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Carp contaminated with poison in Minnesota river

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — Some 8,000 pounds of carp caught in the LeSueur River have been found to be contaminated by the toxic industrial chemical called PCB, said a federal Food and Drug Administration spokesman.

Darryl Brown, lab chief of the FDA's Minneapolis office, said Saturday he thinks the carp originally came from the Minnesota River and got into the LeSueur during highwater last spring.

The fish were caught by Paul Mertins, Watervlie, Minn., from the river's outlet at Lake Elysian. The carp contained 45 parts per million of polychlorinated biphenyl.

Brown said the interstate task force investigating the source of PCB in the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers is not much closer to success than earlier this year when fish containing large amounts of the chemical were pulled from Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has asked the FDA to ban the use of PCB, which is used almost exclusively in power transformers.

The chemical has been found to cause birth defects in monkeys and other animals, Brown said. A recent study in Japan showed that children born of persons exposed to PCB suffered birth defects.

The full effect of the chemical is not yet known, however.

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