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Michigan DNR Issues PCB fish report

LANSBING, Mich. (UPI) — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Thursday that "alarming" levels of the industrial chemical PCB have been detected in Lake Michigan trout. Other fish and birds have either died or suffered reproductive failure.

A DNR staff report, presented to the Natural Resources Commission, said efforts to rid the environ-

ment of polychlorinated biphenyl had been largely ineffective because the levels of the chemical have actually increased in some fish.

DNR Director Howard Tanner said PCB damage to fish had reached such serious proportions that his agency would begin pushing for a total ban on the use of the chemical.

The Lake Michigan Toxic

Substances Committee, with representatives from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, already has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to push for a nationwide ban on the use of PCB.

The DNR report also said the chemical has been detected in snowfall in Wisconsin and that proper disposal techniques are not being used.

Although levels of DDT and mercury in Great Lakes fish are rapidly declining, the DNR report said PCB has been found in increasing concentrations in lake trout in recent years.

"The concentrations in lake trout are alarming because of what now appears to be an increase in concentrations over the three-year period," the report said.