SALEM, ORE.
CAPITAL JOURNAL
D, 24,500

NOV 22 1975

Fish threat not bad here

By The Associated Press

A chemical that threatens to eliminate some species of fish in the East is present only in less harmful concentrations in the Columbia River, says a federal fish specialist.

Eric Gaugiitz of the Seattle office of the National Marine Fisheries Service said the chemical PCB has been detected in Northwest fish, but not in sufficient quantities to cause a health hazard or to endanger the fish's ability to reproduce.

Nathaniel P. Reed, assistant secretary of the interior, said at a conference in Chicago earlier Friday that some fish in the Great Lakes are unsafe to eat and are becoming unable to reproduce because of the chemical PCB in the water.

Reed said the chemical, polychlorinated biphenyl, has been found as well in other waterways across the nation, including the Columbia River. It is discharged from industrial plants, especially makers of electrical equipment, that use it in their processes.

Gaugiitz said tests of large numbers of Northwest fish indicate the chemical is present in only about one-tenth the concentration considered hazardous by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Their standard is 5 parts per million, and the Canadian government standard is 2 parts per million.

MONS 033341