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On the Trail



Russ Warye

Michigan will probably pass the first bill among the Great Lakes states to strictly regulate and eventually ban using PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). PCBs have been in the news because of the high levels found in Lake Michigan salmon and trout. They are heat resistant chemicals used in manufacturing paints, cutting oils, chemicals, and electric transformers.

Currently there are no federal or state laws regulating PCBs. Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan are jointly conducting research — and as mentioned in past columns have made suggestions in preparing lake salmon and trout for the table. This Michigan bill should set a good example for the other lake states to follow. PCBs are much like DDT in that even after a total ban on their use and manufacture it will take years to remove them completely from the environment.

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