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# Letters

## *Raps conservation chief*

**THE ENDANGERED** lake trout of Lake Michigan have a greater threat than PCB or ineffective reproduction. This peril is in the person of one Anthony Dean, Dan Walker's boy wonder and director of the Illinois Conservation Department. Dean's record of fisheries mismanagement is evident from his bungling of fish stocking programs to his hard line crusade against the free-enterprise commercial fishing industry.

It doesn't take a genius to know that stocked fish spawn where they are planted. Hence, if Dean had just a bit of fisheries savvy, lake trout would be planted on the clean, offshore reefs of the lake where they traditionally returned to spawn. Offshore fish such as chubs and perch have very little or no PCB residues. Dean's persistence in planting fish in dirty inshore waters only perpetuates the vicious circle of sterility and contamination and the need to plant more fish at the taxpayers' expense.

This fact, coupled with Dean's dictatorial crusade against commercial fishing, has denied the general public, who foot the bill for his follies, access to the fruits of their tax dollar. A person desiring a meal of Illinois lake trout has a choice of either chartering a boat at considerable expense in the summer, or purchasing boat, motor and tackle and trying to catch his own. These fish are not available in fish markets, restaurants or stores, again thanks to Tony Dean's dictatorial policies. He would prefer these fish to die of old age than be harvested for the tables of the public.

The issues at hand are much too serious to be bungled by a politically appointed conservation director with no background whatsoever in fisheries management. Decisions regarding the fisheries of this state, and conservation as a whole, should be reviewed by a non-partisan committee of competent, knowledgeable persons, who reflect independence in their thinking, free from political pressures or public popularity.