

The Advance - News

Invasive species spotted in Queens

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An invasion of a small but vicious species of minnow is threatening the waters of Nova Scotia's South Shore.

There have been reports of Chain Pickerel in some areas of Queens County, and Inland Fisheries and the Medway River Salmon Association are working hard to make sure people are aware

"At the present time there are none in the Medway system," says Darrel Tingley, president of the Medway River Salmon Association. "So this whole thing is trying to get the education out that there's none there now, and we certainly don't want any in the future."

If the Chain Pickerel manage to get into the Medway system, Tingley says everything that has been done to enhance the trout and salmon population could be undone.

"You have trout and salmon organizations that are working hard to replenish the stocks," says Tingley. "The last thing we need is an invasive species like Chain Pickerel to come in and do away all of the good work."

He says people will bring their own bait, not knowing for sure what their bucket of minnows contains. Once they are finished, they will place the unused minnows in the river where they were fishing.

"Within that bucket or pail of minnows could be Chain Pickerel," says Tingley. "They are ferocious eaters. If they get into a system, they will devour most of the native species in a river, brook or lake."

It is illegal to use or possess Chain Pickerel for bait in Nova Scotia whether they are dead or alive. Other species that should be checked for while inspecting bait are Smallmouth Bass, Brown Bullhead, White Perch, Yellow Perch, and Goldfish.

Although it should be ensured these specific species are not used as bait, any fish that was not taken from provincial waters is prohibited.

"If you're going to use minnows, they should be taken from the river in which you're fishing," says Tingley.

Tingley says posters have been put up around the Queens County area explaining the invasive species, "basically to alert people."

For more information on invasive species, contact Darrell Tingley at (902)-634-3172 or Alan McNeill of Inland Fisheries at (902)-485-7024.

To report any sightings of introduced species (with a date, location and photo if possible) email at inland@gov.ns.ca or call (902)-485-5056



George Mansfield of the Environment Committee and Medway River Salmon Association (left) and Jason Power (right) of Inland Fisheries put up an informative invasive species poster at Bang's Falls. The posters are to help spread awareness of Chain Pickere