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All Outdoors

By Jim Robey



Fish kills net whopping bills

On the pollution front, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW) has billed two industries, a village and an individual in western Ohio for fish kills.

And research at Lake Superior has disclosed shocking information about the contamination of lake trout in what many of us have regarded as our most "beautiful and cleanest" Great Lake.

The ODW billed Occidental Chemical Co. of New Bremen \$17,342.90 for 112,968 wild animals, mostly fish, killed when nitrogen fertilizer entered Kopp Creek in Auglaize County. The discharge occurred June 23 of last year, according to the division.

Also billed in the past two months in separate pollution cases are the Village of Union, Hobart Brothers, Co. of Troy and William Moyer of Troy.

The ODW accused the Village of Union City for the death of 93,987 fish in Greenville Creek because of sewage discharged in 1967 from the village treatment plant. The division expects to collect \$1,489 for the fish kill.

From Hobart, charged with the death of 2,043 fish in the Miami River in November of 1974, the ODW is seeking \$404.30.

And Moyer, of Troy, has a bill for \$371.10 to reimburse the state for the death of 591 fish which the division says was killed after silo liquor entered Lost Creek in Miami County on Sept. 17, 1974.

At Lake Superior a study by the Great Lakes Environmental Contaminants Survey (GLECS) has found that lake trout contain toxic materials which exceed the minimum U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for safe consumption.

The toxic substances named include mercury, DDT and PCBs. One of the fish tested, a 31-inch lake trout taken from the Marquette-Munising area, contained a concentration of 26.02 ppm of DDT. Five ppm is supposed to be the FDA's allowable limit of the insecticide DDT.

Sources of the pollution were not determined in the research, but suspected are industries, municipal wastewater treatment plants and atmospheric fallout.

A warning has been issued to residents around Lake Superior that they shouldn't use lake trout as a major source of food and that consumption of the fish, for a resident or tourist, should not exceed more than one meal per week.

In another note on pollution, a victory for clean waters has been won by Little Miami, Inc. (LMI) in a landmark case.

When the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) approved construction of a small package treatment plant in the flood plain of the Little Miami at Terrace Park near Cincinnati, LMI lodged a protest with the Ohio Environmental Board of Review (EBR).

After hearing the case, the EBR overruled the OEPA and rejected the request of BBS Co., the developer, which had planned construction of the package treatment plant along the scenic river.