MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
Fisheries Laboratory, Remembrance Avenue
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, Essex
Telephone: Burnham-on-Crouch 3258

Our reference: W/RW3
Your reference:

24 November 1969

MonsantoChemicals Ltd
10-18 Victoria Street
London SW1

For the attention of Mr T J Hunt

Dear Sirs

In co-operation with our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, we have since 1966 monitored the distribution of organochlorine residues in marine organisms, including fish and shellfish taken for human consumption. From this investigation it has become evident that polychlorinated biphenyls are widely distributed in marine organisms including fish and shellfish.

As a result of the discovery of high concentrations of PCB's in dead guillemots in the north Irish Sea, the programme of monitoring carried out by the two departments has been intensified. The current programme includes the examination of herring and sprats (which form the main food of these birds) from a number of places around the United Kingdom. These investigations could be assisted by further knowledge of how these substances reach the sea, and are taken up by fish.

I understand that a large proportion of the PCB's commercially used in this country are manufactured or compounded by Monsanto. I would therefore be glad of any assistance, which your company could give, on the possible routes by which these substances may be entering the sea, either during manufacture or through their use by industry. Our sampling programme could be considerably reduced if you could indicate the areas or estuaries of major production or use by industry.

I would be glad for any further information relating to the movement of the materials in natural environment, which may have a bearing on our investigations.

Yours faithfully

P C Wood

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