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FDA Fails to Protect Food

Another in a long series of instances of Food and Drug Administration laxity in protecting the public has been cited in the report of its failure to act after the discovery of dangerous chemicals in Alabama fish.

Sen. William D. Spong, D-Va., presented to a Senate Commerce subcommittee on the environment of which he is a member a letter from an Alabama fisheries official reporting PCB levels as high as 360 parts per million in fish caught in Choccolocca Creek near Anniston.

The Food and Drug Administration's tolerance limit is five parts per million. PCB's are industrial chemicals that are said to act like DDT and are suspected of causing ill effects on health.

Sam L. Spencer, assistant chief of fisheries of Alabama, said in his letter about fish caught last year:

"You asked if FDA is cooperating with the states. I think they are cooperating to the extent they have to. We assisted them in collecting fish from Choccolocca Creek. They later sent us copies of the mercury analysis which were not high enough to be greatly concerned about.

"I later wrote FDA asking for the results of their PCB analysis of these samples because I heard a rumor that they were very high. FDA then sent me the results, a copy of which I have attached."

This again shows the need of a crackdown on FDA laxity.

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