, Manitoba, Canada. Caught October 21, 2006. Details on page 3.



National Fresh Water

## Fishing Hall of Fame

Founded 1960

Incorporated Not For Profit 1970

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# THE SPLASH

Printed February 15, April 15, August 15, November 15

### Programs and Activities

- Recognition of World Fresh Water Sport-fishing Records
- Record Book Published Annually
- Enshrinement for Achievement and Accomplishment
- Library for Research and Pleasure
- Educational Museum of Sportfishing Artifacts

Museum open April 15 to November 1  
7 days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(no admittance after 3:30 p.m.)

Administration Office open year 'round  
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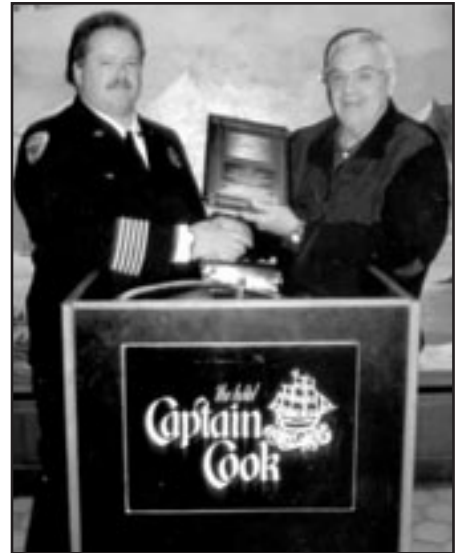
### Please Give Us Your New Address!

If you have moved or if you change your address for the winter, please let us know. It will insure a more timely receipt of your Hall mail. Thanks for the help!

**THE HALL IS  
WORKING FOR YOU!  
SUPPORT IT! SIGN  
UP A NEW MEMBER!**

## “Kid’s Don’t Float”

Elmer Guerri (right) presents Robert Painter (Chief of the Homer, Alaska, Volunteer Fire Department) with his group’s plaque for their 2006 Organizational Award. This award was presented to them for their groundbreaking “Kid’s Don’t Float” program. It was presented to them in order to recognize their efforts in developing and implementing a life jacket loaner program for children. “Kid’s Don’t Float” has a highly successful record of saving lives of youngsters everywhere. Elmer made the presentation on March 1, 2007 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska. They graciously made their facilities available to us at no cost. Thank you.



## Chapralis Induction

Wendy Williamson (Hall Executive Board and Awards Committee member) presents Jim Chapralis with his induction plaque at the recent Great Waters Fly Fishing Show in Illinois. Jim was inducted in our Special Recognition category for

outstanding achievement in developing international fishing opportunities for the average angler, especially in the area of fly fishing. Congratulations Jim.

## Major Restoration to Begin at Hall

The vagaries of our cold winters and hot summers have taken their toll on our garden fish sculptures, reflection pond and the "Big Musky." They are all in dire need of a face-lift. Commencing this spring, the work will begin. These projects will take a full year or two to complete. We have estimated the cost to be in excess of \$50,000. Special paint, concrete and an artist are needed to perform the

tasks that lay ahead.

We need your support more than ever! Please do not let your membership lapse. If it has (or will soon be due) please send it in today. In fact, if you can spare a little extra we will be very grateful. We pledge that any extra donation you are able to afford will be used solely for these projects.

Thank you very much for your past and continued support.

## World Record Catch & Release Brook Trout!

On October 21, 2006 Tim Matheson of Sherridon, Manitoba, Canada caught and released one of the largest brook trout ever taken on hook and line. It stretched the tape to a whopping 29 inches, smashing the old record by a full 4 inches.

Tim's record catch was caught in Barbe Lake, Manitoba near Cranberry Portage. It was taken on a #13 floating jointed Rapala, while trolling.

Initially, there was some speculation that Tim's fish may be a splake (a lake trout & brook trout

hybrid). However, according to Grant McVittie, Regional Fisheries Manager of the Manitoba Water Stewardship Department, splake have never been stocked in Barbe Lake. Barbe is strictly a stocked brook trout and rainbow trout fishery, with no lake trout present.

The current all-tackle (kept) brook trout record is a 14 lb. 8 oz. specimen taken in 1916 from the Nipigon River in Ontario, Canada.

The irony of Tim's catch is that at 29 inches in length, it very well could have weighed 15 pounds! But, we'll never know.

For the record, his catch is the all-tackle and 10 lb. line test catch and release world record brook trout.

## New Zealand Mudsnails Found in Duluth-Superior Harbor

The New Zealand mudsnail is another invasive species now living in the Duluth-Superior Harbor and St. Louis River. The discovery by the USEPA has natural resource officials from Minnesota and Wisconsin scrambling to inform anglers and other river users to take steps to prevent accidentally spreading mudsnails.

The mudsnail varies in appearance and snails found in the harbor look different than the ones found in Thunder Bay. They possess a thicker and more opaque shell, officials said. "The Thunder Bay snails are semi-transparent, probably as a result of low calcium content in Lake Superior water.

New Zealand mudsnails cause concern because their sheer numbers have adapted so well in Western rivers that they have pushed out almost all of the native insects, snails, and other invertebrates that are important food for fish," said Doug Jensen, aquatic invasive species program coordinator for Minnesota Sea Grant. "More than 700,000 snails per square meter over the bottoms of some rivers. That's like having 585,000 snails in your bathtub!"

One snail and its offspring can form hundreds of thousands of clones per year. Native fish and wildfowl eat them, but because they are so prolific, nothing seems to control infestations in North America.

New Zealand mudsnails were first found in the U.S. in Idaho's Snake River (1987). It is believed they were accidentally introduced with stocked imported rainbow trout. The snails have impacted Rocky Mountain trout streams, apparently spread by anglers. Researchers suspect they arrived in the Great Lakes via ship ballast water.

*(Courtesy of Great Lakes Basin Report)*



## Legendary Angler Don Dubin



On March 10, 2007 Legendary Angler Don Dubin (2007) was presented his award. The ceremonies took place at the Chicagoland Muskie Hunters (Muskie, Inc.) annual swap meet fundraiser. Pictured from left to right are longtime friends and fishing companions: Lee Radke, Mike Pehanich, Don, Carl Rosenstein and Al Weinblatt. Don, your induction is well deserved and we couldn't be happier for you!

# From the Director's Desk



by Emmett Brown

Today is the first day of Spring! Although one would only know that if he or she had a calendar in hand. From a seasonal standpoint, it's still winter in the northwoods. Although most of our snow has faded (except for the ubiquitous snow piles) and the ice is softening near shore, winter's grip is still strong. It was 9 degrees above zero this morning! However, it sure is nice having daylight until 7:30 p.m. I'm all for this year's early transition to daylight savings.

Those of us who live in the northern hemisphere realize a considerable amount of extra daylight (during our normal daytime routine) by switching to daylight savings in the spring. Over the course of about 7 months, we will accumulate well over 400 extra hours of daylight by doing so!

The main purpose of Daylight Savings Time is to make better use of daylight. Most of us are not nocturnal. By having more daylight during the evening period, we are able to accomplish more. Studies have also shown that we feel better during longer daylight periods. The idea of daylight savings was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin around 1784. He wrote about this subject in an essay entitled, "An Economical Project." This essay was penned while he was an American delegate in Paris, France.

Daylight savings was not formally adopted in the United States until March 19, 1918 when "an Act to preserve daylight and provide standard time for the

United States" was enacted. After World War I ended, the Act proved very unpopular and it was repealed. Back then, most people went to bed a bit earlier than we do today.

During World War II year-round daylight savings was instituted from February 2, 1942 through September 30, 1945. It was called "War Time." From 1945 through 1966 there was no federal law regulating daylight savings. States and localities were free to choose whether or not to observe Daylight Savings Time. Additionally, they were free to choose when to begin or end it. Understandably, this led to a lot of confusion.

On January 4, 1974 the "Emergency Daylight Savings Time Energy Conservation Act of 1973" was signed into law. This Act regulated daylight savings a bit, but its usage was still inconsistent. In 1986, Daylight Savings Time in the United States began universally at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of April and ended at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Savings Time in the United States beginning in 2007. By Law, Daylight Savings Time now begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of March and it ends on the first Sunday of November at 2:00 a.m. Congress has, however, reserved the right to revert to the 1986 law "should the

change prove unpopular or if energy savings are not significant."

Our museum will open this year on Saturday, April 14th.

The next time you're in the Hayward area, stop in and say "hello". We're here everyday!

Please have a pleasant spring and enjoy your extra hours of daylight.

Best regards.

## We'll Miss You

Sadly, on January 15, 2007, 1993 Legendary Guide inductee Kenny King passed away. Kenny guided (mostly for salmon and trout) on all the fabled waters of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. At the time of his death, he "hung his hat" in Eugene, Oregon.

Boston Red Sox star Bob Doerr was one of Kenny's nominators to the Fishing Hall of Fame. Bob met Kenny in 1941, when he was only one of a very few guides that routinely plied the waters of the then remote Rogue River.

Kenny was a pioneer and true gentleman. He will be sadly missed by all.

• • •

On June 1, 2006 longtime Hall supporter "Doc" Egger (past Awards Committee and Advisory Board member) passed away. Doc always had time for the Hall and he was a tremendous ambassador for our programs. Doc was preceded in death by his wife Marianne in August 2005. Rest in peace and thank you for all of your service to the Hall.



(Courtesy of Plano Molding)

**GET A  
FRIEND OR  
FISHING  
BUDDY  
TO SIGN UP AS A  
HALL MEMBER!**

# NATIONAL FISHING HALL OF FAME World Angling Records Granted

## 2nd QUARTER - 2007 UPDATE

NOTE: World angling records are updated quarterly and the ultimate synthesis is published annually in book form each April, distributed free to members, media, manufacturers and world fisheries as a public service.

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## CATCH & RELEASE

### -DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BULLHEAD/ Yellow	All-Tackle (only)	23"	John Irvin	City Lake, Missouri, USA	05/27/06
SALMON/ Atlantic (Inland)	All-Tackle	34"	John Regan	Goose Pond, Massachusetts, USA	07/01/06
SALMON/ Atlantic (Inland)	10 lb.	34"	John Regan	Goose Pond, Massachusetts, USA	07/01/06

### -DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
SALMON/ Chinook, King, (Inland)	14 lb. Tippet	43"	Chuck Booker	12 Mile Creek, New York, USA	11/06/06

### -DIVISION #4 - ICE FISHING/TIP-UP-

Fish	Line Class	Lgth.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Smallmouth	Longest (only)	18"	Charles Hoffman	Ridgway Reservoir, Pennsylvania, USA	02/01/07
PERCH/ Yellow	Longest (only)	14"	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Bellue Lake, New Hampshire, USA	03/09/07
PICKEREL, Chain	All Tackle	30"	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Shadow Lake, New Hampshire, USA	2-18-07
	Longest (only)	30"	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Shadow Lake, New Hampshire, USA	2-18-07

## CATCH & RELEASE FISH



**Roger Aziz, Jr., Chain Pickerel, Div. 4 Tip-Up & All Tackle. 30". Shadow Lake, NH, USA, 2/18/07.**



**John Irvin, Yellow Bullhead. All Tackle. 23". City Lake, MO, USA. 5/27/06.**



**Roger Aziz, Jr., Yellow Perch. Div. 4 Tip-Up. 14". Bellue Lake, NH, USA. 3/9/07.**



**Charles Hoffman. Smallmouth Bass. Div. 4 Tip-Up. 18". Ridgway Reservoir, PA, USA. 2/01/07.**

## KEPT FISH



**Ryan Rempfer, Brook Trout, Div. 4, Pole/Line. 11-3, Deerfield Lake, SD, USA, 12/30/06.**



**Tim Matheson, Brook Trout, 10 lb. and All Tackle. 29". Barbe Lake, Manitoba, Canada. 10/21/06.**

# SIGN UP YOUR FISHING BUDDY AS A MEMBER!

## Fish Oil May Help Protect Against Retinal Degenerative Diseases

A new study reports on the role that the omega-3 fatty acids in fish oil play in protecting cells in the retina from degenerative diseases like retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of loss of vision in those older than 65.

In these binding eye diseases, photoreceptor cells (rods and cones) degenerate and die. Although this process can be triggered by many different things, one of the most significant protective factors may be the close association of retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells and the amount of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in them. The main role of RPE cells is photoreceptor maintenance as they conduct the daily shedding, internalization, and degradation of the tips of the photoreceptor outer segments. It now appears that RPE cells are also key to the survival of photoreceptor cells.

The paper was published in *Trends in Neuroscience* by Nicolas G. Bazan, MD, PhD, Boyd Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. The paper is titled, Cell survival matters: docosahexaenoic acid signaling neuroprotection photoreceptors.

Both photoreceptor and RPE cell types are normally exposed to potentially damaging factors such as sunlight and high oxygen tension.

How the cells avoid damage from these factors and others has been a mystery, up to now. Dr. Bazan's group, in close collaboration with colleagues at Harvard, made several key discoveries on the importance of DHA. RPE cells cope with sunlight and oxidation stress, as well as trauma, by using antioxidants like vitamin E, present in the cells.

Part of the RPE cells' response is to activate the synthesis of a major neuroprotective compound, which Dr. Bazan and colleagues discovered, called neuroprotection D1 (NPD1). NPD1 inhibits genes causing inflammation and cell death that oxidative stress and other triggers turn on. RPE cells contain the omega-3 fatty acid family member, DHA, which Bazan and colleagues found is a precursor to NPD1. RPE cells regulate the uptake, conservation, and delivery of DHA to the photoreceptor cells. DHA, known to be in short supply in patients with retinitis pigmentosa and Usher's syndrome, promotes protective cell signaling by facilitating the expression of helpful rather than destructive proteins as well as

stimulating the production of NPD1. DHA and NPD1 also decrease the production of damaging free radicals. DHA has been shown by Bazan to promote survival and inhibit cell death not only of photoreceptor cells, but also of neurons in an experimental model of Alzheimer's.

"Because the early clinical manifestations of most retinal degeneration precedes massive photoreceptor cell death, it is important to define the initial crucial events," notes Dr. Bazan. "This knowledge might be applicable to the design of novel therapeutic interventions to halt or slow disease progression."

*—Source: LSU Health Science Center  
(Courtesy of Great Lakes Basin Report)*

## Zebra Mussels Eradicated in Virginia Quarry

RICHMOND, VA – Zebra mussels in a Virginia quarry have been eradicated, in what scientists believe is the first successful extermination of the notoriously invasive species in open waters. The small critter, native to eastern Europe, was first discovered in Virginia in a Prince William County quarry in August of 2002, surprising concerned state wildlife officials.

A contractor, Aquatic Sciences L.P., of Orchard Park, N.Y., injected the quarry with thousands of gallons of potassium chloride solution over a three-week period beginning in late January. The solutions, while toxic to zebra mussels, did not pose a threat to the environment or humans.

To verify that all the creatures had been killed, thousands of zebra mussels were imported from the Great Lakes and suspended throughout the 12-acre quarry in mesh bags in late March. On May 2, officials checked the creatures in the bags and determined all were dead.

More than a thousand other mussels scraped from the rocks at various sites throughout the quarry were also examined and deemed dead, and scuba divers conducted a visual inspection of the quarry to make sure no live mussels were left.

The eradication process cost about \$365,000, officials said. Water quality at the quarry and in nearby landowners' wells will be monitored for the next two years, they said.

While Virginia's success with potassium chloride could be replicated in smaller bodies of water infested by zebra mussels, invasive species experts said the approach would likely fail in a region as large as the Great Lakes. "Trying to do that on Lake Michigan, or a thousand-acre lake – the cost would just be prohibitive," said Phil Moy, fisheries specialist at the Wisconsin Sea Grant, and chair of the Chicago Waterway Electronic Barrier Advisory Committee.

*(Courtesy of Great Lake Basin Report)*

# A Whopper! Record Blue Cat Gives Couple Great Fish Story

(reprinted from the *Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, March 18, 2007*)

Weldon Fortner knew he'd made a mistake when he said it, but, at the time, he was too busy to consider the ramifications of the joke – like justifiable homicide.

His own.

But had it not happened, or rather, had Fortner just kept his mouth shut, the story about his monster catfish would be just that.

Another story about another big fish.

It would have been an interesting story, too, since the catfish was 53 inches long, 23 inches around and weighed 85 pounds. It will probably be a world record for 40-pound line.

But it's the story behind the story that makes this one so much better....

Fortner, 63, and his wife of 26 years, Lisa, 53, were fishing for catfish in the Mississippi River near Vicksburg last Sunday. At 9:55 a.m., they got a bite.

"I looked over and saw the tip of my rod starting to bend slowly and it just kept bending," Weldon Fortner said. "I looked at Lisa and told her it looked like I had snagged a log and I grabbed the pole."

"Well, when I did that, I felt that it was a fish. And a big fish."

Fortner set the hook and the big fish shook its head, but stuck to the bottom. Fortner couldn't budge it.

"Then after a few minutes, she decided to run for deep water and when she made that decision, she was gone." Fortner said.

That put Fortner in a bind. Using just a 7-foot medium action Shakespeare Ugly Stick Rod and an Ambassador 5500C reel, he didn't have the tackle to horse the fish or even slow its advance. With 40 pound line, he might have had 120 or 125 yards of line on the reel, most of which had already been taken by the fish.

He had no choice but to chase the fish to get line back, but the boat was tied to a piling and they were in strong current.

"I hollered to Lisa to get us loose," Fortner said.

His wife jumped up and entered

the fray.

"I pulled on the rope and got us up to the piling, and all the time he was yelling to hurry," Lisa Fortner said. "I grabbed the piling and tried to get the rope...and that's when it happened."

"He had just told me not to let the boat run out from under me and it did. The current took the boat, I grabbed the piling and there I went."

Weldon Fortner said he heard something, turned and ...

"Lisa wasn't there" he said.

"Heck no, I wasn't there, I was dangling from that piling," she said. "I looked and there was water rushing under my feet."

The Fortners' were in a sticky situation...she more than he, for sure.

She was hanging on for dear life.

He was only holding on to a rod and reel attached to the biggest catfish he'd ever felt.

"I looked up at her and I looked at the rod and this is what I said: 'I can always get another wife, but I may never get another fish like this,'" Fortner said. "That probably wasn't the smartest thing I've ever said."

No it wasn't, said Lisa.

"I figured he was kidding," she said. "At least at first, but then I thought about how much that fish meant to him. I had a good hold to the ladder on the piling. I climbed up and was OK so I told him to go catch his (#%\$\*) fish and then come back and get me."

Weldon Fortner didn't say how much consideration he gave that proposition. He said he looked at the reel and had precious little line left, but he did the only thing he could.

"I put the rod in a rod holder, cranked the motor and went and got Lisa," he said. "Then he went and got the fish."

Lisa Fortner said she was OK with things until she was safely back in the boat.

"That's when I looked at the depth



finder and saw it said 45 feet and then I thought about what he had said," she said Thursday, howling with laughter.

It took Weldon Fortner 30 minutes to get the fish into the boat, a lot longer to get back in his wife's good graces.

"Once I had the fish in the boat and we were fishing again, I told her 'Now baby, you know I wouldn't take all the fish in this river for you,' he said.

Lisa Fortner, who said he never really doubted her husband, at least not for more than a few seconds of her five-minute dangle over the river, also couldn't resist playing it out.

Said she: "That's when the (you-know-what) hit the fan. I asked him why he didn't throw down the rod immediately and come get me. I had a lot of fun with him. At one point, I looked around the boat and named at least 10 things I could use a weapon to kill him with."

Lisa Fortner knows Weldon wouldn't have risked her life.

"He has got such a big, kind heart," she said. "Just look at the way he cared for that fish. He didn't want to kill it. We got it home in the livewell and he put it on a rope in our lake and checked it every day."

The Fortners' finally found an aquarium big enough to take the fish – Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri, sent a truck Thursday.

The fish and the Fortners' all survived, at least when last checked. And Lisa Fortner has had a ball with the story this week at work and at home.

"Keep your eyes on the classified ads under boats the next few weeks," she said. "You know the joke about the widow who had a boat and looking for a new husband...You know, where the guy is interested and says send a picture of the boat..."

"Well, that might be me.

"And keep an eye on the obits. He might be in there."

**Editor's Note:** At press time, Mr. Fortner has not applied for record status with the Hall. However, if he does, and his catch meets all of our criteria, it would eclipse the current 40 pound test record by about 16 pounds!

## **Humble Vegetable That Could Revolutionize Everything From Fishing Rods To Battleships**

*(reprinted from The Scotsman, Lyndsay Moss, February 9, 2007)*

From dangling to angling. The humble carrot is set to be used in ways never imagined before, thanks to a discovery by two Scottish scientists who have found a way to convert the vegetable into an advanced material to make products from fishing rods to warships.

The development is the brain-child of Dr. David Hepworth and Dr. Eric Whale, who have created the material, named Curran, at their company CelluComp in Burntisland, Fife, Scotland. Their first product – a rod for fly fishing – goes on sale next month.

But they are not stopping there. The pair now plans to move on to make snowboards and car parts and say the material could also be used to make engineering components and even battleships.

The material is also more environmentally friendly than current methods using glass and carbon fibers.

Dr. Hepworth said they believed Curran would be one of the major materials innovations since the introduction of carbon fiber over 30 years ago.

“It is incredibly versatile and we believe that we are launching at a time when companies are looking for that combination of quality and performance, but achieved in a way that is environmentally friendly,” he said.

At the moment, the company can make materials, which are around 80 percent carrot, with carbon fiber making up the remainder.

The new “Just Cast” rods are around 50 percent carrot – each made with around 2kg of the vegetables.

But it hoped that as the technique is developed, they will eventually be able to make products, which are made from 100 percent biological matter – carrots and other plants.

Dr. Hepworth said they were already looking at using other vegetables such as turnips, Swede and parsnips.

Dr. Hepworth said: “We can buy in the carrots very cheaply – around 10p a kilo – so most of the cost in making the material is from the process we use. “The rod will cost around the same as a normal rod at first, but we hope that once we scale up the production the price will drop.

The inventor said the material was kinder to the environment because carrots are a renewable resource – unlike the oil used to make carbon fibers.

And he said that when the material was burnt, the carbon it created was cancelled out by the carbon absorbed by the carrots when they were growing.

“The potential is enormous and if we can replace just a small percentage of carbon fibers in products the effects on the environment could be significant and wide-ranging.

“The irony is that the main ingredient has been with all us along,” Dr. Hepworth said.

### **HOW THE CARROT IS TRANSFORMED**

Curran – a carrot-based material – is manufactured using a top-secret method that has been five years in the making.

The process basically involved taking carrots and breaking them down into small particles using a variety of ways.

Most of the water is removed and hi-tech resins are added to the mix.

This mixture can then be molded and heated to make a strong material.

The inventors said they used carrots because they were common and had qualities that meant strong and tough materials could be created.

They were also cheap to buy in large numbers.

The same technique could now be applied to other vegetables, such as turnips, Swedes and parsnips.

## **High Court Upholds States’ Right to Regulate Dams**

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Supreme Court has rules that states have the right to establish requirements for dams on their rivers. In a unanimous decision in the case of Warren v. Maine Board of Environmental Protection, the nine justices rejected a South African company’s bid to exempt five hydroelectric dams it owns in Maine from the Clean Water Act.

Delivering the opinion, Justice David Souter wrote, “The issue in this case is whether operating a dam to produce hydroelectricity ‘may result in any discharge into the navigable waters’ of the United States. If so, a federal license under §401 of the Clean Water Act requires state certification that water protection laws will not be violated. We hold that a dam does raise a potential for a discharge, and state approval is needed.”

The Presumpscot River, runs for 25 miles through southern Maine from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay. Along that stretch of river, the petitioner, S.D. Warren Company, operates five dams to generate electricity for its paper mill. Dams are licensed every 50 years by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Over 30 years ago Souter wrote, “Congress enacted a specific provision for licensing an activity that could cause a discharge into navigable waters; a license is conditioned on a certification from the State in which the discharge may originate that it not violate certain water quality standards, including those set by the States’ own laws.”

FERC granted new federal licenses to S.D. Warren in 2003 requiring the installation of fish passage on all five dams. The licenses require minimum flows for several stretches of the river to rectify dissolved oxygen violations below the dams.

*(Courtesy of Great Lakes Basin Report)*

## Coast Guard Requests Boaters Help on the Water

With reports of increased threats of a terrorist attack on our shores, the U.S. Coast Guard is requesting the assistance of America's 70 million boaters and others, who work, play, or live around our waterfronts, river lakes, and coastal areas to become part of our nation's first line of defense, called America's Waterway Watch (AWW).

America's Waterway Watch is an outreach program akin to neighborhood watch programs in many local communities but is focused strictly on marine-related areas. With over 95,000 sq. miles of waterways, 6,000 bridges, 360 ports of call, and thousands of marinas, the Guard simply cannot be everywhere at once. They need all the eyes and ears of those who frequent our waterways to be on the lookout for suspicious activities that might threaten our homeland security.

Neighborhood watch programs have proven to be effective in promoting partnerships, deterring criminal activity, creating a sense of security and reducing fears of crime, and building a bond in the community. "The primary objective of America's Waterway Watch is to help prevent acts of terrorism and other illegal activity by having members of the commercial and recreational boating indus-

tries, as well as the boating public, recognize and report suspicious activities that may be indicators of potential terrorism," says Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Penny Collins, National Program Manager for America's Waterway Watch.

The AWW program has a central phone number, 1-877-24-WATCH (1-877-249-2824), where the public can report suspicious activities. This information goes to the National Response Center located at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If anyone sees something out of the ordinary or looks suspicious in any way, take detailed notes of who, where, what and when it occurs. If what's seen poses an immediate threat, call local authorities by dialing 911, or the Coast Guard on Channel 16 of their marine radio. If someone sees something that looks suspicious, they should call the AWW toll-free number. Any specific set of details will be helpful including any description of the individuals, the vessel or vehicle involved, registration numbers, vessel name, GPS coordinates, and what sort of activity was taking place.

People are urged never to confront anyone suspicious, or to take any action themselves, other than reporting it. Furthermore, it is advised that if anyone observes a situation that is perceived to be an immediate danger, they should contact local authorities right away.

Some examples the public should be on the look for include, but are not limited to the following:

- Suspicious persons to forcibly obtain access to a vessel or waterfront facility.
- Any suspicious person attempting to rent a boat, especially if they seem unfamiliar with boating.
- Unknown persons photographing or making sketches of commercial ports and infrastructures.
- Unknown or suspicious persons

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loitering for extended periods.

- Unknown vendors attempting to sell or deliver merchandise.
- Vessels anchored around bridges and dams, or fishing in an area not typically used for fishing.
- Recovering or tossing items into/onto the waterway or shoreline.
- Unusual transfer of personnel or items while vessel is moving.
- Boaters who appear to go out of their way to avoid contact with other boaters or law enforcement vessels.
- Any vessel dumping solids or liquids overboard.
- Diving or boating activity near sensitive infrastructures, like dams, bridges, power plants, etc.

The AWW program has several promotional tools to help spread the word including an AWW decal for the help of your boat, a wallet card, poster, brochure, and a video that marina owners, operators, or other presenters can use to educate their residents, tenants, or customers. These items are available from your local Coast Guard Auxiliary unit. To obtain any of these call 1-877-875-6296.

*(Courtesy of Great Lakes Basin Report)*



*(Courtesy of Plano Molding)*



*(Courtesy of Plano Molding)*

# Pursuing a Fish Most Foul

*(reprinted from the Oct. 9, 2006 Seattle Times article by staff reporter Erik Lacitis)*

The COLUMBIA RIVER, near Vancouver – It's been a good season for David Vasilchuk, bounty fisherman.

Vasilchuk, 33, catches fish that have long been disdained – the northern pikeminnow, which used to be called a squawfish and which in recent years is mostly known as a voracious predator of juvenile salmon.

As of a week ago last Thursday, Vasilchuk had earned \$40,424 catching pikeminnows this season, putting him in the top of bounty anglers in the Northwest, with the other four living in Oregon. Making that kind of money can mean being on the boat for 22 hours a day, catching sleep when you can.

On a recent T-shirt-weather afternoon, a few minutes after casting off in his 17-foot Bayliner, he watched the white tip of his rod – white to better see it in low light – go tap-tap-tap as the bait was being nibbled. Vasilchuk pulled hard and began reeling.

Vasilchuk, who drives a cab when he's not fishing, was about to catch his 4,786th northern pikeminnow since the May 1 start of the bounty season. He was going to add another \$8 to the total he has earned in catching these silvery fish with a long snout and a mouth that can open to 1-1/2 – 2 inches.

"And I save salmon," he said in a thick Russian accent. His large extended family includes his parents, 10 brothers and sisters, many having come to the Vancouver area from Moldavia seven years ago.

Last year, some 2,200 anglers turned in 240,000 fish as part of the pikeminnow bounty program, although only 20 or so anglers made more than \$12,000 each.

Like salmon, pikeminnows are natives to the river.

But unlike the salmon, people don't fish them for food or sport, not tribes nor commercial enterprises, said Russell Porter, the pikemin-

now program manager for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, an agency that covers five states.

Pikeminnows became a problem for smolts – the young salmon that migrate toward the ocean – because of dams built on the two rivers.

"We just have a series of lakes with water flowing through them slowly, which means smolts take a lot longer to swim out," Porter said.

"They get disoriented when they come to each dam. They're all concentrated at the back of the dams, trying to figure where the flow of the water is, and which direction to go."

And hanging around are the pikeminnows.

"They sit around the sides of the swifter water, and catch the smolt," Porter said. "We've cut open some pikeminnows that have 12 or 13 smolt filling their stomach, and two or three smolt in their throat. "That's why Bonneville Power Administration this year is funding \$3.7 million program, begun in 1991, to reduce the number of pikeminnows in the Columbia and Snake rivers systems. More than 2.7 millions northern pikeminnows have been caught and killed in the lower Columbia and Snake Rivers in that time.

The fish are held in such disdain that rendering plants have to be paid \$15,000 a year to take the carcasses and turn them into fish meal.

"They're not very good at eat. Most anglers consider it a nuisance fish" Porter said. "They're like carp, bony and flavorless. And the meat gets mushy after about two hours if you don't keep them chilled."

He estimated that goes from May 1 – Oct. 1 (or Oct. 15, in certain parts of the river) anglers are paid \$4 each for the first 100 pikeminnows over 9 inches; \$5 each for the next 300; and \$8 each for every fish after that.

To further entice anglers to get out there and fish, some pikeminnows are tagged. If an angler catches a tagged fish, it's worth \$500. This year, 1,300 pikeminnows were

tagged and, so far, 198 of them have been caught.

On this day, Vasilchuk used this special bait to catch the pikeminnows.

"It's a secret, what I use," he said. The successful bounty fishermen, having put in long hours figuring the good fishing spots and techniques, are not much for sharing information.

"People ask me, 'Where have you caught them?'" Vasilchuk said. "I tell 'em 'At the bottom of the river.'"

He began fishing in 2003, with a rod bought at Goodwill. That year, he was No. 8 on the top bounty-anglers list, earning \$14,878.

But it wasn't as if he was a beginner.

"I was fishing all the time in Russia. All the time I was at the river. I was born July 12, which in my country is the day for fishermen," he said.

Two of his brothers, Ivan and Oleg, also take part in the pikeminnow bounty fishing, but it is David who spends the most time on the river and catches the most fish.

This year, after having caught eight of the \$500 tagged pikeminnows, David treated himself to a \$435 rod and a \$500 reel, sensitive to every nibble.

For company, he has a radio, but he seldom turns it on.

"All the time I'm fishing. If no bite, I'm sleeping," he said.

Vasilchuk has a cellphone and talks to his wife, Alla, who's at home with their seven children. Sometimes she joins him at the boat, sometimes she brings him food. In the summer, one or two of the couple's older children might also fish.

When darkness descends on the river, the scenery is beautiful. Bald eagles sometimes fly by; the clear night sky sparkles with stars.

For the most part, though, Vasilchuk keeps his eye on his fishing rod.

The bounty program has in its official title that it's a "sport reward fishery."

For David Vasilchuk, it's how he makes his living.

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