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All About Food

By ELLA ELVIN

More on saga of striped bass

A letter from Orison MacPherson of Manhattan expresses concern about striped bass.

"You imply that the reader does not have to worry because in the winter months it is shipped in from three southern states, and in the summer the fish 'will be coming from Long Island waters'

"Where have the Long Island fish been living for the other months of the year? Where were they born?"

A good point Mr. MacPherson. A report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reveals that 90% of the striped bass in an area including the western half of Long Island Sound down to the Barnagat Light come from the Hudson. And that 10 to 50% of those caught in the area from Maine to Cape May come from the Hudson.

We learned that the lower Hudson is the major spawning area for the northeast coastal area, and that while the striped bass spawns in fresh water, it is considered a salt water fish because it spends most of its life in salt water.

Dr. John Pearce, who directs the activities of 80 marine biologists at the U.S. Sandy Hook Laboratories said his department checked PCB's in over a 100 fish taken from Raritan Bay last September, and found "almost all had low levels of PCB. Most were well below, one part or less."

The Food and Drug Administration has placed a limit of five parts PCB (the industrial toxin) per million.

"Some fish taken from the Hudson have PCB's exceeding the FDA guidelines," he added, "eels have had great amounts, it relates to the species, the eel is a fatty fish."

Some striped bass, we learned, do move up the river and some make it their permanent home. These are known as "strawberry bass."

Pearce is concerned about PCB's. "Perhaps we should lower our limit. The Swedes have set one somewhat less than ours."

Does he eat striped bass? "If we were out for dinner I would eat striped bass, but not as a steady diet."

With 4½ million pounds going through the local market annually serving the 20 million people in the metropolitan area it is unlikely that many do.



James Fort at Jamestown created by the Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula, Newport News.

Winning Model

The Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula, Newport News, won regional honors in a bicentennial exhibit competition sponsored by the Nestle Company and the Girls Club of America, for their model of James Fort at Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America dating from 1607.

Cabins were constructed with cookie mix with broom straws simulating the thatched roofs. Pretzel sticks lined up for the palisade and chocolate and butterscotch morsels marked the path leading to the James River.

Double Value

ShopRite supermarkets have a double value coupon program as part of their 25th anniversary celebration. They will match the face value of manufacturers cents off coupons found in magazines and newspaper advertisements, providing the total does not exceed the price of the item.

Tom Infusino, ShopRite president, says "a customer could literally double the savings on certain national brands during this anniversary promotion which will end April 10th."

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