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Joe Kirby



Lots of fish

Between April 1 and Oct. 15 a record breaking harvest of fish is expected to be taken from just four of the lakes in the western part of the cpunty. Unfortunately for the panfish devotee and the thousands of anglers after northerns, bass etc. the harvest I refer to won't include those species.

Gary Erickson, fish biologist with the Conservation Department, says commercial fishermen are expected to sweep between three and four million pounds of carp from Grass, Pistakee, Nippersink and Fox Lakes this spring and summer. The carp have been given a clean bill of health for commercial fishing, Erickson says. He also noted that test levels of 18 carp sampled, showed only minor concentrations of PCB's etc. adding that the low levels are good news because "such contaminants tend to accumulate more in scavengers than in sport fish like bluegill or crappie.

No commercial fishing will be allowed on the Fox River, in Mineola and Stanton Bays in Fox Lake, or in the connecting waterways. Applications from commercial fishermen will be accepted after March 1 and interested parties should contact the Department of Conservation Region 2 office near Chain O' Lakes State Park at 110 James Road, Spring Grove, Illinois 60081. When asked what someone would do with three-million pounds of carp Erickson replied, "Many of the carp will be live-shipped to central and southern Illinois fee fishing areas and great quantities will go to eastern markets."

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