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Canada Warns Of Polluted Fish

TORONTO — (AP) — Pregnant women should not eat coho salmon taken from the Great Lakes because of chemical contamination, the Ontario health ministry has warned.

The ministry said tests by environmental officials indicate levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in excess of the five parts per million recommended by United States officials for human consumption.

"While the original number of salmon taken in the past month from the Credit River was small, results are a cause for concern and people are urged to refrain from eating more than one meal per week of Great Lake salmon," the ministry said.

Women who are or expect to be pregnant were warned to eat no fish at all.

Fish tested in the Credit River had PCB levels as high as 23 parts per million, officials said.

The U.S. guideline is based on long-term consumption, the ministry added. A recent study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showed that monkeys fed on a daily diet containing 2.5 ppm of PCB for a period of months suffered deteriorating reproductive functions and their offspring had birth defects.

PCB's are used as coolants and in insulation, electrical wiring, epoxy paints, sealants and caulkings.

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