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PCB Content High, More Carp Buried

Pepin, Wis. –AP– Another 40,000 pounds of carp containing a potentially cancer causing industrial chemical were buried Monday by a Pepin fish wholesaler.

The carp, most of which were caught in Lake Pepin, contained levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) higher than the maximum allowed under U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations.

The FDA maximum is 5 parts per million (ppm). The buried carp contained as much as 25 ppm.

The wholesaler, Rudolph Hogue, buried 20,000 pounds of carp last week. Those fish contained 6 to 14 ppm.

Fishing on Lake Pepin has been at a virtual standstill since discovery of the chemical in the fish.

Lake Pepin is a widening of the Mississippi River, between Red Wing and Wabasha, Minn. Carp is the main commercial fish taken from the lake.

PCB has been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

The FDA cannot order a wholesaler to bury fish, but can prohibit fish from being shipped across state lines..

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and FDA were working to determine the source of the pollution.

Officials said the PCB probably originated from industrial operations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, about 70 miles upriver from Lake Pepin.

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