

POSSIBLE PRESS QUERIES RESULTING FROM ANTICIPATED LAWSUIT
BY SOUTHEAST FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC., AGAINST MONSANTO
(PENSACOLA PLANT).

Question 1: Has Monsanto's Pensacola plant been responsible
for polluting Escambia Bay with PCB?

ANSWER: In August, 1969, the plant was using an industrial
fluid which contained, as one ingredient, PCB. At
that time, we discovered the fluid was leaking into
our sewer system. We immediately corrected the
leak and removed the PCB-containing fluid, replacing
it with a fluid containing no PCB.

Question: How much fluid was lost?

ANSWER: Very little -- at most, no more than a few gallons
a day.

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Question 2: Could this loss of PCB fluid have contributed to the reduction of commercial fishing in Escambia Bay?

ANSWER: From what we know about the effect of PCB on fish, and the scientific reports from other laboratories -- and in view of the large volume of water in the Escambia River and the Escambia Bay -- we do not see how this loss could have caused widespread contamination resulting in the fish kills reported this year.

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Question 3: Since the problem has been corrected, why is PCB still being found in the bay?

ANSWER: We don't know. There may well be other sources of PCB in the bay drainage area.

Question: How long will it stay there?

ANSWER: We don't know. It would seem that it would gradually be swept out to sea, where it would become so diluted as to be undetectable.

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Question 4: Does PCB kill shrimp?

ANSWER: We have no evidence to support the belief that there have been sufficiently high levels of PCB in Escambia Bay which would lead to depletion of the shrimp population there.

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(NOTE TO THE INQUIRY REPLIER: At this point you may want to refer the reporter to Dr. Thomas Duke, director, Gulf Breeze laboratory).

Question 5: How much PCB would it take to kill a normal, adult commercial fish?

ANSWER: A review of the scientific literature on the effect of PCB on this type of fish indicates these fish can survive in water containing very high concentrations. The amount varies with the specie. For the hardier species it could take 4,000-5,000 parts-per-million to kill the fish. This amount of PCB is so high that it would have to be emulsified in the water. There has been no fish kill reported anywhere in the world that has shown these high-level water concentrations.

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Question 6: Is PCB toxic?

ANSWER: Since toxicity is relative, we can best answer this question by comparing PCB to many common materials found in the home. For example, PCB is less toxic than gasoline, paint thinner, lighter fluids and various cleaning compounds.

The important thing is that PCB is not a household item. It is an industrial chemical carefully manufactured, carefully handled and carefully used as an ingredient in certain closed-system applications to prevent fires and protect human life.

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