LAKE ERIE WALLEYE SPRING 2000

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From The Editor

A s the dawn of the new millennium finally has arrived I'm reflective of what the future holds for the sport fishermen of Lake Erie. I'm hopeful that Man will continue to respect this Great Lake and do whatever is necessary to properly manage its fisheries so that all future generations can enjoy what we do today.

Through the middle of this past century we witnessed Man's negative impact on the ecology and fisheries of Lake Erie. In the 1950s we looked the other way as the Blue Pike vanished from Erie's waters due to overfishing, by both commercial and sport fishermen. Yes, remember the stories of weekend fishermen filling their boats with 'buckets' of Blue Pike? It is now an extinct species.

During this same time we saw Erie ravaged by Man's excesses, driven by profit and greed, as hundreds of factories lining the lake dumping every waste chemical in the book into it. This pollution killed off the perch and walleye fisheries during the 50s, 60s and early 70s. What few fish that remained in the lake were unsuitable for eating with their flesh tainted by deadly chemicals.

In more recent years, Man has attempted to atone for his ecological sins by legislating against pollution and forming fisheries agencies to manage Erie's resources. These efforts have paid dividends with a rebirth of Erie's fisheries during late 70s, 80s and 90s. I'm hopeful that Man will continue this work well into the next millennium. Let's not ever repeat our ecological mistakes of the past.

See Editor, Page 6

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Rick Kubb, Editor/Publisher

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