

## Jim Beam Fined For Fish Kill

### From WorldNow, WKYT, and WYMT.

Jim Beam will pay nearly \$27,000 in damages after a fire at one of its warehouses spilled alcohol into a nearby creek, killing thousands of fish. Jim Beam will pay \$26,732.33 to the state to compensate for an estimated 19,000 fish that died when bourbon seeped into Withrow Creek and the Salt River days after a warehouse caught fire last month, a statement from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources said Tuesday. "The company's proactive measures to minimize the flow of bourbon into the waters of the Commonwealth, along with heavy rains soon after the fire helped limit the damage," said Benjy Kinman, director of the state agency. Seventeen species of fish, including large-mouth bass, catfish, paddlefish,

sunfish and drum, were killed following the blaze. Kinman said the agency did not expect any long-term damage on the river because of the spill. "However, when conditions allow, the department intends to do a one time stocking of certain species," Kinman said. Thousands of fish died suddenly in a portion of the river that is on the Fort Knox military post less than a week after the fire. The fire, which started after the warehouse was struck by lightning, caused more than 800,000 gallons of bourbon to begin burning and flow into a retaining pond in Nelson County. When the pond overflowed, burning whiskey flowed into Withrow Creek. The fish were killed by a combination of exposure to a lethal concentration of alcohol and by a lack of oxygen in the water that occurs after microorganisms

are attracted to the alcohol and use up too much of the oxygen, officials say. "We will continue to do whatever it takes and will continue to cooperate to the fullest to ensure a thorough clean-up and to fulfill our responsibilities to the environment," said Rich Reese, president and CEO of Jim Beam Brands Worldwide. There are more than 200 bourbon warehouses in Kentucky, which store about four million barrels. Jim Beam is the largest bourbon producer in the state, but other bourbon distilleries include Maker's Mark and Wild Turkey. In 2000, a fire destroyed a seven-story Wild Turkey warehouse in Anderson County, causing a spill into the Kentucky River that left hundreds of thousands of fish dead for 66 miles. Wild Turkey paid \$256,000 to the state.



*19,000 fish*

**= \$26,000**

## Possibly Largest Halibut Ever

AP ANCHORAGE -- What might be the largest Pacific halibut ever documented was pulled from the Bering Sea off St. Paul Island Sept. 5 by the crew of the fishing boat Miss Mary.

The 8-foot, 2-inch behemoth was estimated at 533 pounds -- based on its length, according to crewman Barry Davis of Anchorage, who provided photographs of the fish taken aboard the longliner skippered by his brother, Pat, from Seattle. Crew members of the Miss Mary, from left, captain Pat Davis, Barry Davis, and crewmen "Aki" and "The Kid," got this halibut in the Bering Sea.

No official records are kept on the size of commercially caught halibut in Alaska, but the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Notebook Series says the "largest ever recorded for the Northern Pacific was a 495-pound fish caught near Petersburg."

The International Pacific Halibut Commission pegs the largest fish at 8 feet and an estimated 500 pounds, caught in 1974.

After the monster latched onto one of a string of hooks, the crew spotted what appeared to be a bus coming up from a depth of about 210 feet.

"It took all five of us to get it on board," Barry Davis said. "We weren't going to let him go."

