

CENTRAL SQUARE, N. Y.
CITIZEN-OUTLET
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Salmon Fishery Expert Speaks To Cole PTO

Michael Dutweiler, Regional Marine Specialist for the N.Y. Sea Grant Advisory Service at the State College at Oswego spoke to the November meeting of the A.A. Cole P.T.O. Mr. Dutweiler who holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Cornell in Aquatic Sciences and Outdoor Recreation offered some very interesting insights to the Lake Ontario Salmon fishery. He outlined the role of the Sea Grant program in New York and its work in both a research and advisory capacity.

A film entitled "Salmon Story" was shown, covering such topics as the life cycle of the salmon and the migration studies being conducted in Wisconsin and Michigan. These studies have shown that the migrating fish do use a sense of smell to locate their home stream for spawning. The imprinting used as well as the ultrasonic techniques used in these studies were discussed. It has been shown that a complex set of factors are involved in navigation by the salmon.

Following the film Mr. Dutweiler outlined the history of the Lake Ontario stocking. He pointed out that there has been a great impact on the Salmon River area because of the fishery and the large number of people who have been attracted there to fish and to observe the salmon. The problem of PCB pollution and its

presence in the salmon were discussed. Many questions were asked and Mr. Dutweiler

pointed out that all the answers aren't known yet. He did say that Lake Ontario salmon have been found to contain anywhere from 0-30 plus parts per million. The federal government uses only 5 parts per million as the level allowed in fish flesh, so the potential for a health hazard does exist because PCB's do accumulate in human tissue. Since fats are 30 to 40 times higher in PCB's than lean, it is recommended that only the lean should be eaten and the fish should be cooked in a way that allows for as much fat as possible to be removed. Mr. Dutweiler mentioned the sources of PCB pollution and the proposed control steps being planned by various legislative bodies.

In answer to a question regarding ideal natural spawning streams, he said the following criteria makes it almost impossible in this area: Maximum temp. can be only 60 degrees, and the presence of so many dams prevents the fish from migrating to the head waters where this low a temperature can be found; the lack of suitable (clean) gravel for spawning beds; the lack of an adequate food supply in these small streams. Thus it is and will continue to be necessary for stocking to be done.

This program was jointly sponsored by the A.A. Cole P.T.O. and the Town of Constantia Environmental Conservation Advisory Commission.