

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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UNITED STATES OBTAINS AMUR PIKE IN FISH TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION

The United States has obtained Amur pike, the only species of pike foreign to North America, from the Soviet Union, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

The Soviet Union received shipments totaling 20,000 striped bass fry (fry are newly-hatched fish) and 50,000 steelhead trout eggs. All shipments arrived in Moscow in satisfactory condition. The trade was the largest ever made of fish and fish eggs between the two countries.

The Amur pike have been turned over to the State of Pennsylvania for genetics research and related projects. The shipments resulted in over 1,000 healthy fry.

Some of the pike will be placed in reservoirs if enough survive. The possibility of a new American sport fish exists if the Amurs thrive in Pennsylvania waters.

The natural habitat of the Amur pike, which occasionally reach 35 pounds in weight and 40 inches in length, is the Amur River which forms the border between China and the Soviet Union.

Limited exchanges of fish and fish eggs have occurred between the countries since discussions on the subject were begun in 1964 by Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and the Soviet Union's All-Union Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography.

A series of striped bass, steelhead trout, and smallmouth bass shipments were made to Russia in return for shipments of sockeye salmon. Transportation problems often caused mass mortalities in the fish. No exchange was attempted last year.

Sockeye salmon, received in 1965, are being used in research at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' laboratory at Bowman's Bay, Wash.

The Soviet Union does not have native striped bass or steelhead trout and is seeking these species as an additional food fish.

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