ADRIAN, MICH.
TELEGRAM
D. 20,000

JUN 14 1975

DNR Urges State Ban On Products Using PCB

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The Natural Resources Commission urged the legislature Friday to ban use and production of a chemical which is contaminating fish in Lake Michigan.

The chemical, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), is used in a variety of household products. The commission, on a 5-0 vote, called for its ban on a national level as well as in Michigan.

"We hope this state will lead the nation in banning PCB," the commission said. Chairman Carl Johnson said he sees no alternative to an outright ban.

Fish in Lake Michigan have PCB levels above the limits allowed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA has seized some shipments of chubs caught in Lake Michigan because PCB levels were found to be up to 20 parts per million. The FDA legal level is five parts per million. Human health could be endangered at a level of 500 parts per million, the FDA said.

PCBs appear in a wide range of products, from paper to hand soap and also are used in industry.

The sole U.S. manufacturer is Monsanto Chemical Co., of St. Louis.

The company agreed in the early 1970s to stop selling PCB for some industrial uses. But the chemical has since been sold in other industrial, commercial and household products.

"A ban is a drastic step to take, but this is a drastic problem," said William Turney, director of water management for the Department of Natural Resources.

There was no immediate response to the proposal from legislative leaders.

Chemical levels of DDT and most other chemical contaminants have declined in Michigan since 1970, tests show.

MONS 060972