

MAR 3 1976

Fee fishing lakes in cleanup

Contaminated carp killed

Four fee-fishing operations in Southern Illinois, including three in the Metro-East area, have destroyed possibly contaminated carp, the operators say.

The private lake areas are Spring Lakes, Millstadt; Sandy's Lake, Granite City; Barth's Lake, Bunker Hill; and Dixon Fisheries, East Peoria.

Mike W. Conlin, chief of the division of fisheries, Illinois Department of Conservation, said he has received word that the carp were destroyed, and he said that, in some instances, his department helped in the cleanup.

Destruction of the contaminated fish was voluntary in all cases, Conlin said.

Samples of the destroyed carp were found to contain more PCB — polychlorinated biphenyls — than allowed by the Food and Drug Administration. PCBs are used in industrial compounds.

Donald Healion, regional FDA director, said in an Associated Press story from Chicago Tuesday that the "accumulation of PCBs in the human body represents a potential health threat." He further recommended that people should not eat carp contaminated with the chemical.

The fish destroyed by the four operators were sampled by the FDA starting last October. The sampling disclosed that 16 downstate private lakes and one public lake had fish contaminated with PCBs.

The contaminated carp were from the Green Bay of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin, the FDA said.

At Spring Lakes in Millstadt, Mrs. Howard Germain, wife of the owner, said one of six lakes had contaminated carp. That lake was drained early last month, and a toxicant was used to kill the carp.

Mrs. Germann said the work

cost approximately \$1,200.

She said the lake will be restocked as soon as rains refill it. She said no decision has been made on what fish will be used, but she said it is possible hatchery carp will be stocked.

Spring Lakes' other five lakes are still in full operation, and they contain trout, channel cat, bullheads and Israeli carp (hatchery carp).

Mrs. Germann said her husband received a letter of commendation from the Department of Conservation after the carp were destroyed. The letter thanked the Germanns for their "rapid response" and expense in correcting the situation.

Bob Becker, owner of Sandy's Lake in Granite City, said he used toxicant to destroy carp in one of his two lakes. The fish were destroyed the middle of last month, and he said he has restocked with safe carp.

He said the cleanup cost him an estimated \$1,800. He said he is open for business now, and the carp are safe. They are from Iowa, he said.

Arno Barth, owner of Barth's Lake in Bunker Hill, estimated that the cleanup operation in his one lake cost him about \$10,000. He used a toxicant last October to kill all the fish, and he restocked with bullheads last November.

He said he plans to open for the season around March 15, but the exact date depends on when he can buy other fish for the lake.

Jack Dixon, one of the owners of Dixon Fisheries in East Peoria, said he used toxicant to kill all the fish in his three small lakes Feb. 20.

He said he plans to restock with channel cat, bullheads and safe carp. He plans to open April 1. The cleanup cost him "a couple thousand dollars," he said.