CHATHAM, N. Y.
COURIER-ROUGH NOTES
W. [illegible] N. AVAIL.

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Study extension of party permit system

The possible extension of a party permit system to include all of Columbia County during the 1976 big game season has been advanced by an official of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

While emphasizing that no firm determination had been made on the subject, Maynard Vance, Senior Biologist in EnCon's Region 4 office, told the Columbia County Federation of Sportsmen the extension "is under study."

Speaking to representatives of 12 member clubs at Elizaville Monday night, Vance included his remarks on the party permits while detailing the 1976 record deer kill in Columbia County.

The state biologist attributed the all-time harvest of 1,866 bucks to the issuance of more party permits, a larger party permit hunting area, an increasing deer population, and heavier hunting pressure caused in part by fine weather which brought a record number of hunters into the field.

Vance then revealed the possibility that the party permit area which has extended northward as far as Route 295 might be enlarged to include all of Columbia in 1976.

The immediate reaction of some 40 sportsmen attending the session was "wait and see what happens."

River Pollution

The meeting agenda also included a discussion of the pollution of the Hudson River with chemical PCB's that will virtually bring to a halt all commercial fishing.

Amateur fishermen were advised to check with local Conservation Officers to determine if smelt fishing will be allowed this spring. There were unofficial reports that it may not be permitted, said Brian Weaver of Kinderhook, Federation president.

The sportsmen also discussed at length some 25 conservation bills now before the Albany legislative session.

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