NEWS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WLU Research May

Save Lake Fisheries

Research is now under way by the WLU Biology department which may lead to a solution to a pressing and serious pollution problem --how to keep the voracious sea lamprey from getting into Lake Simcoe.

Dr, Robert McCauley, a biologist on the WLU faculty, has pleted a study which may provide the means of preventing the passage of lampreys from the Trent canal system to Lake Simcoe if a new lift lock is installed to replace the marine railway now in operation at the "Chute".

As Dr. McCauley explains, the sea lamprey a hungry, fish-killing predator, while abundant in Lake Huron is so far absent from Lake Simcoe, which supports a valuable sports fishery. At present the marine railway,device which lifts boats physically over a height of land, effectively prevents the movement of this parasite into the Trent Canal system.

"Lampreys could either be locked through in the new facility or carried through attached to the hulls of the pleasure craft," the WLU professor said.

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But work carried out at the university may provide the key to insuring that the Simcoe fisheries will not be the hunting preserve of the dracula of the Great Lakes.

The proposal which arises from the experimental work in the laboratory is the creation of a small pool of warm water through which boats would have to pass before entering the lift lock.

One problem: the water would need to be warm enough to kill the lampreys quickly but low enough to permit its heating at a reasonable cost.

The WLU laboratory studies indicate that temperatures as low as 100 degrees fahrenheit are high enough to kill off a lamprey in less than ten minutes. The warm water is the perfect agent since humans and their warm-blooded pets accidentally falling into this tepid bath would emerge wet but unscathed.