AMSTERDAM, N. Y.
RECORDER &
DEMOCRAT
(ALBANY MARKET AREA)
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OUTDOORS and LEISURE TIME



By RON KOLODZIEJ

On the Mend

On the local level, we take note of the fact that Charles Marino, local angler and brother-in-law of Phil DiCaprio (resident soothsayer at the Amsterdam Post Office), has recently been released from Albany Medical Center after surgery and is now mending at home.

A hospital stay is nothing to look forward to but to endure it during the middle of bass season is double frustrating. We wish Messr. Marino a speedy recovery and a quick return to his favorite fishin' hole.

Duck Stamps

The annual Duck Stamp Contest for wildlife art to adorn next year's Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp opened July 1, 1975. Newly adopted design specifications are in effect this year. Local artists interested in submitting an entry should write to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Audio Visual Office, Washington, D.C. 20240 for copies of contest rules and an entry form. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Entires must be postmarked on or before October 15, 1975.

Off List List

We never learned this until we returned from our recent vacation trip but the American alligator has staged such a comeback in some areas of our southern states that a proposal has been made to remove them from the endangered species list.

Strong state and federal management programs are credited with being responsible for the animal's recovery.

In some areas of Louisiana and Florida gators are so numerous that they have become public nuisances, crawling on golf courses, resting on roads and, in one instance, killing a teen-age swimmer.

The Fish and Wildlife Service began a review of the American alligator last year and found that population levels in parts of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and Texas are high. The study also found that population in three Louisiana parishes were neither endangered nor threatened and would best be served by returning them to the state for management.

The FWS proposal includes: Removing the gator from the federal lists in the three Louisiana parishes; moving the gator from the endangered to the threatened list in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and parts of Louisiana; and retaining the gator on the endangered list in Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Carolina where populations are low.

Last week, EnCon Commissioner Ogden Reid advised against eating fish taken from the Hudson River, particularly long-lived fish such as striped bass and largemouths. The advisory was issued on the basis of sampling and testing of Hudson River fish which showed excessive concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Recent sampling in the Hudson River showed that better than half of the fish tested were over the acceptable limit with high concentrations above the Troy Dam and still excessive concentrations down to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Commissioner Reid said EnCon is taking the following specific actions: ONE — meeting with representatives of GE and other user's of PCB's in an attempt to reach the Department's zero-discharge goal. TWO—requesting Monsanto Chemical of St. Louis, Missouri, sole manufacturer of PCB's in the US, to identify all manufacturers in New York State using PCB's. THREE — undertaking a statewide monitoring program. FOUR—sampling fish in commercial markets with joint testing with the Federal FDA laboratory in Brooklyn.

High concentrations of PCB's have also been measured by the Environmental Protection Agency in fish taken from the Hudson River near Fort Edward and Hudson Falls where GE has two manufacturing units which are major users of PCB's. GE has advised EnCon that steps have been undertaken to materially reduce PCB discharges. To date, Monsanto Chemical Company has resisted requests by EnCon and the EPA for information on its PCB sales in New York State. As additional info on the PCB situation becomes available we'll relay it to readers.

Reid Hill F-G Picnic

Back on the local front, Reid Hill Fish and Game Club members and their families can start planning to attend the club's popular annual Picnic and Shoot. New events and activities are planned for the 1975 edition which will be held Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Galway Fish and Game Club grounds off Route 29.

Don Henze, well known area angler and fly fishing pro will be on hand for a fly casting demonstration and to answer questions and offer advice. Youngsters and pros alike will enjoy this special attraction.

Tickets for the picnic will be sold only up to Sept. 9 and none will be available following that date. Members not receiving mail notices of the event can obtain tickets at Holik's Tavern, Skiba's Tavern and DiCaprio's Aquarium.

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