Fish are the focus of a new University of Montana study

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Recommended Citation
University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Fish are the focus of a new University of Montana study" (1967). University of Montana News Releases. 2772.
http://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/2772

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MISSOULA --

Fish in Montana's streams and lakes will be the focus of a University of Montana study to explore their commercial possibilities.

Dr. Glen R. Barth, associate professor of business management, said the study would explore the processing and marketing economics of Montana commercial fisheries products.

The total cost of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research project is $20,400, with three-fourths of the cost being borne by a federal Fish and Wildlife Service grant.

Dr. Barth said huge quantities of marketable fish, including goldeye, carp, buffalo, sucker, sheepshead, catfish and bullhead fish, inhabit Montana waters.

Both the federal agency and the Montana Fish and Game Department are interested in improving Montana fishing by removing "trash" fish. Such removal by commercial methods would suit the agencies, particularly since there would be no waste as compared with poisoning processes.

Harvesting fish would pose no particular problem, except during ice conditions.

Dr. Barth said the two phase project would follow these objectives: 1) identify fish markets and marketing systems applicable to Montana commercial fisheries, 2) consider the costs and requirements associated with the utilization of the marketing systems, 3) determine the present and future competitive position of Montana fisheries, 4) identify alternate uses of commercial fisheries products, 5) study the economic feasibility of producing selected fish products, and 6) project future demands for fish products.