On the same day they rolled back the income tax, state senators began work on a bill to raise hunting and fishing license fees 32 to 50 percent.

"It's too substantial an increase," objected Sen. Patrick McCollough, Deparborn, as he voted against the measure in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

McCollough and Joe Mack, D-Iron-wood, dissented as the panel voted 3-2 to send the measure to the Senate floor.

Supporting the increases were Chair-man Kirby Holmes, R-Utica, and Sens. Connie Binsfeld, R-Maple City, and Phil Arthurhultz, R-Whitchall. Holmes was author of the income tax rollback bill. which the Senate had passed that

'Il's too substantial an increase.'

–Sen. Patrick McCollough D-Dearborn

IF ENACTED, the House-passed bill would bike most non-resident fees 33-50 percent this year.

Michigan residents would pay 32-36 percent more beginning in 1987 — after this year's election.

Even with the increases, said Rep. Tom Scott, D-Filmt, Michigan's fees will be lower than surrounding Great Lakes' states.

The fee hikes, first since 1981, are needed to pemp 36 million into the state fish and game fund, said Scott, who chairs the House Conservation Committee. "It's ludicrous. We oughta be up to the 240 we had in 1978 and '79, before the crunch came."

HUNTING and fishing licenses pro-vide the bulk (87 percent) of the game and fish protection fund.

and itsn protection time.

That bothered McCollough, "If these programs are worthwhile, they benefit hikers, bird watchers and berry pickers, too," he said. "They should be funded by the general fund, not by hunters and fishermen."

"It's not a tax increase. This is the user fee concept," said Scott, anticipating McCollough's and Mack's objections.

And not all the fund goes to pay con-revation officers, McCollough added, me goes to make payments "in lieu property taxes" to county and local, overnments where state forests are

MUCH OF the new money would go to add 31 more officers and other staff: to the widdlife and fisheries divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"In 1926, we had 150 conservation officers." said Scott. "Today, with our population doubled or tripled, we have only 158. located.

Mack, a veteran Upper Peninsula Ire lawmaker frequently at odds with DNR, voiced the same kind of objection. "My position is that law enforcement is a top priority. We squeeze law enforcement all the time," he said.

Scott said, sportsmen's groups drafted most of the fee increases. A poll in his district showed 60 percent supported the hike, 30 percent were opposed and less than 10 percent were undeclated.

Ron Skog, DNR director, sald the new foe schedule eliminates the free fishing licenses for spouses for the first time in Michigan history, A 51 public access stamp for hunters also was eliminated. The new fee schedule will give an 8 percent commission to sporting goods and bait dealers who handle hunting and fishing licenses.

Proposed fee hikes

Thursday, March 6, 1986 O&E

1987:
Small game — \$7.25 to \$9.85 (increase 35%).
Decr — \$3.75 to \$12.85 (32%).
Bear — \$11.75 to \$14.85 (26%).
Fishing — \$7.25 to \$9.85 (36%).
Trout — \$7.25 to \$9.85 (36%).
Sportsmen's (five licenses) —

would remai for hunting.

# WEEKEND **ESCAPE**



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HYATT REGENCY DEARBORN

IN FAIRLANE TOWN CENTER

593-1234

Wayne State University will host a series of four fishing institutes on Wednesday evenings for the next month. Each runs 7:30-9:30 p.m.

WSU has fishing series

month. Each runs 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Dates, topics and speakers are:
March 12 — Bass techniques and biology — Roland Martin, holder of 19
authoratities and TV Series host mattens titles and TV Series host March 19 — Northern pike and parishing in the north — Steve Worrall, educator, guide and lure designer.
March 26 — Scientific side of fishing, including oxygen, acid rain and fish seemts — Ken Cook, fisheries biologist and 1985 bass fishing champ.
April 9 — Walteye tures, techniques and life cycle — Tom Zenanko, author and guide.

and gulde.

Fee for the series is \$48 for a single, \$80 for a couple. Seminars are in the General Lecture Building, Warren and Anthony Wayne Drive on the campus in Detroit. For reservations, call the university of \$72.4665.

outdoors

- Reminder: March is a good time to:
- sharpen fishhooks. clean and lubricate fishing reels.
- inspect (and replace) fishing lines.
   check guides of fishing rod for teks and wear.
   inspect and charge boat battery.

The Metro-West Steelheaders club will hold its spring show and clinic on itshing for lake-run rainbow trout from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 9, in Westland.
It will be in the Bailey Recreation Center behind Westland City Hall, Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Admission is free.

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