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Good Fishing Is Downtown

TORONTO (UPI) — The salmon run every day just 15 miles from downtown Toronto.

Thousands of anglers swarm the shores and waters of Lake Ontario, once in danger of death by polution, to bag salmon up to 18 pounds and a yard in length.

Thanks to successful anti-pollution measures and a largescale stocking program, under joint efforts by Ontario Province and New York State, Lake Ontario has become a new fishing mecca and anglers are hauling out record catches of salmon.

Instead of a trek of many miles into northern salmon country, fishermen now have only a 15-mile drive from downtown Toronto to the sleepy little suburb of Port Credit.

An official of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources estimated that the average salmon being landed weighs in at 10 pounds. Catches as large as 18 pounds and a yard long have been boated.

On weekends the mouth of the Credit river swarms with thousands of anglers from surrounding heavily populated areas. Even on week days upwards of a hundred boats ply waters just off the shoreline and more troll up and down the lower Credit.

There is no season on the salmon, most of them Coho with some of the larger specimens of the Chinook variety. The catch is most bountiful in late September when the fish mass to fight their way up river to spawn and die.

Fishermen already are reporting taking their limit of five in as few as three hours.

The craze has bestowed a late season bonanza on sport and tackle shops. Proprietors report a big demand for flourescent red flatfish and fireplug lures, the most popular and effective.

"We had 40 to 50 dozen sent to us by express bus last week and they're all gone," one sports shop owner said. "Now they're grabbing up anything in flourescent red — Tadpollys, Lazy Ikes, Canadian Wigglers, you name it."

Some suppliers have resorted to painting silver Fireplugs red to meet the demand.

Despite some remaining chemical pollution, Ontario officials have given the salmon a stamp of approval, providing the diner doesn't make salmon a three-meal-a-day, every day habit.

New York State authorities have warned fishermen on the U.S. side of Lake Ontario of inordinately high deposits of a chemical called PCB in the fish. They set a standard of five parts per million as a dangerous level.

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