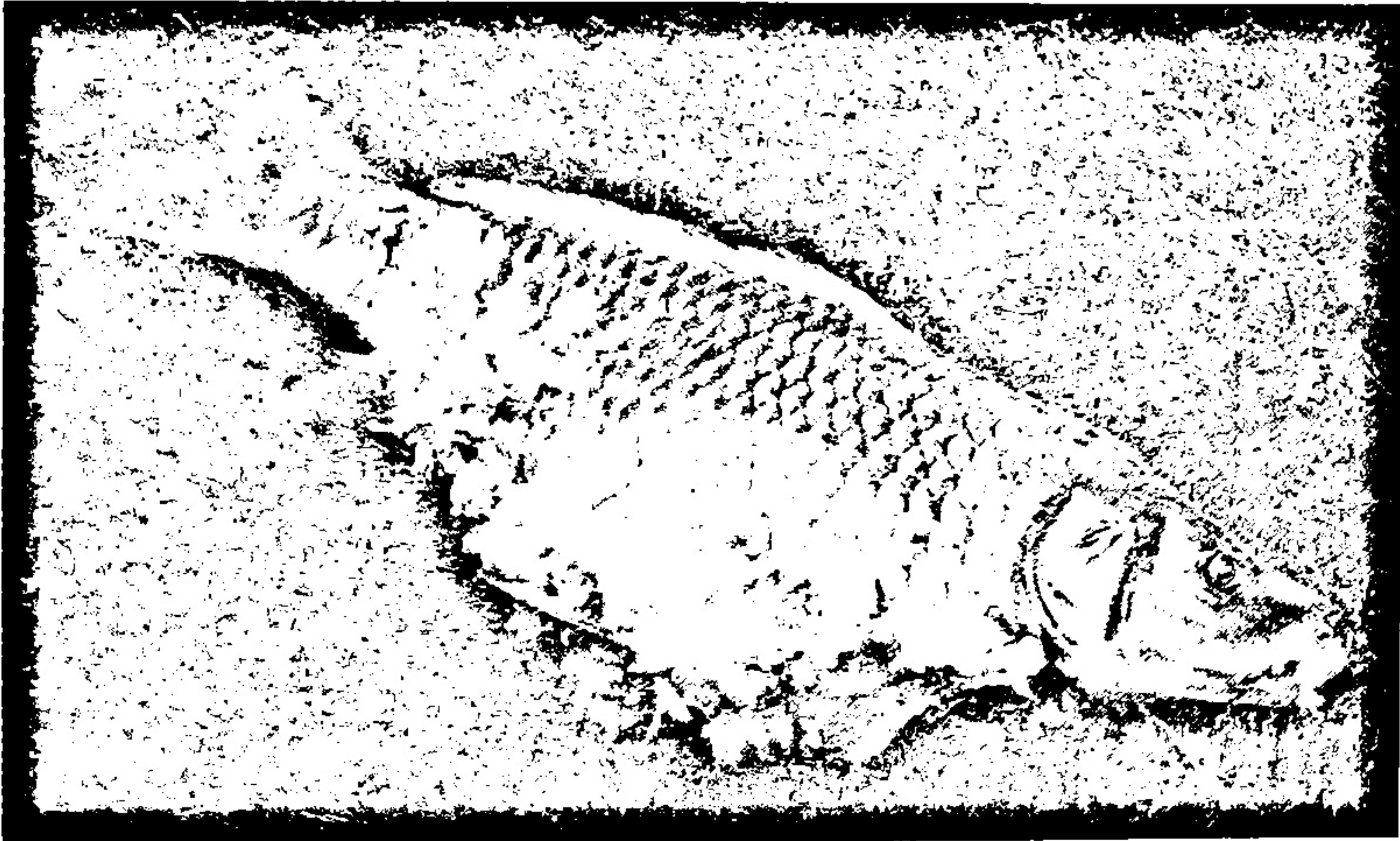


# Fish kill on lake raises questions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The state Department of Natural Resources took this picture of a dead fish on Shawano Lake while investigating the cause of a fish kill.

## Some see possible link to herbicide

By Scott Williams

*swilliams@wolfrivermedia.com*

Conservation activists and state environmental officials disagree on whether a new fish kill on Shawano Lake can be linked to recent herbicide treatments targeting underwater plants.

A group called Wisconsin Bass Nation contends that a large number of fish started turning up dead in the lake after the state-funded herbicide

treatments occurred from May 23-24.

Officials from the state Department of Natural Resources dispute that the large-scale chemical applications caused any ill effects on fish in the 6,000-acre lake.

One thing, however, is undisputed: Something has caused hundreds of fish to perish suddenly in the lake.

Wisconsin Bass Nation, a private group dedicated to sport fishing, says its members have reported finding significant numbers of dead fish since about a week after the herbicide applications.

Ryan Hoffmann, the group's conservation director, said although there is no proven link, the timing of the fish kill suggests that it was somehow related to the chemical treatments.

"We are deeply concerned," Hoffmann said. "There's an awful lot of coincidence going on here."

State DNR officials investigated the situation and confirmed that a fish kill had occurred on Shawano Lake, although they described it as a relatively small incident that