

NEWSLETTER

Coming Events —Annual Elections

Start time is 7:30 P.M. for the March 2 meeting at the Police Association Offices. This is on the second floor upstairs over Proulx Photo –141 Catherine Street near the corner of Bank and Catherine. The parking lot is across from the Police Association.

Annual Elections

We will be holding our annual elections for positions on the executive. The positions are President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Club-Fish Coordinator, Score-keeper and Special Events Coordinator.

All positions are open to nominations except for treasurer. If you are interested in contributing to the club as an executive member, then this is your chance. No one will be turned down.

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Some Religious Humour?

A man walked into the women's department of The Bay.

He told the sales lady, "I would like a Baptist Bra for my wife, size 36B." With a quizzical look, the sales lady asked, "What kind of bra?"

He repeated, "A Baptist Bra" ... My wife said to tell you that she wanted a Baptist Bra and that you would know what she wanted."

"Ah, now I remember," said the sales lady. "We don't get as many requests for them as we used to. Most of our customers lately want the Catholic bra, or the Salvation Army bra, or the Presbyterian type."

Confused and flustered, the man asked, "So, what are the differences?" The lady responded. "It is all really quite simple. The Catholic bra supports the masses. The Salvation Army bra lifts up the fallen. The Presbyterian bra keeps them staunch and upright."

He mused for a moment and then asked, "So, what is the Baptist bra for?"

"Simple," she replied, "they make mountains out of molehills."

Fishing for Spawning Bass

Last year Don Wilson and I put out MNR signs on the Rideau to alert fishermen that they shouldn't be targeting spawning bass and to stay away from areas where they might get some bass. I clearly remember people telling me that catch-and-release of spawning bass wouldn't hurt anything. I thought they were wrong then and now I have some studies to back it up. The studies are mainly Canadian and most of them were done in our area – southeastern Ontario –I think they apply pretty widely.

The most recent study located male smallmouth and largemouth bass guarding newly spawned eggs. To test bass susceptibility to angling lures, the researchers fished for them. This resulted in 70% of the smallies and 54% of the largemouth being hooked. In addition, the level of aggression was higher for males guarding the most eggs. The conclusion was that the males with the largest brood and the greatest potential to contribute to annual recruitment were the most likely to be caught.¹

An earlier study showed that after catch-and-release, angled males were less willing or less able to defend their broods than were control fish.² It seems that catch-and-release of nesting largemouth impairs their ability to provide parental care long after release. Non-nesting bass recovered in about 2 hours, but it took more than 24 hours for nesters to recover.³ Not surprisingly, the effects of stress (being caught) on largemouth bass can affect reproduction. The fry produced from parents subject to stress prior to spawning are smaller, weigh less and have later swim-up (leave the nest) dates.⁴

Well, you say, so what? In an even earlier study, the survival rates for the earliest-hatched largemouth fry were higher than for later-spawned fry. The study concluded that regulations that are designed to protect large, early-spawning adults increase the probability of producing strong year-classes by enhancing first-summer growth and, ultimately, recruitment to adult stages.⁵

The evidence seems pretty convincing to me. Fishing for pike or some other “excuse species” where you are likely to encounter spawning bass is unethical. Continuing to fish in such areas even after you get a bass is illegal.

1. **Transactions of the American Fisheries Society**, Vol.133, No. 5, pp. 1100-1106.

2. **Transactions**: Vol.132, No.2, pp.210-218.

3. **North American Journal of Fisheries Management**: Vol.20, No.4, pp.968-977

4. **North American Journal**: Vol.24, No.3, pp. 1038-1045

5. **Transactions**: Vol. 129, No.2, pp. 504-513

Annual Awards

Results from the Awards Banquet are in:

Biggest Largemouth Bass - Jim Lumsden

Biggest Crappie - Christina Phillips

Biggest Panfish - Neil McColl

Biggest Walleye - Jim Lumsden

Master Angler, Pike and Walleye - Neil McColl (Neil was the sole recipient this year)

Congratulations to all the winners for 2004 and best of luck to all for 2005

What A Child Hears

A visiting minister spoke eloquently during the Offertory prayer.

"Dear Lord," he began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face, "without You, we are but dust."

He would have continued, but at that moment, a young girl who was listening leaned over to her mother.

"Mom," she asked quite loudly in her shrill little voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

The Year's Best Headlines (really!)

Panda Mating Fails; Vet Takes Over (What a guy!)

Miners Refuse to Work After Death (Lazy good-for-nothings!)

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures (Imagine that!)

Astronomers Say There is a Ring of Debris Around Uranus (Mom told you to wipe thoroughly.)

Chef Throws Heart into Feeding Needy (Really giving of himself.)

War Dims Hope For Peace (It might have a bearing)

Red Tape Holds Up Bridges (It's stronger than duct tape?)

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Study Group (I guess they weren't fat enough)

Slain: Police Suspect Homicide (I think they're on to something, Watson)

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half (Now there's a tough school!)

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft (Beans do it every time)

Light-Emitting Line Reels In The Big Fish

Here's something that won't be in the stores anytime soon – but as long as they take account of people who are colour-blind...

The big ones might not get away quite so often if an experimental fishing line finds its way to market. The new line changes colour when it has been subjected to too much stress, warning the angler that it is in danger of breaking.

Nylon fishing line is designed to have some stretch. But pull on it too hard – when fighting a large fish, for example, or trying to get loose from a snag – and it can reach the point of “*non-recoverable deformation*” at which it becomes seriously weakened.

Christoph Weder, Brent Crenshaw and Jill Kunzelam at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio have developed the new line. It contains a type of polymer called a phenylene vinylene oligomer, which fluoresces under ultraviolet light. Crucially, the colour of the light it gives off changes depending on the mechanical stress the molecule has been subjected to.

To make the fishing line, a small amount of the polymer is mixed into standard low-density polyethylene, making up 0.2% of the blend. When the line is not under stress, the polymer molecules are close together and emit reddish-brown light when illuminated by UV radiation. But when the material stretches and the polymer molecules pull apart, they fluoresce green. So an angler who feared that a section of line had been under excessive stress could examine it under UV light, and discard it if it glowed green.

Tamper-resistant packaging

Even more useful would be a polymer whose colour change is visible in normal light, says Crenshaw., who is a graduate student at Case Western's Functional Polymer Laboratory. He says the team is evaluating possible materials.

The polyethylene fishing line is for demonstration only: it would not be strong enough to stand up to a 10 lb. bass (*no danger of that around here*). There is no reason the same property could not be done with standard fishing line.

Another possible use for the polymer blend is in making tamper-resistant packaging. For instance, a barely visible puncture mark from a supermarket blackmailer's hypodermic needle would be clearly visible as a green dot under UV light.

Crenshaw says the challenge now is to figure out exactly how to control the property of the blends so that the colour changes happen exactly when you want them to: in the case of the fishing line, that means when it reaches the non-recoverable deformation point. The researchers are looking at how temperature affects the polymer's ability to change colour and which variants of the material do the best job.

NewScientist.com – 12 February 2005

<http://www.newscientist.com>

Ancient Indications of Angling and Ethics

By Jon Lyman – at www.wildlifeneews.alaska.gov/

Humans have been fishing for sport as well as food for almost as long as fishing has existed. In Europe, angling for pleasure can be traced back to the first century A.D. In the Far East, sport fishing - with bamboo rods, silk lines, flies, and barbless hooks - dates back more than 3,000 years.

Parallel to this long history of sport angling are signs of the development of angling ethics. There were very early discussions about the need to limit one's catch. Releasing fish alive may be nearly as old as the sport itself.

In the 1950s and '60s, state fish and wildlife agencies brought the weight of science to bear on the problem of renewing and sustaining wild fish populations. In recent decades, agencies have focused on developing a mix of management practices to ensure the health of fish populations while providing angling opportunities. Catch and release was formalized as one management tool through extensive research.

Some fisheries managers have said that "Fishing for Fun" began in the 1950s as a pseudonym for the first catch and release fisheries. Some fly fishers maintain that catch and release began with Lee Wulff's 1939 admonition that "a sport fish is too valuable to be caught only once." But catch and release is far more ancient in origin and practice.

From Martial's poetry of the first century to Sir Humphrey Davy's "Salmonia" in 1829, anglers have written about the need to release a portion of their catch. In America, the earliest discussion of the need to conserve resources and release fish comes with our first great author on fishing, Thaddeus Norris. His "The American Angler," published in 1864, was the first book published in the United States wholly written by an American angler about our fisheries. Uncle Thad, as Norris came to be known, wrote about the destruction of our fisheries and the need for resource conservation. He also wrote of releasing as many fish as he kept.

Perhaps the most influential book in the conservation movement of the early years after the Civil War was written by a Boston minister named William Henry Harrison Murray. "Adirondack Murray", as he was known, published his "Adventures in the Wilderness" in 1869. The book went through eight printings in its first year and led to the building of over 200 "Great Camps" in the Adirondacks within five years. "Murray's Fools" flooded the wilderness from the East Coast through the Midwest each weekend, packing specially scheduled railroad trains which ran from urban centers to wild places. This was the birth of industrial tourism that we experience in Alaska today.

Murray wrote of the need to restrict one's harvest of fish and game to that which is needed for food, and of releasing fully half of his catch. In the final 20 years of the 19th century, editors of outdoor magazines championed releasing fish as a means of conservation. By the time of the "Golden Age" of fly-fishing, during the first several decades of the 20th century, catch and release was well established as part of the ethics of responsible angling. Just a few quotes from some of the more prominent writers of the day will illustrate this.

Theodore Gordon, perhaps the most revered angling writer at the turn of the last century, remarked in 1905 on the growing practice of releasing fish. "Some say it is well to kill off the big fish. I doubt this greatly" and "I know Mr. LaBranche by reputation, and his ideals are high. He fishes the floating fly only and kills a few of the large trout. All others are returned to the water.... I fancy that a trout should be big enough to take line from the reel before it is considered large enough to kill."

In "Streamcraft" (1919), George Parker Holden took time out from describing the habits and lures of trout and bass to declare "not the least of the beauties" of fly-fishing is that the quarry is hooked "lightly through the lip." Holden then instructed on how to release fish easily, with minimal damage. He quoted Harold Trowbridge, from **Outlook** magazine, Aug. 6, 1919, extensively on the use of barbless hooks. Here was perhaps the first documented example of catch and release with no intent to harvest:

"In one morning's fishing out of fifty successive fish which I hooked I found it necessary to take only three out of the water in order to release them from the line. Two dropped off as they came over the side of the boat, and only one required an instant's touch before the hook could be slipped from its jaw."

Holden declared: "Do not be afraid to join the slowly growing fraternity of those anglers whose password is 'We put 'em back alive!'"

Hewitt's "Handbook of Fly Fishing" (1933) touched briefly on releasing fish: "It is surprising what freedom and relief one feels when the basket is left home. I rarely carry one any more, as I seldom kill more than one or two fish for a day's sport, knowing only too well how long it takes to grow these fish and how few of them are in any stream. I do not want to injure my own sport or the sport of others in future."

In 1936, Gifford Pinchot published "Just Fishing Talk." He referred repeatedly to releasing fish. "We love the search for fish and the finding, the tense eagerness before the strike and the tenser excitement afterward; the long hard fight, searching the heart, testing the body and soul; and the supreme moment when the glorious creature, fresh risen from the depths of the sea, floats to your hand and then, the hook removed, sinks with a gentle motion back from whence it came, to live and fight another day."

These writings and many others led to Lee Wulff's famous declarations in 1939 "Game fish are too valuable to be caught only once," and "The fish you release is your gift to another angler and remember, it may have been someone's similar gift to you."

This article was taken from "Alaska Wildlife News", November 2004. I thought that it was a remarkably calm and reasonable review of the long history of a topic that most, if not all, fishermen generally take for granted. However, we all know, or have seen, others who don't take such a long run view of our favourite sport.

I thought that since I had put in an overview of studies of the impact of fishing for spawning fish, either deliberately or "accidentally" ("I'm pike fishing! Honest!"), I should complement the science with the ethics.