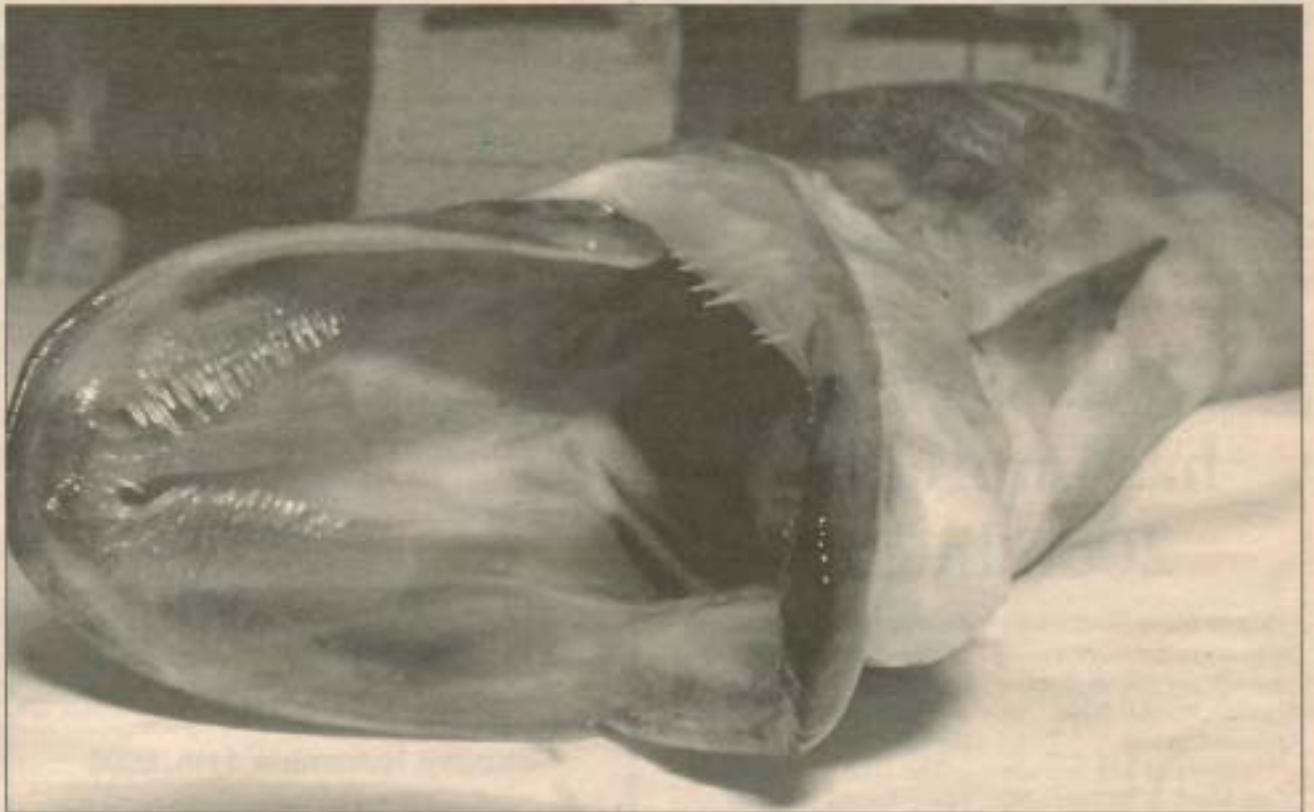


# SPORTS



The chain pickerel is one of the invasive species the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute is concerned about. FILE PHOTO

## Project to address invasive fish

The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute and the Clean Annapolis River Project are launching in partnership a new project to address the problem of invasive fish species like smallmouth bass and chain pickerel in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

Trout Nova Scotia President Lyle Goldberg is very concerned about illegal introductions and their impact on native trout and salmon populations. One only has to look at the La-Have River to see how an explosion in the small-

mouth bass was first introduced legally in Nova Scotia in 1942, but has since been illegally transferred to different parts of the province and has migrated within watersheds. Chain pickerel was illegally introduced in Digby County in 1945 and appeared since then in numerous locations across the province.

"Chain pickerel is sometimes called 'the water wolf'. There is a reason behind that nickname since when it is introduced in a water body, it eats everything that lives there" says Pierre Martel

will be to educate people in southwestern Nova Scotia about the importance of preventing the introduction of invasive species, and the other will be to detect and monitor the presence of these species.

Martel says that CARP and MTRI will ask for help from volunteer anglers to monitor the areas where smallmouth bass and chain pickerel are already present. "Anglers are the ones that are out there through fishing season and will be best able to report changes in the distribution of these

exotic invasive species in Canada. This program could allow us to start a project looking at invasive fish species, so we sat down with CARP and together we wrote a proposal which was accepted", says Amanda Lavers, project scientist at MTRI.

The project was made possible through funding from Environment Canada's Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, the Shell Environmental Fund, and Trout Nova Scotia.

If you would like to get involved or for more infor-