

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Aquaculture Project 1995



Francis Jock prepares night-lines for spring ice-out.

Photo: Submitted.

In the spring of 1995, the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment (ATFE) will be setting their cages in the St. Lawrence River to raise rainbow trout. ATFE purchases rainbow trout fingerlings from Hitchenbrook Farms, a fish hatchery in Chateaugay, NY.

The ATFE has been raising rainbow trout in cages as a research and development project for a large cage aquaculture project. People in the community get a cage, fish and feed. Individuals with projects will have to monitor how much they

are feeding the fish, record any abnormalities that develop in the fish and record water temperature every day.

The ATFE is also involved in a study to determine the impacts of a large scale aquaculture project on the local river environment. This is a joint effort between

ATFE, SUNY Brockport, and the University of Miami, Ohio. Since the Mohawks care about what happens to the environment, it is important to determine the effects a suspended sea net, containing large numbers lots of fish will have. The

study will also examine the bottom of the river, to observe for disturbances to the area, and to determine whether the disturbances are negative or positive effects.

The 1995 project is a continuation of a project begun in the summer of 1994. As you may have read in the Fall 1994, Issue 4, IEN, the project was going nicely until it was vandalized. Someone had pulled the suspended sea nets out of the river and released the thousands of fish it contained, jeopardizing the entire project.

New York State Sea Grant, the agency providing the funding for the study was not sure of continuing with the project

because of this great loss. Fortunately they decided to fund the project for another year. The ATFE needs your help and support to make this years project a success. This year the species of fish being used in the study will be perch, instead of rainbow trout used in the 1994 project. The reasons for using a different species is because a change in location of the suspended sea nets means a change in conditions that affect the survival of fish and because the people of Akwesasne prefer perch over rainbow trout.

The water conditions at the new location are ideal for perch but unsuitable for trout.

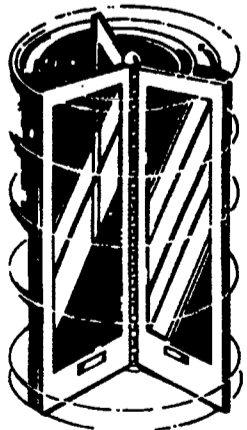
Perch fingerlings are

also more expensive than rainbow trout, so the ATFE is asking the people of the Akwesasne community to send a \$1.00 donation to purchase one fingerling for the community aquaculture project. For more information contact: Dave Arquette, Environment Division, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, RR1 Box 8A, Hogansburg, NY 13655 or call 358-3141, ext. 145.

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**The St. Regis Mohawk
Environment Division will be
hosting special events for
Earth Day 1995 on Saturday,
April 22nd from 9 a.m. to 3
p.m. at the Health Facility in
Hogansburg.**

