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LI Sound Fish Sound...

By MARTY MUNRO

Everyone knows "Fish got to swim and birds got to fly," but it's the finned and not the feathered creatures that are of current concern to local anglers.

More specifically, it's the striped bass — and where it may be swimming from. Recent reports of chemically tainted stripers in the lower Hudson River are raising some questions as to the edibility of stripers taken from local waters.

Save Our Stripers, Inc., feels that since the striped bass is a migratory fish, it is probable that many being caught outside the Hudson have spent part of their lives in that river and thus may be tained with PCB, a chemical cousin of DDT.

The organization says that the New York State Environmental Conservation Department's warning not to eat Hudson River stripers doesn't go far enough and is calling for the Environmental Conservation Commissioner and State Health Commissioner to "give additional warning to the public that any striped bass sold in the state should be suspect, and not eaten."

"There is no evidence of serious problems with striped bass anywhere outside the Hudson and in some upstate lakes," the Department of Environmental Conservation director of marine and coastal resources told THE NEWS. As a result of the Hudson River findings, monitoring of stripers, porgies, blue fish, hard clams and blue crabs will be stepped up, both in Long Island Sound and the ocean.

His advice to local anglers: "Continue eating the fish, but be cautious if it is taken from the Hudson."

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