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Rough Fish A Star Food?

What will the Great Lakes fisheries be like in the year 2001? David Stuiber, University of Wisconsin-Extension food scientist, made some predictions at the Sea Grant Conference on the Great Lakes held in Madison, Sept. 18-19.

Alewives, suckers, burbot, and perhaps even lampreys are likely to be the star food fish by 2001, Stuiber said. Alewives could be the prime Great Lakes harvest fish in the future and would probably be marketed as sardine-type products.

Specialized food processing, including deboning and canning, will allow suckers to become far more important as a food source than they are now.

Burbot, sometimes called "lawyers", are fish with excellent table qualities that are likely to become more widely appreciated in the future.

Smoked lampreys are already considered a gourmet food in Europe, and since continuing lamprey control will be necessary in the Great Lakes, commercial harvest and marketing of that unusual species is a possibility, according to Stuiber.

Chubs and lake trout will still exist in the Great Lakes, but as sources of food to Wisconsin residents they won't be generally available. Stuiber also anticipates that salmon, although remaining important as a recreational species, probably will not be important in commercial fisheries harvest.

Since there will be about seven billion people in the world in 2001, consumption of fishery products is likely to be far more complete than it is today. Everything, "fin and tail" will be utilized. For example, waste products from fishery food processing in the Great Lakes will be used as the base for a fish food that will be fed to walleye and perch being raised in commercial aquaculture programs that will be established in the same area. The same kind of food can be used for hatchery-raised game fish like trout and salmon.

Specialized food processing techniques plus strict environmental quality control should reduce the present PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination in Great Lakes fishery products by 2001.

Stuiber believes that commercial fishing at the turn of the century on the Great Lakes will be active 12 months of the year involving large-scale, sustained-yield harvest of the fish species not presently being exploited.

Teen-age girls in the United States spend $1.15 billion for Christmas gifts, a survey shows.

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