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Sound pollution below high level

The chemical pollutant PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) in most of Puget Sound probably does not approach recognized toxicity levels, a scientific group at Evergreen State College reported today.

The group consists of eight students at the college who worked with Dr. Michael Beug to collect and analyze samples of water in the southern portion of Puget Sound.

The group found the highest concentration of PCB at the mouth of the Duwamish River — one-half mile downstream from where a transformer tipped over in September, 1974, spilling some 200 gallons of the chemical.

Samples of marine life at the mouth of the Duwamish showed higher concentrations of the pollutant than other areas of the Sound. However, the concentration even there was far within the safety standards set by the Environmental Protection Administration.

Governmental agencies have set plans to dredge out the PCB remaining from the Duwamish spill. Presumably that will reduce the concentration at the mouth of the river even more.

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