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Around the State . . .

US Wants More Tests of Pepin Fish

The head of the US Food and Drug Administration Laboratory in Minneapolis says more tests will have to be done to determine if the level of PCB in fish from Lake Pepin has declined.

Lake Pepin fishermen say that a test they commissioned showed levels of the industrial chemical were below one part per million. FDA tests last month showed that the levels were above the federal standard of five parts per million and interstate shipment of Lake Pepin fish was banned.

Darryl Brown, head of the FDA lab, theorized that the fishermen's tests showed less PCB because the fish were smaller. Scientists think that older, larger fish accumulate more PCB. The chemical is suspected of causing cancer in humans. Lake Pepin is a wide spot in the Mississippi River bordering Pierce and Pepin Counties.

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