FYI MAR 1 1977
W. King

SKT

Sun.
Feb 28, 77

Health officer says—

Coosa River fish reported safe to eat

BY WALTON LOWRY
News outdoor editor

Hordes of Coosa River anglers, who fish for fun and food, will be happy to hear that there's little or no danger in eating the bass, bream, crappie and stripes they catch.

While some fish samples taken below Rome, Ga., last year were found to contain high levels of PCB from the dumping of such effluents into the river, State Health Officer Dr. Ira Myers has given the Coosa a clean bill of health.

On Sept. 16, 1976, Myers issued a news release which stated: "Given the current dietary habits of the people of Alabama and the lack of evidence directly linking PCB with adverse effects on human health, no action is warranted at this time."

He said that on the data available, there was no indication of a human health problem.

State Fishery Chief Sam Spencer said Friday recent samples indicate there is nothing in recent samples of fish containing polychlorinated biphenyls to cause another stir on the Coosa.

Both Myers and Spencer say crappie and bass contain less PCB than bottom feeding fish such as carp, buffalo and catfish.

The Cherokee County Tourists Association, which beats the drums for Weiss Lake, will be extra happy because recreation on the lake is responsible for generating $8 to $10 million annually.

The CCTA, headed by Little River Marina operator Tommy Oliver is now geared to go with upcoming bass and crappie tournaments.

Bass and crappie fishermen on H. Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay and Jordan Lakes have been asking: "Can we eat the fish we've caught?"

The answer's: Yes. So grab those fishing rods and sharpen those hooks, the fun and food bonanza's springing to life.

3/1/77

MONS 001108

COPIES:

1. R. A. Stohr
2. R. C. Isham
3. D. Moore
4. W. E. McCurdy/~~S. K. Torrey~~
5. J. Freeman
6. J. Morrow