DURAND, WIS.,
COURIER-WEDGE
W. 3,742

JUN 19 1975

Agency Suggests Limited Fish Use

Limited consumption of fish from the upper Mississippi river is advised by Wisconsin department of natural resources. The agency also suggests trout and salmon from Lake Michigan and fish from the Fox river near Portage be eaten in smaller quantities.

All fish contain more polychlorinated biphenyls than the federal food and drug administration considers acceptable. Larger fish from all affected waters contain more than five parts per million.

Sports fishermen are asked to refrain from eating more than one meal a week of such fish. Pregnant women and children are cautioned to limit intake to one average size serving a week.

In this area, the Mississippi river is affected between Prescott and the mouth of Lake Pepin.

Wisconsin department of agriculture says it will take action and seize any fish offered for commercial sale which contain more than five parts per million of PCB. Trout from Lake Michigan exceeding 24 inches in length are no longer sold for human consumption.

Program to identify and abate sources of the chemical will be continued by the state agency, along with fish monitoring. Cooperating are the food and drug administration and United States environmental protection agency.

Problems with PCB are not unique to Wisconsin, but involve Minnesota and Michigan as well. The chemical was first identified in the environment in 1966 by Swedes. Wisconsin has conducted studies since 1968. A warning was issued in 1971 that PCB levels were rising in Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river.

The chemical is used in some transformers and capacitors, heat transfer agents, machine tool cutting oils, hydraulic fluids, electrical wiring insulation and epoxy paints. They have low solubility in water, so they concentrate in the fat of animals and fish.

MONS 031197