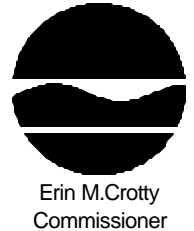


New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
Bureau of Fisheries, Fish Disease Control Unit
8314 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome, NY 13440
Phone: (315) 337-0910 • **FAX:** (315) 337-0988
E-mail: jhschach@gw.dec.state.ny.us



Have You Seen A Lake Ontario Salmon Like This?



During the late summer and early fall of 2000 an undetermined number of adult Chinook salmon caught by anglers in Lake Ontario had a “tumor-like” growth on the dorsal surface. Some were reported at fish cleaning stations, but only two or three were submitted to the NYDEC Fish Disease Control Unit Laboratory at the Rome State Fish Hatchery. Upon examination it was found that this growth was a fluid filled cyst. The fluid was found to contain a bacterium that is closely related to the organism causing fish furunculosis. The latter is a bacterial disease frequently encountered in hatchery reared trout. The bacterium isolated from the cysts is a strain that has not heretofore been reported in Great Lakes salmonid fish. The disease does not represent a hazard to humans. However it’s impact on the Chinook is unknown.

The NYDEC Fish Disease Control Unit is seeking your help to obtain more samples to ascertain the incidence of infection and potential impact on the health of the fish. If you harvest or process such a fish and are willing to provide it for examination, please place on ice as soon as possible and contact one of the following for sample transfer, within 24 hours wherever possible.

Fish Disease Control Unit
8314 Fish Hatchery Road
Rome, NY 13440
Ph: 315 337-0910
E-mail: jhschach@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Fran Verdoliva
NYDEC
Salmon River Hatchery
Altmar, NY 13302
Ph: 315 298-7605

NYDEC
Cape Vincent Fish Research Station
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
Ph: 315 654-2147