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FDA says firm knew that fish were polluted

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says the largest fish wholesaler on Lake Pepin knew since January 1971 that carp taken from the lake contianed excessive amounts of an industrial chemical.

Darryle Brown, laboratory chief for the Minneapolis office of the FDA, said the agency has periodically inspected fish being shipped by Rudolph Hogue, owner of Lake Pepin Fisheries, Pepin, Wis.

Brown said Friday that a test by the FDA in January 1971 showed 40 parts per million (ppm) of polychlorinated biphenyl in fish which Hogue had taken from Lake Pepin. The federal limit on PCB is 5 ppm.

FDA tests in mid-1973 showed 10 and 7 ppm of the chemical in the fish taken by Hogue, Brown said, and a July 1974 test showed 10 to 18 ppm.

Last month the FDA prevented the interstate shipping and sale of 30 tons of carp Hogue had taken mostly from Lake Pepin because of excessive levels of PCB.

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