

GREEN BAY, WIS.
PRESS-GAZETTE
D. 48,000 S. 59,500

MAR 15 1976

Pollution Noose

Editor, Press-Gazette: It is readily evident from Ray Pagel's recent columns about PCBs in the NOW section of the Press-Gazette that he is pro-paper mill.

It seems he has spent much time and effort in defense of the paper mill recycling of paper, which includes carbonless copy paper from which PCBs have entered the waters of Green bay. Mr. Pagel has done well in presenting one side of the coin.

But what about this pollution noose which has begun to choke off our commercial fishing industry? Does it continue to get tighter until it finally kills completely any chance of continuing our commercial fishing?

I do not have a lot of intricate statistics and figures to present in favor of complete stoppage of PCBs into the waters of Green bay but I do have a couple of facts. Fact: The more PCBs dumped into the water, the more polluted it gets. Fact: Before last summer my brothers and cousins were making a respectable living fishing the waters of Green bay. Now our way of making a living has ended because we cannot sell a fish that has a PCB content as high as the carp we catch. The fish have been well above the limit which was arbitrarily set at five parts per million.

So the PCB noose has already been drawn too tight for us. Will it continue to tighten and choke off the rest of the commercial fishing? Will it ever loosen again and allow us to continue to make a living commercial fishing as my family has done for generations? And what do we do until it does, if it ever does?

I can only read with confusion an article which in my mind is in favor of allowing some of this deadly poison to continue to enter the already heavily polluted waters of Green bay.

Don Hermes

933 Riverview Drive
Green Bay, Wis.

MONS 037185